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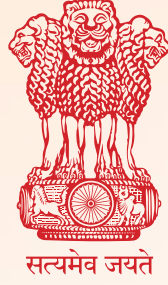
MANIPUR TODAY

Republic Day



2021

**DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR**



Dr Najma Heptulla
Governor
Manipur

I extend my heartiest greetings to the people of Manipur on the occasion of Republic Day, 2021.

This is a day for all of us to celebrate and honour our nation and our sovereignty. This is a day to remember with gratitude the enormous efforts and sacrifices of millions of freedom fighters whose blood and sweat gave us Independence and created our Republic. Above all, this is a day to cherish our republican values.

On this auspicious day in 1950, we gave ourselves a Constitution which is the guiding principle of our country. Despite reservations from various quarters, the experiment of democracy in India has been successful and we are going from strength to strength, respected by other nations in the world. On this occasion we should revere and offer our homage and gratitude to those founding fathers for their foresight and understanding. Our Constitution gave us rights as citizens of a free democratic nation, but also placed on us the responsibility to always adhere to the central tenets of our democracy - justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. It becomes easier for us to follow these Constitutional ideals, if we keep in mind the life and values of the Father of our Nation

We have, however, to harness the potential of our youth in the right direction so that they become our main assets for the future. Let us all strive to work together to make our country strong, peaceful and prosperous, free from wants.

Once again, my best wishes to all the citizens of Manipur on the occasion of Republic Day, 2021.

Najma Heptulla
Dr Najma Heptulla



N. Biren Singh
Chief Minister
Manipur



I am glad that the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur is bringing out a special issue of Manipur Today on the occasion of celebrating the 72nd Republic Day of the country.

With the Constitution of India coming into full effect on January 26, 1950, India took rebirth as a Sovereign Democratic Republic. India has made great strides and emerged as a stronger nation ever since. The adoption of the Constitution empowered our citizens to elect our own voices and enabled them to exercise and enjoy various fundamental rights.

As a constituent State guarding the eastern flank of the country, Manipur has also made remarkable progress in different fields in the past seven decades. However, we still have many more miles to go.

On this momentous occasion, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals of the Constitution, which contain the thoughts and vision of the makers of modern India. Let us make our children aware of duties equally as of rights. Let us cultivate bond of fraternity, promote equality and respect for differences.

I extend my warm greetings to the people of the State on the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day and convey my best wishes for grand success for publication of Manipur Today.

(N. Biren Singh)



Th. Biswajit Singh
Minister
IPR/ Works/RD&PR/T,C&I/Power/
AR&Trg. Manipur



It gives me immense pleasure to be informed that the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Manipur is bringing out a Special Issue of Manipur Today on the auspicious occasion of the Republic Day Celebration on 26th January, 2021. I am fully confident that the publication will definitely help all the ethnic groups inhabiting the State to acquaint the various initiatives taken up by the present Government for the welfare of our entire population and to maintain solidarity, and I am proud of the endeavour of the Department.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the management and wish the venture all success.

(Th. Biswajit Singh)



FROM THE EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Country is celebrating its 72nd Republic Day to honour the date on which the Constitution of India came into full effect on January 26, 1950. At this time, we should rededicate ourselves to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution and cultivate the bond of fraternity, promote equality and respect for differences.

2020 has been a testing time as the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to stay at home. The challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic are still not over. Fulfilling our duties has never been more important than the current time. So it is important that people religiously follow their duties and practice COVID Appropriate Behaviour at all times in order to stop the chain of transmission.

The State led by the Chief Minister at the helm provided an accountable and accessible governance to people already in distress due to an unknown virus and compounded by the loss of livelihood. The later half of the year saw the Government inaugurating many developmental projects. It also resumed its outreach initiative, 'Go to Hills', to bridge emotional and physical gaps and bring inclusive growth to the hills.

At the fog end of December, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah dedicated the Tupul-Bishnupur and Thoubal-Kasom Khullen Road to the public. The two roads are the manifestation of the State Government's new policy of 'Go to Hills' and 'Inclusive Growth'.

The impact created by the COVID-19 pandemic is felt keenly by all sections of the society, particularly small farmers such as the lemon growers of Kachai and people involved in the hospitality sector. However, things are gradually getting better as restrictions have gradually eased.

However, we might finally see the light at the end of the tunnel, as the State has started the historic vaccination drive of COVID-19 vaccine (Covishield) in January 2021. 41,000 health care workers are scheduled to get the doses during the first phase of COVID vaccination.

Manipur also achieved many milestones. The State tops among Northeast States and third among NE and Himalayan States in the second edition of Niti Aayog's India Innovation Index. The recognition shows that Manipur is on the right track in its path towards 'Inclusive Development'. In sports, the State created history by becoming the most represented state in ISL 2020-21 with 43 players.

With all these positive beginnings, one can be quite sure of what the future holds for the State of Manipur.



(Heisnam Balkrisna Singh)



Manipur Today / January, 2021

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INDIAN REPUBLIC AND INTER-COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIP THE MANIPUR EXPERIENCE

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The first major statement in the Constituent Assembly that India shall be Republic came on 13 December 1946 when Nehru moved the Objectives Resolutions. It declared the Constituent Assembly's 'firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic. It was accepted by the Constituent Assembly on 22 January 1947. Subsequently, the final confirmation that India will be a Republic was given expression in the Preamble of the Constitution. However, it has to be remembered that India's becoming a republic was not a mere coincidence. Rather it was a historical

necessity. She won her independence under peculiar circumstances in that at same stroke of midnight of 14th August 1947 the country itself also got partitioned which was again accompanied by wide spread massacres and displacement of millions. All these meant that securing 1) national integrity and solidarity, and 2) communal harmony were two of the most urgent tasks that the newly independent India had to address immediately. The first required that India should be a republic not only because this will be the democratic option but also as this will make possible the transfer of people's loyalty which hitherto remained divided to numerous hereditary rulers to



one and only one head of the state who shall represent the entire country. The second required that the different communities in the country should accept mutual respect, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence as the basis of their inter-community relationship. Only then, the country will be able to forge among all the communities inside her a unified relationship which is so essential for accomplishing the task of national integration. This at length will also bring greater glory, peace, prosperity and progress to the country. Keeping these considerations in view, the present paper tries to examine the state of inter-community relations in Manipur from both a historical and contemporary perspective.

Manipur, often described as the land where Gods took to dancing is a state of diversities. Situated in the North-Eastern region of India, the state has a total area of 22,327 sq. km. with a population of 28,55,784. Geographically speaking, the state has two distinct regions - the valley at the heart of the state and the hills surrounding the valley. The entire area of the state is divided into sixteen districts. of these, five viz. Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching and Bishnupur Districts are in the valley which is at the heart and center of the state; Jiri at a distance of about 215 km from Imphal and bordering Assam; and Ukhrul, Kamjong, Senapati, Kangpokpi, Tamenglong, Noney, Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Chandel and Tengnoupal Districts in the hills of the state. Regarding the composition of the people living in different parts of the state, the valley is inhabited by the Meiteis who constitute an overwhelming majority of the people there, along with the Pangals or Manipuri Muslims, who constitute the single largest minority community in the state. There are also a number of tribal pockets in all the five valley districts of the state.

The hills of the state, on the other hand, are inhabited by numerous tribes. After Manipur became a part of India, there were only three entries in the list of tribes in Manipur. They were any Kuki Tribe, any Lushai Tribe and any Naga Tribe. Later the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1956 expanded the number of tribes in Manipur to 29. They were Aimol, Anal, Angami, Chiru, Chothe, Gangte, Hmar, Kabui, Kacha Naga, Koirao, Koirang, Kom. Lamgang, Any Mizo (Lushai) tribe, Maram, Maring, Mao, Monsang, Moyon, Paite, Purum, Ralte, Sema, Simte, Sahte, Tangkhul, Thadou, Vaiphei and Zou. Later in the year 2003, Poumai Naga, Tarao, Kharam and any Kuki tribes were added increasing the list to thirty-three. At present, there are 34 entries in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Manipur. However, as there are multiple entries in some of the entries, the number of tribes in the state at present is 39. They are Aimol, Anal, Angami, Chiru, Chothe, Gangte, Hmar, Kabui, Inpui, Rongmei, Kacha Naga, Liangmai, Zeme, Koirao, Thangal, Koirang, Kom, Lamgang, Mao, Maram, Maring, any Mizo (Lushai) Tribes, Monsang, Moyon, Paite, Purum, Ralte, Sema, Simte, Suhte, Tangkhul, Thadou, Vaiphei, Zou, Poumai Naga, Tarao, Kharam, Any Kuki tribes and Mate.

Regarding the traditional relationship between the people in the hills and plains of the state, the sentiments that symbolize it are best manifested in two popular sayings in Manipuri - (1) Chingburoi Tamburoi and (2) Haoringjel Nairingjel. While the first saying signifies a relationship based on love, affection, mutual understanding and friendship, the second underlies a sentiment of mutual distrust, hatred and hostility between the two. Naturally, both these sentiments, however opposite they may be to one another, were to be a part of the nature



of relationship between the two. Otherwise, these sayings which have been heard of for a long time could not have been there if sentiments to be described by them were not there.

