

*Z. Thangseia, I.A.S. (Rtd.)*

# MEMOIRS

of  
'1929 - 1992'

An  
Autobiography

Featuring

N.E.F.A.

(Arunachal Pradesh)

and

...ning N.E. States



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**Z. Thangseia IAS (Rtd.)**

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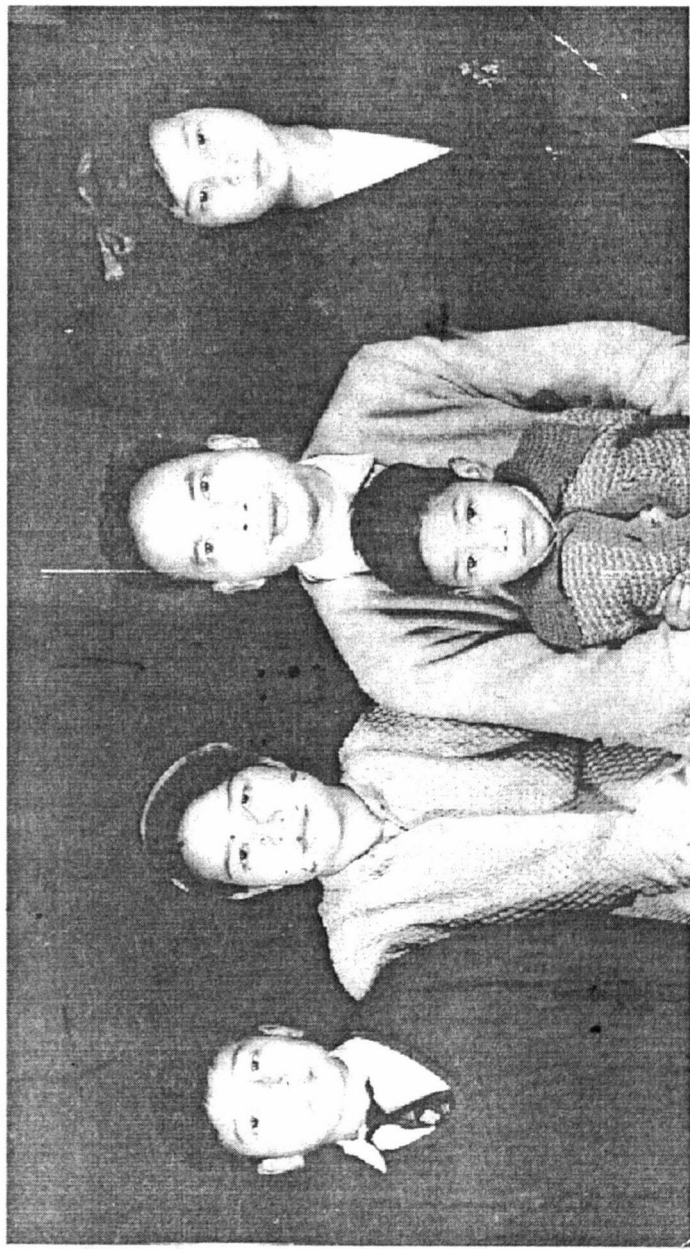
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*A Kong Zothanglien, Sekumla, Zothangsei, Vanlal Malsawm, Achula Darneichawng*

***The Author with Family***



Mr. & Mrs. Zothawmvel (*Hmaipawng*)  
*Author's Parent*

*Dedicated to my wife, Mrs Sekumla Thangseia,  
my daughter, Mrs. D. Achula Sailo and my two sons,  
Mr. (L) Akong Zothanglien and Mr. Valal Malsawma.*

*God has been the only true saviour and guide to the ups  
and downs of so much...*

***Z. Thangseia IAS (Rtd)***  
***15th – Oct., 2003***

## PRELUDE

*Personal age was given more importance than the period of services in Civil Service by the Government. Hence I had to work 35 years (not 33 years said to be full fledged years of service normally) to attain 58 years (pension age for civils then). Some years before I actually retired from the Government service on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1986, the writing of at least something about the place and the people with whom I had been working etc was a dream of mine and my wishers, so that the same could pass on particularly to my children and wife. Since the latter were found not conversant in my own dialect properly. I thought it will somehow serve the purpose to them and all youngsters at large, it was written in English (simple). However, to bring out this book, delay had to take place because some unavoidable circumstances like change of place etc.*

*I am not a writer – I never write a book. But, if attention is given to the youngsters, as mentioned above, it is good to know what changes have taken place good or bad in a place where thy were born or before they were born some 40 or more years ago; and some of them might get certain inspiration for a better way of doing.*

*With best wishes especially to the YOUNGSTERS to improve things whenever found wanting.*

*Dated Shillong  
The 15<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2003*

*Z. Thangseia IAS (Rtd)*

## INTRODUCTION

It was long before today's amenities had no access the inhabitants of the present eastern belt of Mizoram and southern part of Manipur modern information, technologies, medias and means of communication, the inter connected villages were then foot paths. Mr. Zothawmvel (commonly known as Hmaipawng) at that time had made his name as the greatest businessmen of his community of the area he belonged to. People traveled under the heat of tropical sun, if not cold wind or drenched by rain, walking mile together when they came to him to get what they wanted, might be a mere kg of salt or some leaf of sada (tobacco leaf) or a mere piece of loin-cloth etc of their daily requirement. The people, so traveled for the small things, sometimes had to spent a couple of days on the way. Around the year 1920 or so, Thomvel's wealth was estimated about ten thousand rupees. If this amount is converted in today's money value he might be a 'lakh patti' or 'millionaire' or more. The fact is he had never step into a business management Institution nor he was a commerce graduate or even been to formal school to get basic primary education. Instead, he learnt ABC etc by himself. He was self-learned businessman. Those were the days when the Britishers ruled over the South Asian countries. His cash possession were count insripped with the images of the mighty king of England. There was no bank transactions nor bank deposit. His bank was the earth. Yes, in an earthen not even a box locked with a key. He was my great grand father, and the father of the 'AUTHOR' of this book.

The Author has chosen to be administrator rather than following his father's footsteps and be a businessman in remote hilly-jungle by joining the North East Frontier Administrative Service. His education and job gave him opportunities to move around and to interact people of different sections of communities and tribes, by which he had gathered information and experiences. This had helped

him to enrich his memories which he compiled in his book 'MEMOIRS' so that he could share with every one instead of treasuring and keeping to himself alone.

The book reveals the past SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCENERIO, NORMS, VALUE and CULTURE among different tribes of the North Eastern India It also shows the method, process and the strategy of developmental works that the older generation had taken for the betterment of the generation to come. The MEMOIRS is based on the factual incidents, situations and information that took place during his tenure. So, it could be a resource and tool for the assessment of changes and transformations of concept, value, practices, cultural trend, infrastructural, economic and social development and the state of environment degradation or regeneration.

Z. Thangseia's efficiency, capability and commitment to his work as administrator made him earn IAS that was then suffixed after his name. This will serve as inspiration to the young aspirants who want to achieve in life.

Dated Shillong  
20<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2003

Mercy Sellate,  
Youth Co-ordinator,  
Nehru Yuva Kendra,  
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.