There are historical facts which contributed to both these aspects of their relationship. The state of existence of these people in the past itself is a most important factor. For instance the tribes were not only in a state of inter-tribal warfare but also time and again involved in raids and reprisals with the plainsmen. About this T.C. Hudson said: 'We know from the chronicles of Manipur that raids and reprisals marked the relation of the hill villages with the people of the valley from the earliest times. It is also quite natural that those plainsmen living in the outskirts of the valley were subjected to raids from the tribes from the nearby hills. Then the practice of head hunting amongst the various tribes, just like the practice of Mangba-Sengba was also not at all conducive to the development of mutual trust and friendship between the two. Rather these two had very harmful effects. These things have contributed to the emergence of the saying - 'Haoringjel Nairingjel' as one extreme expression of the hills-plain relationship.

However, there is also, and more importantly, the other saying 'Chingburoi-Tamburoi' signifying a very close, loving and organic bond between the two. Many age-old legends of the Meiteis tell stories of close relationship between the two. For example, there is the legend of Panthoibi Haoreima and Nongpok Ningthou. There were also many cases of intermarriage between the two from ancient times. For instance, about intermarriage, Mangthoi Thaimai says that cases of inter-marriage between the two were there from the time of our ancient fore-fathers and indeed it has been increased all the more in recent times. History also records close

relations between the two. For example, during the reign of Konthouba (6th century), there were instances of inter-marriage between the plainsmen and the Longmais who were in the Nongmaijing hill, at the east of Imphal. The old Meitei manuscript Naothingkhong Phambal Kaba also says that Naothingkhong, before he became the king in 663 A.D. went to Nongmaijing and lived there after marrying Petanga. There were also many cases of intermarriage and friendship between the Kabuis and the Meiteis. "The relationship between the hill men and plains men was particularly close during the reign of Charairongba and Garibniwaj. It is true that king Garibniwaj embraced Hinduism and contributed to the alienation of the hill men from the social life of the Meiteis. However, he himself was very close to the tribes and when he went to attack Burma, many Tangkhuls, Thangals, Kabuis, Marings and Anals joined the expedition.

In the past, there were also many cases of plainsmen going up to the hills and becoming tribes and vice versa. When there were inter-clan war amongst the original seven clans of the valley, people belonging to a defeated clan fled to the hills and became tribes in course of time. For example, according to the old Meitei manuscript "Chakpa Khunda Khunthok," when Lairen Pakhangba defeated Khaba Nong Chenba of Khaba clan and when Khaba's province was devastated, many of the Khaba clan fled their territory and some of them became Kabui Nungnangs, some Tangkhuls and some Mahou Lontais. Then according to the old Meitei manuscripts like Leithak Leikharol, Pudim, Leishangthemlon, etc., Lamlekshang, the elder brother of Mabudhou Yum Thangba of Sharang Leishangthem also went to the hills and became a Kabui. On the other hand, the people of certain Yumnaks like Konthoujam, Shougaijam, Sanasam, Khaidem, Nandeibam and Sinam of the present Meiteis in the valley



are supposed to have close blood relationship with the hill people as found in the old manuscript Keithi Keikoi. Further accounts about the absorption of many hill men in the Ningthouja clan of the valley are found in the old Meitei manuscript “Nongthrang Puran.”

The close ties between the hill-men and plainsmen are further substantiated by certain important similarities between the two in their socio-cultural life. They may be observed as follows. Dormitory system is found not only amongst the tribes like Kabui, Tangkhul, Maram, Mao, Anal and Khongjai but also amongst the Meiteis.

While making a fire place inside the house the use of one stand with three legs and not making holes under the earth is common.

Both household deities and outdoor deities are found in the religious life of both.

Traditional tribal costumes are still a must while performing certain rituals connected with Laiharaoba.

In the Laiharaoba of certain villages of the east, it is a tradition to invite Tangkhuls.

There are also similarities in the traditional style of making houses. Chirongs are also found common.

The use of Meihum Morok to spread urgent news like that of the attack from enemies and animals is also common to both.

Besides all these, the use of local priests to pacify gods is also common to both. The folklores of the Tangkhuls also give a picture of close relationship between them and the Meiteis.

Then there is the festival of Mera Haojongba (Mera Haochongba) which bears special testimony to the close relationship between the two. The idea behind this festival is to show that people in the hills and plains

are brothers and sisters in an annual get-together that lasts three days. In this festival, exchanges of gifts as token of love and friendship are made from both sides. While providing customary lunches to the hill men, the kings even offered Mithun meals. Hence the proverb – Mera Sanduba. Mera is the month when this festival takes place whereas Sanduba implies death of Mithuns in large numbers. Thus this festival is one that signifies the love and friendship which the two share between them.

Overall, one may say that in spite of the presence of a certain degree of animosity and distrust the predominant sentiments that characterized the traditional relationship between the two were those of mutual love, friendship, trust, respect and understanding. To prove it, one may only ask any old folk in the valley having close acquaintance with the hillmen in their younger days. They have only fond memories about the relationships they have shared with their fellow hillmen. For them the hills and plains of the state always go together as ‘Ching-Tam’ and they are two components of one organic whole, never to be severed from one another. Even now, the words like ‘Chingee-Ingai’ and ‘Tamgee-Itao’ are spoken with such warmth and love.

Unfortunately the bond between the younger generations of the hills and plains seems to be no longer that much close. There is a tendency to consider the Meiteis, Nagas and Kuki-Chin- Mizos different from one another mainly on the basis of the theory of ethnic exclusiveness. The practice of ‘Mangba Senbga’ by the Vaishnavite Meitei Hindus, the British colonial policy of divide and rule, the acceptance of the narrow theory of ethnic exclusiveness, etc. have created a schism among the people. Once the sense of unity and oneness among them is weakened, it is only natural that the tendency to go separate ways,



not only in social life but also in every walk of life, will also follow. There has emerged a difference of perception among some sections of the three major communities - the plainsmen who are predominantly Meiteis, the Nagas and the Kuki- Chin-Mizos - about Manipur and people living inside it. For the plainsmen, the hills and plains constitute one organic whole never to be severed from one another and they believe in the basic unity and oneness of all the people living inside the state. On the other hand, there are demands among the Naga and the Kuki-Chin-Mizo people for political integration of areas inhabited by them which is in contradiction with the aspirations of the plainsmen. Their notion about identity is not inclusive of the other two remaining major communities inside the state but to the exclusion of them.

The difference is reflected among the three insurgent groups inside the state as well - the valley based Meitei insurgents, and the Naga and Kuki- Chin-Mizo insurgent groups in the hills of the state. For the Meitei insurgent organizations, the hills and plains constitute one organic whole never to be severed from one another. They also lay utmost emphasis on the basic unity and oneness of all the different communities living inside the state. As such they are for the protection of the territorial integrity of the state. This is something that is not negotiable for them. On the other hand, the Naga and Kuki-Chin-Mizo insurgent organizations are for the political integration of areas inhabited by their respective people which will obviously affect the territorial integrity of the state. At present there are not less than fifty active and not so active insurgent groups inside the state, with not less than 39 among the KCM group of tribes only.

These differences led to the demand for protection of the territorial integrity of the state as well as that of the basic unity and

oneness of the people living inside it on the one hand and demand for the formation of different homelands by integrating Naga inhabited areas or Kuki-Chin-Mizo inhabited areas on the other. Once this happened, the entire dynamics of inter-community relationship also changed. This is mainly because of the fact that once the demand for creation of different homelands started, it was no longer the mutual distrust, fear or animosity or hostility which was at the core of inter-community relationship inside the state but the question of exclusive ownership rights over land. With this followed the trend to exclude others from one's own homeland and identity; and also the inevitable conflicting claims as to who is living in whose land. And these differences are being manifested in the basic aims and objectives or goals of the three major categories of insurgent organizations inside the state. As a result, these insurgent organizations which are armed with modern sophisticated arms and weapons have come to play a crucial role in the inter-community relationship inside the state.

Regarding the valley based insurgent organizations, there has not been much of an adverse impact on the inter-community relationship inside the state. This is basically due to the fact that their stand for preservation of the basic unity and oneness of the people living inside the state, and that they are not demanding a homeland exclusive to one particular community or group of communities. For them Manipur has been for all the people in the past, it is at present and will be in future too. They do not exclude the Nagas or the Kuki-Chin-Mizos or for that matter any other community who have been living together for long in Manipur from their understanding of Manipur and Manipuris. Still, it cannot be denied that there have been complaints from time to time against the valley based insurgent groups for using



areas inhabited by other groups of people. For instance, the Kukis once complained that UNLF operated from their areas endangering their safety, and that they suffered harassment from both state personnel as well as the insurgents.

The existence of Naga and Kuki-Chin-Mizo insurgent organizations demanding integration of Naga or Kuki-Chin-Mizo people inhabited areas for the formation of ethnically exclusive homelands has also put serious strains on inter-community relationship inside Manipur. The demand for Naga integration led to the emergence of insurgent armed group in the form of Naga National Council in the then existing Naga Hills District of Assam. Initially it was a case of the Nagas of Manipur getting influenced and inspired by the armed insurgency in the Naga Hills. However, as more Nagas from Manipur in general, and Tangkhuls in particular from Ukhrul joined the Naga insurgency, the Nagas of Manipur started finding a greater hold in the Naga insurgency movement, and ultimately with the emergence of the NSCN (IM) in 1980 with Th. Muivah, a Tangkhul Naga from Ukhrul District of Manipur, as its General Secretary, the Naga inhabited areas of the state became the mainstay of Naga insurgency.

These developments put tremendous stress on the inter-community relationship between the Nagas and the Kuki-Chin-Mizos inside the state. As already noted, the traditional relationship between the Nagas and Kuki-Chin-Mizo group of people was not free from hostile elements. However, with the emergence of the demand for integration of Naga inhabited areas to the forefront, the entire dynamics of inter-community relationship in the hills of Manipur also got completely changed. Because, it is no longer mutual distrust, fear, hostility or animosity resulting from one Naga village having

boundary dispute with another Kuki village or fear for raids and reprisals or head hunting or wrongs done in the past which are at the core of inter-community relationship between the two but the question of exclusive ownership rights over land. Claims and counterclaims of one group of people living in the land of another group of people followed. The trend was to exclude others from one's own homeland and identity, and to demand for ethnically exclusive homelands. All these put tremendous pressure on inter-community relationship as these claims provoke one group of tribes against the other.

To conclude one may say that in spite of the presence of some elements of distrust and animosity, the predominant sentiments that characterized the traditional relationship between the people in the hills and plains of Manipur were those of mutual love, friendship, trust, respect and understanding. A sense of basic unity and oneness always prevailed among the different communities living inside the state. They have always come into close contact one another and have profoundly influenced one another. Friendly co-existence has always been the way, and it has to be that way for the future as well. For this, the rejuvenation of all the bests of traditions in the traditional social relationship between the two is absolutely necessary. One should avoid the tendency to dwell on past differences, hostilities, conflicts, etc. because while it is essential to understand the past in order to understand the present, one also has a responsibility for the future as well. The present generation has a fundamental duty of being instrumental in shaping a better future for Manipur where everyone shall have the opportunity to live a good life.



MANIPUR CELEBRATES 50TH STATEHOOD DAY



Manipur celebrated its 50th Statehood Day on 21st January 2021. Presentation of march past by eight parade contingents was the main attraction of the State-level function held at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Imphal.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh informed proudly that Manipur had been positioned in the top three among the Northeast and the hilly states in India Innovative Index 2020, released by NITI Aayog on 20th January. He gave credit for the achievement to everyone who had contributed to the development of the State including the

Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, DGP, every Government employees, CSOs, NGOs, Bank employees, and media persons among others.

The Chief Minister further stated that the recognition given by NITI Aayog had proved that the state is moving towards an upward growth trend with new ideas, development at the grassroots level and considerable improvement in law and order. With the improvement in every field like balanced economic growth in valley and hill regions, good relations amongst different communities residing in the state and positive change in the mindset of the people had made the State an attraction point in the eye of everyone in the country, he added.



Shri N. Biren Singh also said that Manipur would be one of the best States in the country if everyone, regardless of their position, worked with sincerity and transparency and stood together against the evil of corruption. Expressing that the State had now come up with a trend of thanksgiving and appreciation to any development work being taken up, he appealed to the public to come up with positive suggestions and constructive criticism which are very necessary for a democracy.

Informing that foundation stone for the construction of a water amusement park had been laid at Imphal East during December 2020, he said that such spaces are necessary for everyone to spend their leisure time and live a better life. Apart from this, the State Government had obtained approval to construct Children Parks in seven different districts including Chandel, Churachandpur, Jiribam, Kangpokpi, Senapati, Tamenglong and Ukhrul. Construction of 47 Primary Health Sub-Centres at rural and hill areas under Minority Department is also in the pipeline, he added.

The Chief Minister also stated that a temporary structure would be constructed at the site of Churachandpur Medical College, apart from construction work of the main building, to make it able to start its classes from the next academic session. Mentioning the inauguration of Dolaitabi Barrage Project, Thoubal Project and the reopening of Loktak Lifting Irrigation, he added that various other projects would also be ready for inauguration soon.



Stressing on the activities taken up for women empowerment in the State, he said that the Ima Markets had been constructed in hill and valley districts to provide exposure to the women, to use their skills and talents, and contribute more to economic development. He also appealed to every Government employee of the state to render their services with commitment and contribute more in making Manipur a successful state.

During the celebration, the Chief Minister also presented a cheque of five lakh rupees to the sister of (Late) Major Laishram Jyotin Singh under Major Jyotin Bravery Award.

Shri Sh. Jugeshore Sharma, Commanding Officer, 10th IRB was the parade commander of march past contingents which includes 5th Battalion Manipur Rifles, Khongjaron; 8th IRB; Combined Civil Police (Male) Imphal East and West; 9th Indian Reserve Mahila Battalion; Home Guard (Male), Combined VDF, Imphal East and West; Traffic Police and CID-Technical and Bomb Squad contingent.

The Government had earlier planned to celebrate the Statehood Day grandly as this year marks the Golden Jubilee of the attainment of Statehood. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state cabinet had decided to do away with the plan and to celebrate it with restriction. Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, DGP, top civil and police officials also attended the function among others.



UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH VISITS MANIPUR

The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated several development projects in Manipur on 27th December 2020. Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the e-office and Thoubal Multipurpose Project (Thoubal Dam) in Imphal through virtual mode. He also laid the foundation stone of seven major development projects, including the Churachandpur Medical College, IT-SEZ at Mantripukhri, Manipur Bhawan in Dwarka, New Delhi, and the Integrated Command and Control Center at Imphal. Union Minister for Development of North-Eastern Region, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Manipur Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and other dignitaries were also

present on the occasion.

Speaking on this occasion, Shri Amit Shah said this day marks an important milestone in the developmental journey of Manipur started under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Many important projects are being started in a single day, including a Medical College at Churachandpur, IIIT, and IT-SEZ at Mantripukhri, which will serve as a benchmark for the entire North East. Shri Shah said the State Police Headquarters and Smart City Integrated Center at Imphal will help in advancing Smart Governance. Shri Shah said the IIIT and IT-SEZ will connect the youth of Manipur with the world. After the creation of IT-SEZ, the GDP of Manipur will increase by Rs 4,600 crore annually and there



will be employment generation for 44,000 people. With the establishment of the medical college, the youth of Manipur will come out as doctors and the health system of the state will be strengthened.

The Union Home Minister said under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, the state Chief Minister has steered Manipur out of bandhs and blockades on the path of development. He said Shri Modi is committed to the development of the entire North-East and the trust of the people here will never be compromised. Shri Shah said the Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri Biren Singh has done remarkable work in the last three years. There has not been a single shutdown in the last three years, which proves that people flourish under the rule of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Shri Biren Singh has led Manipur on the path of development under the leadership of the Prime Minister and has given a new identity to the State.

Shri Amit Shah said the North-East was previously known for separatism and different insurgent movements, but over the past six-and-a-half years many organizations, one after the other, have laid down their arms and the remaining ones too, having faith in the leadership of Shri Modi will join the mainstream.

The Union Home Minister said the North-East has never received much attention earlier and Modi has specially visited the North-East more than 40 times in the last six-and-a-half years and has visited all the states, which proves the priority Shri Modi accords to the North East. Shri Shah said that Shri Modi knows the heart of the people, the demand for the Inner Line Permit for its original residents existed for many years and on 11 December 2019, Shri Modi decided not giving the Inner Line Permit to Manipur would be an injustice to the original inhabitants of the state. The Prime Minister granted Manipur the Inner

Line Permit, which is the biggest achievement of the Central Government since the state of Manipur came into being.

Referring to the Thoubal Multipurpose Project, Shri Amit Shah said the scheme was launched in 2004 during Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's time, but nothing happened till 2014 and the project remained on paper. In 2016, Shri Modi restarted it by giving Rs. 462 crore and now this project that will irrigate 35,104 hectares is on the verge of completion. Shri Shah said earlier projects were abandoned after performing ground-breaking ceremonies and work is now being done under the leadership of Modi, to inaugurate all projects whose foundation stones were laid by previous governments.

The Union Home Minister said that earlier only 6% of people in the state had access to drinking water, but under the Jal Jeevan Mission, tapped water supply has reached 33% of households in the last three years. There has been an increase of 222% in the number of international tourists, which is going to benefit tourism in the times to come. Shri Shah said for a state with its geographic location like Manipur, the Startup scheme is very important, and in this scheme, 1,186 youth have begun their Startups which is a very encouraging sign. Shri Amit Shah said that as compared to the 14th Finance Commission, there is an increase of 251 % during the 15th Finance Commission and our government has raised the allocation to the North-East to Rs. 3,13,375 crore from Rs. 89,168 crore. The Union Home Minister said a Sports University is being set up to promote sports in the state. He suggested opening affiliated colleges of the National Forensic Science University in Manipur so that children of the North-East can also progress in this field.

With Press Information Bureau inputs



N. BIREN SINGH

A SELF-MADE PERSON AND DOWN TO EARTH POLITICIAN

R.K. Shivachandra

Cometh the hour

Cometh the man

There he came, Shri. N. Biren Singh in shining armour

Benjamin Franklin wrote:

*If you would not be forgotten
As soon as you are death or rotten
Either write things worth reading
Or do things worth writing.*

Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh had been an ambidextrous talent, a gifted personality whether it is 'worth reading' or 'worth writing' he can do it both equally. His pen had always been an impacting force on society, a mind-blowing and soul-searching call that often penetrates the youths. Between 1993 to first part of 2001, till he switched over to active politics in June 2001 from journalism, he was an undaunted warrior in the field of journalism. Shri Biren was the editor of Naharolgi Thoudang, a local vernacular which was one of the leading newspapers in Manipur. He was also the president of All Manipur Working Journalist Union for a brief period. It was during this time two warring journalistic sects came into one-fold under the leadership of Shri Biren.



Politicians and people cutting across party lines in Manipur, describe Biren Singh as a politician who has donned many hats, as well as a very accessible and friendly person. "He is also popular in the media and can make friends easily among people from the hills and valley. Biren is also a friend to many of us in the Congress," many senior Congress leaders opined their views.



Biren when he first met the media on the day, he was announced as the Chief Minister of Manipur, thundered “The road map for me will be delivering proper governance to the people. I assure the people that our team will bring good governance to the people of Manipur”. He also expressed his concern for clearing the blockade on the National Highways which has crippled the State for over four months. He had lamented the divide and rule policy of the previous government between hills and valley and he took a ‘vow’ that it will not happen again.

I met Shri Biren a long time back, some 25 years ago in a small tribal hamlet about 50 km away from Imphal. He was involved in evacuating people from a remote village as a communal feud between two ethnic groups had suddenly erupted. Few hundred lives had perished and apprehension hung heavy in the air as tensions have escalated with



each passing day. The Meetei in the valley being a major community were alarmed by this development and it was duty-bound to take action to douse the tension between the two warring communities.

Shri Biren who I dearly address as Ta-Biren till this day was one among many who had paid all-out efforts to douse the communal tensions. I admired him from the core of my heart. The way he convinced the villagers and his acumen while dealing with the people, was something spectacular and inspirational.

My next encounter with him was in 2001 where we happened to take part in the formation of the Democratic

People’s Party, a regional political party of Manipur, of which I was made one of the general secretaries. In the aftermath of June 18, 2001, Uprising, Manipur ran through a chaotic situation especially in Imphal Valley and people seemed to be virulent and time did call for the coming together of all forces and individuals as one body that would make the voice of Manipuri nationalism shriller. Seemingly, every political party was rejected by the masses for being “tainted”. Therefore, during the spontaneous anti-cease-fire uprising in June 2001, the people burnt the offices of these political parties. Keeping all these developments into view, it was considered quite imperative to form a Political Party, a Party with a difference that was made to reflect in DPP.

The new Party was set to field 24 candidates in the valley in the election that followed. Among the candidates, there was present Hon’ble CM, Shri. N. Biren Singh, who was then and till now a firebrand Manipuri nationalist. Even when he languished in jail for publishing a story on sedition charges, he wrote an editorial for his newspaper editorial.

Despite DPP’s high hope, the party won only two seats, and Biren, then 41, had won his first assembly election from the Heingang constituency. After Congress got majority and



Shri Ibobi Singh became the chief minister in 2002, Congress felt the necessity for a firefighting team to complete a term, with a hope that none of their rivals could jolt the chair. A year later, Ibobi roped Biren into the Congress and made him a minister in his coalition government. Little did Ibobi knew and neither conceived in one's wildest imagination that after 14 years, his protégé would draw a sword from rival BJP's chariot and overthrow and replace him as Chief Minister.

There is a saying you put the butter anywhere it will float on the water and so was the case with Biren, who by then had been seen by his rivals as a leader, who could take over from Ibobi Singh someday. Ibobi Singh kept him out of his ministry after Congress won the third straight election in 2012.

Biren handled many serious issues and help Ibobi create history by completing one term after another in hat-trick, however, he was marginalized after 2012.

Biren formally joined Bharatiya Janata Party on 17 October 2016. BJP by then had spread its web across the North East. Already Assam and Arunachal Pradesh had formed BJP Government. Now BJP at the centre was eying for someone who is well versed in competing with Ibobi and most importantly the person who knows the craft of Ibobi, who ruled Manipur for 15 years and finally they found it in Shri Biren.

In March 2017, Shri Biren was elected as leader of the BJP Legislature Party and with a majority of MLAs having been presented to the Governor, he was sworn in as Chief Minister of Manipur on 15 March 2017. But Manipur was in a mess when he assumes the office. He had to look after many shortfalls of the previous government in terms of economic and social which had seriously affected the growth of the state in all spheres.

There were perennial bandhs and blockades in both hill and valley resulting in the price of the essential commodities rocketing sky high. The Chief Minister's chair had not been a bed of roses anywhere but more so with Manipur. Chief Minister soon after taking office lifted the longest 139 days economic blockade enforced by the United Naga Council (UNC) in 2017 after a negotiation.

The controversial Manipur People's Bill which have claimed the lives of 10 individuals in Churchandpur was still a big issue. For 650 days families of the deceased persons refused to take the mortal remains for the last rites. The new CM amicably settled with the disgruntled families and the last rites were performed on 25th May 2017.

For decades Hills and Valley have been drifted apart for many reasons. Utter bad road conditions in the hill areas and total negligence in many sectors could be one of the reasons. The Congress which ruled Manipur for 15 years had to eat the humble pie for intentionally excluding the hills from the development agenda. If history had to put the record straight then Biren is not merely a CM of Manipur but he is a symbol of unity. He said, "Ancient stories of brotherhood, Manipur civilisation should be included in academic curriculum and stories of unity and togetherness should never be forgotten and overlooked". Biren not only preaches but also practices it. Under his leadership hills and valley have come together, bridging the emotional gap to a large extent. A series of policies were introduced to address certain challenges like the health care system, education, roads, clean drinking waters etc. to bring inclusive development. He first mooted the idea of the need to earmark a topographical need-based budget to the central BJP leaders when he first joined the party.



Biren applied a healing touch to bridge the emotional gap and came out with people-centric outreach initiatives like “Hill Leaders day” and “Go to Hills”. ‘Go to Hills’ mission had brought joys to many. The constructions of Ema Keithel (Women’s Market) at certain locations and town in the hills area shows the respect and concern for the hill people.

‘Meeyamgee Numit’ is another important initiative taken by the Government. This was conceptualised by the Chief Minister to provide a wider platform for the people to enable them to register their grievances directly to the Chief Minister. This platform helped the chief Minister reach out to many sections of people especially the downtrodden who require immediate attention.

‘Khungang Chatse – Go To Village’ Mission is another important outreach initiative of the government. This policy was introducing to deliver welfare schemes directly to the doorsteps of the needy people in the villages. One of the most commendable jobs of the government has been the initiation of the revival of Manipur State Human Rights Commission with its Chairman Shri Khaidem Mani Singh, a renowned Human Rights Activist.

Drug use is growing alarmingly in Manipur and the youth, who are mostly teenagers are constantly falling prey to it. Chief Minister and his government declared war on drugs and steps are being taken to counter search development. While Manipur boasts to be an economic hub, there is no denying the fact that Manipur has been a transit corridor for the transportation of drugs between India and Myanmar. In the last year, 600 peddlers have been arrested and put behind bars. The government has destroyed 1000 acres of poppy plantations. Such a bold step would bring about a state free from drug.

It also launched several development initiatives like “The New Industrial and Investment Policy of Manipur 2017” and

Manipur Start-up to extend financial assistance to many deserving entrepreneurs.

The state government under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Chief Minister has also set up Act East Policy Committee with a view to strengthening Act East Policy of India government. Chief Minister’s Green Manipur Mission is another big step to maintain the green cover of the state. To increase forest cover and to rehabilitate Jhum lands, plantation was taken up in 1856 ha of forest lands.

Manipur has always been termed a landlocked state in North-Eastern India. However, two Asian Highways, AH1 and AH2 that pass through Manipur will change the whole concept. Today, Manipur is no longer landlocked but a land-linked state. The government of India has a trilateral agreement with Thailand and Myanmar to construct a Trans-Asian highway connecting India (through Myanmar) to the two countries. The project is in the construction phase and up-gradation of the four-lane highway of Imphal-Moreh road, for Rs 762 crores, as part of India-Myanmar Thailand trilateral highway, is the most important project undertaken to enhance better connectivity in Manipur. Churachandpur-Aizawl road has been developed, up-gradation of the road from Kamjong to Kongkan Thana Via Pilogat with the cost Rs. 147.29 cr have been sanctioned and the work has started.

There are many other Externally Aided projects which were completed and inaugurated by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on his visit to Manipur on 27th December 2020.

Jiribam railways project, which is almost on the verge of completion, will put Manipur on the railway map of India. The railway stretch is 111 km built with 52 challenging tunnels and 149 bridges, there is no doubt Jiribam Imphal railway travel will be a touristic delight and it will also showcase engineering marvels.



Air connectivity has improved considerably with the launching of direct Imphal Delhi flight in 2017. To boost Indian Act East Policy, Imphal Airport is now redesigned as International Airport. Further, acknowledging Manipur's pivotal role in India's Act East Policy the Ministry of civil aviation has included the Imphal Mandalay flight service under the International UDAN scheme. There is also a helicopter service made operational in Manipur under the Manipur Heli service (MHA) subsidy scheme providing air connectivity from state capital Imphal to remote locations of Jiribam, Moreh, and Tamenglong under regional connectivity.

Manipur under the rule of Congress for 15 years had come in the poor light with many projects which never saw the light of the day. There were a lot of incomplete projects and BJP was duty-bound to inherit all this notorious legacy.

The long-pending Dolaithabi barrage projects which were almost defunct for 27 years have completed and were inaugurated on 4th January 2019.

For the development of the hill areas, a pilot project namely the Hill Area Development Program (HADP), with the assistance of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, is being implemented in Tamenglong and Noney districts. 41 projects worth Rs. 98 crore are being implemented under this program. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Integrated Water Supply Project on the 23rd July 2020 with an estimated cost of Rs. 3054 crores. It is the largest single compact project ever sanctioned by the government of India for Manipur.

December 2020 could be considered a blessing month for the people of Manipur. Hon'ble Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stones on 27th December for seven projects, including the Churachandpur Medical College worth Rs. 325 crores, IIT worth Rs. 128 crores, IT SEZ worth Rs 950 crore, and the state government Guest House worth Rs. 237.49 crore among many others.

Under, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) more than 10,000 houses have been built for the poor in rural and urban areas since 2017. There have been lots of projects in electricity and many other sectors. The "Smart City Mission", projects amounting to Rs.191 crore are already under implementation. To cater to the need for more living space for a rising population, Imphal Municipal Corporations Building Bye-Laws have been amended to permit construction of buildings up to G+7.

When we talk of development, Tourism is not far behind. This is another major industry that can be the backbone of the State. The cultural heritages and scenic beauty in Manipur can be converted into tourist destinations. Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, the infrastructures of Kangla Fort and Khongjom War Memorial



have been developed through financial support from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Manipur is the first state in India to inaugurate projects under the Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 72.30 crore. Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme II, the new Spiritual Tourism Circuit in Manipur, which included Shree Shree Bijoy Govinda Temple, Shree ShreeGovindajee Temple, Kaina Temple, Shree Bungshibudon Temple Khangabok, Shree Gopinath Temple, were inaugurated recently. There has been an increase of 222% in the flow of international tourist footfalls in the State from 2016. This is a testament to the improved tourism infrastructure and security in the state. Further, the government is committed to developing at least one tourist destination in each of the assembly segments for which funds are earmarked. Also, the proposal has been finalized to set up eco-tourism facilities in all the 60 Assembly constituencies.

Another administrative reform was the launching of mPension Manipur App on 4th January 2021. This initiative aims to ease the inconvenience faced by pensioners as they can self-update without going to the treasury office. Chief Ministergi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT) was launched in 2018 to provide free treatments to marginalized sections. CMHT won the award for India's best implemented public health programme in 2018. Chief Ministergi Sotharabashingi Tengbang (CMST), was also launched in 2018 to enhance the quality of life of disabled persons. School Fagathansi Mission was launched in 2019 to facelift Government schools in the State. Chief Ministergi Akhannaba Sanaroisingi Tengbang (CMASST) was launched in 2020 to give special assistance to sportspersons. Chief Ministergi Artiste SinggiTengbang (CMAT) was launched in 2020 to give assistance to Artiste.

Manipur is progressing ahead with N. Biren

There are many other developments that, the author cannot simply present in this writing. But people in the opposition would not hesitate to speak ill of the Government simply because Biren walks faster. This small article never intended to write a biography of such a great personality like Hon'ble Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh but an inner voice always insists me to write something I know about him. It is a small account, a tiny drop of water in the ocean. Shri Biren is a very big story I cannot describe him in a small article. Since the day I met him, he had been my role-model in politics and I always consider him as my mentor.

He thinks only for Manipur, dreaming constantly about how to make Manipur one of the best states in India and make the youth of Manipur self-reliant. Biren is a household name in Manipur and he is always considered to be a messiah for many downtrodden people in the hill area for his efforts to bridge the emotional gaps.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is one of the most compassionate and successful Chief Minister, India has produced so far. It will not be an exaggeration to say that hardly any other states in India can equate the vision and the comprehensive plan taken up by our Chief Minister.

Taking this opportunity, I would also extend my due respect and honour to my eteima (sister-in-law) Hiyainu Devi, the better half to our Chief Minister who had always been such a strong backbone to bring up Ta Biren to this height. In the absence of an understanding better half like eteima Hiyainu things could have been different. I do subscribe to the very old and famous saying, "behind every successful man, there stands a woman".



A self-made person and down to earth politician, he wishes to redraw the socio-economic landscape of Manipur to the epitome of inclusive development as visualized through the journey of his life. A player of football, which was his first love, an angry young man as a journalist, who never saw his children grow up, as he used to come home in the middle of the night from the press. There is always a missing link.

He believes in the strength of the masses; and deep faith in the Almighty God. He often refers and proclaimed, “The world provides for everyone’s need but not for their guilt”. He is so emotional in nature sometimes and tears flow for the oppressors. He always stands on the side of the poor masses. He often said “The short life is not enough to serve the people. Whosoever comes in my way, I am committed to do my best to help him for I am not certain whether I will revert back the same road again” is an emotive assertion of him.

With his foray into politics, we subscribe to



the old English phrase “Cometh the Hour, Cometh the man in the shining armour” and this is the brief glimpse of the man who loves Manipur from the very core of his heart.

R.K. Shivachandra is the Convener of Act East Policy Committee, Govt. of Manipur. He authored the book ‘Yes I too think of Manipur’. He joined active politics as General Secretary of Democratic People’s Party in 2002. Later, he joined Bharatiya Janata Party in 2015 and served the Party as Spokesperson.



ROAD CONNECTIVITY

MANIFESTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S GO TO HILLS AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

*Y Joykumar
Project Director
Externally Aided Projects, PWD, Manipur*



*“To take India to newer heights, the role of infrastructure, railways and roads is very important”
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, India*

Road connectivity is one of the most (amongst) the most important factor for the development of the State of Manipur. At this stage, it deserves to be the topmost priority. The issues of viability and competitiveness are intricately linked with connectivity. Besides, trade, commerce, and mobility of goods and people, it felicitates better understanding among people through people-to-people contact, between hill and plain, rural and urban etc. In the absence of

rail and widespread air links, roads are the only conduit for transporting people and goods in the State.

The government has adopted various policies to break the deep-rooted divide and bridge the emotional and developmental gaps between the Hills and Valley communities. Various initiatives like ‘Hill Leaders’ Day’ and ‘Go to Hills’ is in that direction. To rebuild the trust deficit, under its initiative of “Go to Hills”, Cabinet meetings—the first time in the annals of Governance in Manipur—were



held in Hill Districts to take the government closer to the people. The Chief Minister also meets people and redress their grievances on 'Hill Leaders' Day' every 10th of the month since 10th June 2017.

Improvement and Upgradation of Tupul to Bishnupur and Thoubal to Kasom Khullen Road in the State of Manipur under North Eastern States Road Investment Program (NESRIP).

On 27th December 2020, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah dedicated the Tupul-Bishnupur and Thoubal-Kasom Khullen Road to the public. The two roads are the manifestation of the State Government's new policy of "Go to Hills" and "Inclusive Growth".

The two roads, Tupul-Bishnupur road measuring 50.8 km (cost Rs.174.64 crore) and Thoubal-Kasom Khullen road measuring 47.125 km (cost Rs,213,40), were constructed and executed as part of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted North Eastern States Road Investment Program (NESRIP) of Ministry of DoNER.

The project has been constructed at the sanctioned cost of Rs. 475.68 Crores which includes Rs. 20.99 Crores as the State Share towards Compensation for Standing Properties and Environment Safeguards.

The project comprises of improvement and up-gradation of existing kutcha track/road to an All-Weather Road of intermediate double lane standard road (6.00 Metre including 0.5m curve allowance) in the hill section and double lane standard (7.00 Metre) of 4.95 km in the high traffic stretch in Valley Section with safety features.

Objective of the project

The main objective of the project is for the improvement of the road infrastructures

of the State for the improvement of the Socio-Economic Conditions of the backward Districts of i) Noney (earlier part of Tamenglong) ii) Churachandpur iii) Kangpokpi and iv) Kamjong (earlier part of Ukhrul) Districts by constructing/upgrading the two roads "MN06-CW1: Tupul to Bishnupur and MN06-CW2: Thoubal to Kasom Khullen".

Salient features of the project

Tupul to Bishnupur road- 50.800 km
 Thoubal to Kasom Khullen -47.125 km
 Total length-97.925 km
 Project cost: Rs 475.68 cr
 Population benefited: 70,941

The road shall also serve as the lifeline for the nine villages of Kasom Khullen Sub-Division under Kamjong District and 15 Villages of Noney and Churachandpur Districts which did not have any metalled/paved road before the project benefitting approximately 48,921 villagers. These villagers used to remain cut off during the rainy season as the then kutcha roads were impassable. The road thus provides a direct benefit to 58,00 villagers by providing accessibility and indirect benefit to 71,500 villagers through enhanced quality connectivity as below:

1. Tupul to Bishnupur will provide connectivity to 14 villages of interior Hill Villages of Churachandpur and Noney District having a population of 23,133 approximately.
2. Thoubal to Kasom Khullen will provide connectivity to nine interior Hill Villages of Kangpokpi and Kamjong Districts having a population of 25,788 approximately.

The villages which are served by the road are major centers of orange, pineapple, plantain, spices (ginger, chilly, turmeric, cardamon etc.), and other horticultural and forest products in addition to numbers of agricultural products.



The two roads are also a boon to women in the villages who had to face the brunt of the harrowing ordeal of traveling on foot or take the crammed bus while traveling to Imphal for trade and commerce.

The two roads shall also facilitate the development of Tourism in the region. The two roads shall enable proper exploration of the rich unutilized resources of the region leading to Socio-Economic development of the region in particular and the State in general.

Before the project, poor conditions of the road and lack of road connectivity have greatly restricted mobility, hampered the delivery of services, and prevented inclusive growth in hill districts. The project after bridging the physical gaps is expected to bridge the emotional divide between the people of the Hills and Valley.

“Construction of Imphal Kangchup Tamenglong Road” under SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program (SRCIP)

The Project “Construction of Imphal Kangchup Tamenglong Road” of 103.020 km shall provide the shortest connectivity with improved geometries to Tamenglong District and subsequently, to the East-West corridor reducing the distance to approximately 187 km from the existing 267 km. The road shall be the shortest connecting link between ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and SASEC (South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation) countries and for the State to mainland India.

The road comprises of the existing road for the first 13 km in Imphal (Naoremthong to Kangchup) and about 5 km on Tamenglong, remaining as greenfield alignment in hilly terrain. It will shorten the distance between Imphal and Tamenglong District Headquarters (HQ) by 45 km reducing the



travel time from 6 hours to 3 hours, thereby substantially reducing the vehicle operating cost.

The road is of standard double lane of 7m carriageway with paved shoulder and sides berms for the valley portion from Naoremthong to Kangchup Chingkhong (13km) and standard double lane of 7 m carriageway with 0.9 m stabilized shoulders in the hill section. The road has been designed for design speeds of 80kmph in the valley portion and 40kmph in Hill sections with high-performance pavements and necessary permanent structures and safety features.

The project includes the adoption of state of art slope protection techniques using non-conventional reinforced earth structures at slide prone portions. The project will benefit 18 interior villages and towns in the hill section and bring about inclusive growth, socio-economic development, and tourism in the state by providing enhanced connectivity for all seasons.

The project has been taken up for the cost of Rs. 1437.44 Crores is funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) through Government of India including state share of Rs. 143 Crores. The funding from ADB is 90% grant and 10% loan. The project is targeted for completion by May, 2022.



HOW MANIPUR TACKLED THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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The State's first Covid-19 case was detected on 23rd March 2020 from a 23-year woman who had just returned from the UK. After undergoing successful treatment at JNIMS she was discharged on 12th April 2020.

The State Government has been, right from the start, proactive in making efforts to

prevent and combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Administrative structures have been put in place for effective response. State Cabinet has been regularly monitoring and reviewing the situation and taking appropriate decisions.

Regular reviews are being conducted at the highest level, and necessary guidance and directions are being given. State Consultative Committee for COVID-19



headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, was set up to regularly review the COVID-19 situation and provide policy guidance. The committee includes Ministers, MLAs from all parties, Government officials, and medical experts. Ministers in-charge of Districts and Senior Officers as District Nodal Officers were also assigned for smooth and speedy implementation of various Covid prevention activities in the Districts.

COVID-19 Task Force was set up headed by Chief Secretary and including all Administrative Secretaries to actively monitor and coordinate the various activities for the management of the pandemic.

On 5th March, 2020 the State scenario was reviewed by the Chief Minister and he addressed the public to avoid gatherings including a written appeal in this regard on 7th March on the eve of Holi (Yaoshang) Festival.

Indo-Myanmar international border gates at Moreh, Tusom, Nambisha, and Behiang were closed from 10th March 2020. Assam Rifles had been requested by Home Department to enhance patrolling of Myanmar border areas.

The Manipur Epidemic Diseases COVID-19 Regulations 2020 was notified since 13th March, 2020 for one year. The State Authority, by an order, ordered the closure of all the schools and hostels and suspension of classes in all Government and private educational Institutes, including Universities from 13th March, 2020.

Vide Notification dated 13th March, 2020 Essential Commodities Act – Masks (2 ply & 3 ply Surgical Masks, N95 masks) and Hand Sanitizers were added to the list of Essential Commodities.

On 22 March 2020 the State joined India in observing a 14-hour voluntary Janta (public)

Curfew at the instance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and imposed CURFEW under Section 144 Cr PC imposed in all the districts of Manipur on 22 March, 2020.

From 23rd March 2020 issue of ILP permits had been suspended and inter-State border gates was closed from 23rd March 2020.

On 24 March 2020 Prime Minister ordered a nationwide Lockdown-1 for 21 days.

COVID-19 Central Control Room set up in CM Secretariat on 25th March, 2020 with Toll-free Phone No. 1800-345-3818. As of 12th January 2021 the number of calls received at the Control Room is 23,650. The majority of the calls were related to information on the issue of e-passes, Covid testing, quarantine and home isolation, referral transport, hospital admission, personal health issues, and social issues arising out of positive test results for Covid-19.

COVID Coordination Team was set up to coordinate the surveillance measures including testing and contact tracing efforts between State and District levels. The team is also coordinating COVID related matters with Army and Central Armed Para-military Forces.

To ensure the availability of food and other essential supplies CAF&PD Department started the distribution of free rice to all the population of the State. Chief Minister's Covid-19 Relief Fund was launched and many donors from all walks of life made generous contributions to the Relief Fund for fighting the pandemic.

Evacuation of stranded people: As a major initiative of the State Government to evacuate the thousands of state natives stranded in different parts of the country due to the nation-wide lockdown, a website www.tengbang.in was launched for enabling



stranded persons outside Manipur to contact State Government regarding their difficulties and later on to facilitate their return to the State by train and road. The State Government had evacuated more than 50,000 stranded persons. The first “Shramik Special train” carrying around 1081 stranded persons from Chennai arrived at Jiribam on 14th April 2020. After necessary screening at Jiribam, all passengers from Jiribam were transported to their destination districts by buses.

At the district level, Deputy Commissioners with the support from line departments are playing an important leading role in the management of the pandemic.

Health Department Response:

1. Administrative set up: A robust administrative set up has been placed at State and District levels to manage the various aspects of the pandemic like Surveillance, Quarantine, Testing, Isolation, and Treatment. Some of the important State Level Committees/ Teams set up in the Health Department are detailed as follows

- a. COVID Admission Committee is coordinating the admission of positive persons into (i) Covid Hospitals (RIMS, JNIMS, Shija Hospital, Raj Medicity etc), (ii) Isolation Wards of District Hospitals, Sub-District Hospitals, and CHC (Community Health Centre), and (iii) the various COVID Care Centres and ensuring that no positive person is denied admission in an appropriate hospital or COVID Care Centre. The Department had established a total of 20 CCCs (Covid Care Centres) spread across all the 16 Districts having total bed strength of 2,264 for providing isolation and treatment for mild/ asymptomatic Covid patients.
- b. State Technical Expert Committee for COVID-19 consisting of senior officials of the Health Department and faculties of RIMS

and JNIMS regularly assess and update the Covid treatment protocols and other related SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) and Advisories.

- c. Surveillance and Screening Management Team is managing and coordinating matters related to Surveillance and Screening. Besides the Screening Centres in land borders of Mao and Jiribam, District Screening Centres have been set up in all the districts.
- d. Quarantine Management Team was constituted for coordinating efforts and managing all matters relating to quarantine.
- e. Hospital & Isolation Facility Management Team is engaged in the management of Isolation Wards, ICUs, etc in health centres including District Hospitals, Sub-District Hospitals, and Community Health Centres under Health Department.
- f. Transport & Ambulance Management Team is coordinating matters related to deployment of ambulance and other transport-related matters. 14 Ambulances and 8 Bolero vehicles were procured and issued to the Districts to augment their response capacity in timely ferrying of the Covid patients.
- g. Management of COVID-19 Testing Team is engaged in managing the various efforts related to testing like (i) distribution of RAT (Rapid Antigen Test) kits to the testing sites including RIMS, JNIMS, private hospitals, Govt. health facilities (ii) sample collection, transportation to VRDL Labs at RIMS and JNIMS, coordinating with VRDL labs and Districts etc.
- h. Media and IEC Management Team is managing affairs relating to information dissemination and publicity campaigns. Daily reports/bulletins are also being generated besides making necessary press releases. Weekly Press Meet are also organized regularly every Friday for briefing the media house on the latest updates and making clarifications sought on Covid Management in the State.
- i. 24 x 7 State Level Psychological Support Team & Telephonic Helpline has been operationalized through the toll-free helpline



no 104 to address psycho-social issues faced by Covid patients and their families.

As of 12th January, 2021, 36,567 counseling sessions were conducted for 27,881 clients/ beneficiaries in hospitals, CCCs, quarantine centres, home isolation, and migrant shelter homes/camps.

2. Surveillance

a. Screening as a proactive step for prevention of the disease, the screening of domestic passengers at Imphal Airport was started on 18 January 2020 and 2,50,428 air passengers have been screened till 12th January, 2021.

The screening of surface returnees/ passengers was started since 31 January, 2020. So far 2,85,755 surface returnees, passengers and truckers have been screened as of 11th December, 2020.

Dedicated screening of Truck drivers and helpers plying goods were being taken up at (i) ISBT for truck drivers and handymen, (ii) IOC Depot, Malom for Oil Tanker drivers, and (iii) Gas Bottling Plant, Sekmai for Gas Bullet Tanker drivers.

b. A State Rapid Response Team (RRT) and 16 District RRTs have been constituted, given training, and made functional in the State. Besides, 10 Surveillance Teams in each District headed by a Medical Officer had been constituted, trained, and are also functioning for prompt contact tracing and facilitating early testing, isolation, and treatment of positive Covid-19 cases.

c. Containment protocol and Contact tracing are

being taken up actively of positive persons to contain the spread of the disease. Areas are immediately identified and declared as Containment Zones as per protocol as and when positive cases are detected. Strict containment measures including active surveillance and testing are undertaken.

d. Besides Health Department personnel, ASHA workers have also been engaged in surveillance measures. No. of ASHA engaged in COVID 19 care in Manipur is 3921 (out of a total 4009).

3 Covid-19 Testing

Testing for COVID-19 is one of the most effective means of combating the disease and Manipur has been adopting testing protocols as per the ICMR guidelines. Out of 4,91,958 samples collected and tested till 12th January, 2021 a total of 28,725 (5.83%) have tested positive. The number of Covid test per million population in the State is 1,63,986.

4. Quarantine

All persons arriving in Manipur were to undergo mandatory quarantine. Also, immediate contacts of positive persons and those considered as high-risk persons are made to undergo quarantine. Relevant SOPs in respect of the different forms of quarantine has been issued. The different forms of quarantine centres established/ adopted were (i) Institutional Government Quarantine Centres (150 set up and run by the government), (ii) Community Quarantine





Methods and sites of COVID 19 Testing in Manipur:		
Method	Government Sector	Private Sector
RT-PCR	VRDL, RIMS	Babina Diagnostics, Porompat
	VRDL, JNIMS	
TrueNat	STDC/IRL, Lamphel	Babina Diagnostics, Porompat
	District Hospital, Senapati	Raj Medicity, North AOC
	District Hospital, Tamenglong	MCCHRC, Sagolband
CBNAAT	District Hospital, Ukhrul	ESCENT Diagnostics, Nongmeibung
	-	Shija Hospital, Langol
Rapid Antigen Test	In most of the Govt. health facilities in the districts as per requirement.	Shija Hospital, Langol and many private hospitals.

Centres (set up with participation of the community and active support of local MLAs and clubs and community organizations) and (iii) Paid Quarantine Centres (16 in no. identified Hotels/Resorts in Imphal area and District Headquarters where persons can avail paid quarantine in place of institutional or community quarantine). Altogether 1,20,737 persons/ returnees were quarantined in various Quarantine Facilities in the State- (i) Institutional Quarantine Centers- 23,277 (ii) Community Quarantine Centres- 42,895, (iii) Paid Quarantine Centres- 4,650 and (iv) Home Quarantine- 49,915.

5. Treatment

Treatment is being provided to all COVID positive persons in the Hospitals and COVID Care Centres. Dedicated COVID-19 Treatment Blocks with ICU facilities in the two major hospitals of RIMS (155 beds) and JNIMS (157 beds) have been notified for moderate to severe cases of Covid patients on 31st March 2020 with an initial bed strength of (i) RIMS - 50 beds and (ii) JNIMS - 50 beds. While the Isolation Wards in the 7 District Hospitals and other Health Centres are providing treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 cases. Asymptomatic

and very mild cases are being treated at the CCCs (Covid Care Centres)

Till 12th January 2021 (i) a total of 1,072 moderate to severe Covid patients have been admitted to the Covid Hospitals (664 patients) and Isolation Wards of District Hospitals, Sub-District Hospitals and Community Health Centers (408), (ii) 7,916 asymptomatic or mild symptomatic patients were treated at the various Covid Care Centres located in the 16 Districts, and (iii) 9,103 positive cases have been under Home Isolation since 15th August 2020 with medicine, pulse oxymetre and tele-consultation support from the Health Department.

The State Health Department had supported the Covid Hospitals at RIMS and JNIMS and other State Health facilities with (i) 400 D-type oxygen cylinders, (ii) 90 ventilators and (iii) 353 oxygen concentrators for effective management of moderate to severe cases of Covid patients.

6. Training and Guidelines Management

To keep all the healthcare workers involved in various Covid-19 Management activities abreast of the latest updates on the pandemic a dedicated Training Team was



pressed into action. As of 26th December, 2020, trained 6,294 health care workers (1,105 doctors, 1,257 nurses, 370 para-medics, 2,527 frontline workers, 628 volunteers and 415 others) engaged in (i) Surveillance, (ii) Isolation Wards, (iii) Quarantine Centres, (iv) Clinical Management of Covid-19, (v) Non Invasive Ventilator, (vi) Sample Collection & Testing, (vii) Home Isolation Control Room etc.

7. Massive IEC/Media Campaign

Face Mask Campaign- was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Manipur on 12 June, 2020. As in other parts of the country, Jan Andolan was launched in the State on 8th October 2020 with the active involvement of government and non-governmental organizations. Besides print, electronic and social media, community groups/clubs, religious/cultural organisations, etc also being utilised in the campaign.

8. Medical Material Procurement

COVID19 Medical Materials Management Committee headed by Addl. Chief Secretary (Finance) is constituted to look into the requirements of medical supplies and oversee the procurement process. State Technical Committee headed by Director/Health is also set up to check the quality of medical supplies received and make recommendations of requirements.

Nine consignments of urgent medical supplies including PPE, Sanitizers, N95 & Triple layered Mask, Hand Gloves, Infra Red Thermometers, Sodium Hypochlorite, etc by Air were received during the Lockdown period under the MoCA's 'Lifeline Udan' scheme.

9. Medicine Help Desk

To assist those in need of essential medicines who may be facing difficulty in procuring them given lockdown measures a dedicated Medicine Help Desk was set up in the 24 x 7 COVID-19 Common Control Room. Any person may call at the Helpline



No. 1800-345-3818 and receive information regarding availability and guidance to specific pharmacies in nearby areas where the medicines can be purchased. Staffs of the State Drug Controller and Health Department were manning the Helpdesk.

10. Central Team visit:

Ministry of Health & FW, Govt. of India deputed a Central Team in the last week of October, 2020 to assess and review the containment and surveillance, infection prevention and control practices, testing, and status of health facilities for Covid-19. The Team visited RIMS, JNIMS, Health facilities under the Health Department and interacted with key officials of the Department and the Medical Institutes. The Central Team made a second visit to the State from 23rd to 28th November, 2020, and their findings and recommendations were shared and discussed with all the State stakeholders for taking up necessary improvements.

11. Covid Vaccine:

As advocated by WHO (World Health Organization) and implemented in many countries around the world, India also started the world's biggest Covid vaccination program with effect from the 16th January, 2021. 41,000 health care workers are scheduled to get the doses during the first phase of Covid vaccination.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri N.Biren Singh receiving the Covid vaccines at Imphal Airport on 13th January 2021.

As of 12th January 2021, out of the total 28,725 positive cases, deaths due to Covid-19 is 365 while 27,879 cases (97.05%) have recovered with only 481 positive cases remaining as active cases.

The challenge posed by Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over. Vaccination of the entire population against Covid-19 will take more time. Hence, the currently available thumb rule is to practice Covid Appropriate Behaviour by all at all times.





CM PAYS HIS MAIDEN VISIT TO KAMJONG



Continuing State Government's popular 'Go to Hills' mission, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh made his maiden visit to Kamjong district headquarters along with his Cabinet Ministers on January 15, 2021. During his visit, the Chief Minister inaugurated different developmental projects and laid foundation stones for many others apart from presiding a State Cabinet meeting.

He landed to a warm welcome at the newly created district in a Bell-412 helicopter at around 10:30 am. A colourful reception

function was organized in his honour at Kamjong Public Ground.

Later, he inaugurated 33/11 KV Sub-Stations of Nambashi, Nampisha and Gamnom villages, temporary office of SP, School Fagathansi of Kamjong High School, Augmentation of Water Supply at Lairam Khullen and Khongjal under Jal Jeevan Mission, Kamjong Forest Division Office Complex, Works under BADP (Model Village) at Nampisha, Rain Water Harvesting at Ramrei, Rehabilitation Houses of Chassad village, Barrack Type Quarter and Health



and Wellness Centre at Phungyar PHC, One Stop Centre (Sakhi), Institutional Building and Health & Wellness Centre at PHC Kasom Khullen and Model Residential School at Kamjong under PMJVK.

Shri N. Biren Singh also laid the foundation stones for Ima Market at Kamjong, Khambi to Nongman road, Bailey Bridge over Changkhong river, Bailey Bridge over Tuyungbi river on Hongbai to Kangoi road, Bailey Bridge over Sandok river, Steel Truss Bridge over Maklang River on Chatru Khullen to Gambal road, Kambi to Nongman Road and Bailey Bridge over Maklang River on Leiting to Hangkau road.

Later, he also distributed CMHT, CMST, PMJAY and Old Age Pension cards and wheel chairs to selected beneficiaries.

Addressing the gathering, Shri N. Biren Singh stated that 'Go to Hills' Mission was introduced to achieve equal development in all parts of the State, provide equal opportunity to all the people and retain mutual respect among them. The Mission was announced in his maiden speech as a Chief Minister on March 15, 2017.

Since then, he along with Cabinet Ministers and officials of the State Government have been visiting different hill districts to realize people's needs and understand their inconveniences, Shri N. Biren Singh said. He added that his Government is thankful to the people of hill districts for according warm welcome wherever they visit.

The Chief Minister stated that his visit to Kamjong district, earlier scheduled for December 16, 2020, was postponed due to a State function. For this, he requested the people of Kamjong to pardon him for the last minute postponement. Shri N. Biren Singh said that although he could not visit Kamjong in the first round of Go to Hills

Mission, developmental activities continued in the district in consultation with Hill Areas Committee Chairman and representative of the area, Shri K. Leishiyo.

Shri N. Biren Singh said that the Centre introduced the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) at his plea. Stating that Tamenglong and Noney districts had received Rs. 90 crore under the programme last year, the Chief Minister said that he had written to the Centre to implement the programme in other hill districts of the State as well.

Lauding the Public Health Engineering Department for providing tap water to all the households of the district headquarters, the Chief Minister announced that the Executive Engineer concerned would be befittingly rewarded for this commendable work. He also expressed satisfaction for the works being taken in power sector in the district. Shri N. Biren Singh also directed the officials concerned to complete ongoing construction works in the district before the onset of rainy season.

In education sector, he announced that Kamjong High School would be upgraded to Higher Secondary apart from setting up a college at the earliest. The Chief Minister further said that upgradation of Kamjong CHC to District Hospital had already been included in the proposal for funding under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS). Opening of PHSCs at Nambisha, Tangkhul Hundung and Ningthi had also been approved, the Chief Minister said and added that Samphung PHSC would also be upgraded to PHC under the funds from Multi Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP). Under the same programme, a Working Women Hostel having 31 rooms would also be constructed at district headquarters, he informed.

Further informing that branches of



Central Bank of India and Punjab & Sind Bank would be opened at district headquarters, the Chief Minister requested the villagers to extend cooperation to the bank staff, who would come there to serve them. Stating that Kamjong shares around 103 km of border with Myanmar, the State Government would submit a proposal to the North East Council (NEC) for opening of Border Haats at Skipe and Pilog. Directing the concerned officials to complete construction of Women's Market of the district by March this year, the Chief Minister urged the people to inform him if quality is not maintained in construction works.

Speaking at the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Y. Joykumar said that unlike past, Kamjong is now performing well in all the development indicators like roads, water and power supply. Maintaining that people must be experiencing a positive change ever since the new Government came to the State, he urged them to extend support to the Government so that this change sustains.

In his speech, Power Minister and Government Spokesperson Shri Th. Biswajit said that inauguration of the 33/11 KV power sub-stations at Gamnom is a big achievement not only for the people of the area but for the entire State. He pointed out that with the inauguration of the sub-station, the power losses suffered earlier due to long transmission from Kamjong sub-station would now be minimized.

The Minister further informed that construction of 5MW sub-stations at Nambashi and Nampisha would

be started at the earliest. Construction of sub-stations at other places including Kachai, Chingai, Somdal and Sanakeithei would also commence soon, he added.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Shri Hungyo Worshang made a PowerPoint presentation on the present status of various developmental works and schemes implemented in the district.

Later in the afternoon, the Chief Minister chaired a State Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet reviewed the arrangements for upcoming Statehood Day observation and decided to celebrate it with restrictions in view of the Covid pandemic. Amongst other decisions, it was also decided to reopen schools and colleges for students studying in Class 9 and above by observing relevant SOP. It was also agreed to conduct elections to the Autonomous District Council and Urban Local Bodies. The Cabinet further approved rules governing Manipur Private Security Services for providing private security to cash transportation activities, rules for banning unregulated deposits schemes, and the Manipur Human Rights Commission Services Rules. It was also approved to strengthen manpower of MHRC. It was the ninth such meeting held in hill district headquarters under Go to Hills Mission.





AN OVERVIEW OF CMHT AND AB-PMJAY HEALTH SCHEME IN MANIPUR

Rinsophy Chamroy
IEC Manager
State Health Agency Manipur



CMHT/PMJAY beneficiaries with their health cards during one of the enrollment drive conducted in Churachandpur District.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is a health scheme that provides free hospitalization treatment of upto Rs.5,00,00,000/- per family per year to over 10.74 crores poor and vulnerable families of the Country. AB-PMJAY was nationally launched on 23rd September, 2018 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi with the primary objective of providing free of cost, accessible quality healthcare services

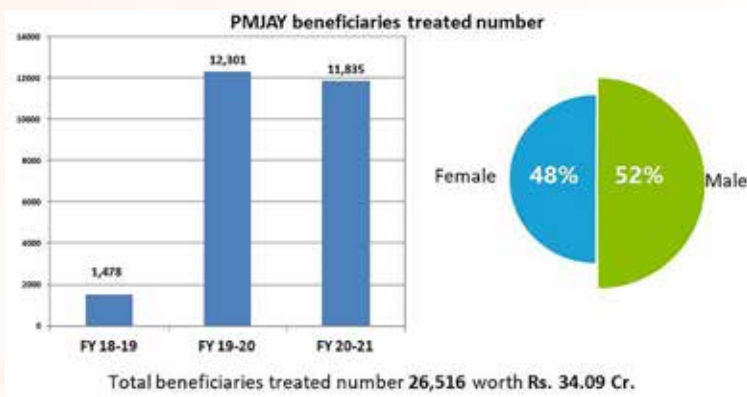
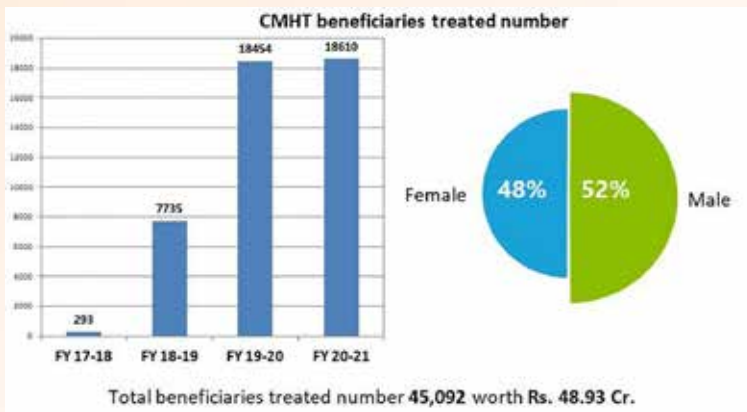
to the poor and vulnerable groups of the society. Poor families as listed under Socio Economic Caste Census (2011) are eligible beneficiaries of the scheme. AB-PMJAY Beneficiaries can avail free treatment benefits across all the empanelled hospitals in India. Over 24,000 hospitals across the country have been empanelled under AB-PMJAY for giving free treatment to eligible beneficiaries. When fully implemented, AB PM-JAY will become the world's largest government-funded health financing programme.



In Manipur, over 14.08 lakh individuals are entitled beneficiaries of PMJAY as per SECC data 2011 – of which, 2.9 lakhs have so far been verified and have received their PMJAY Cards. Any person can check their eligibility by logging into mera.pmjay.gov.in or by downloading the PMJAY app from the play store. For those not covered under AB-PMJAY, the State has its own health insurance scheme – Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT) for AAY Ration Card Holder, Widow, Differently abled, Local Media Persons, Newspaper Hawkers, Drivers

worth above Rs 12 crores. For 2019-20, 18454 beneficiaries have already benefitted more than Rs 23 crores of free hospitalisations. For 2020-2021 (till date), 18610 beneficiaries have benefitted more than Rs 13 crores of free hospitalisations.

State Health Agency, Manipur (SHA) was set-up by the Government of Manipur to implement PM-JAY in the State in alliance with CMHT. Since PMJAY’s launch on 23rd September 2018 in Manipur by Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri. N. Biren Singh, more than 26,516 cases of treatment, worth Rs. 34 plus Crore rupees, has been utilized in Manipur out of which 652 beneficiaries have availed treatment outside the State under PMJAY. 169 PMJAY beneficiaries from outside the State namely Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, and Bihar have availed treatment in empanelled hospitals of PMJAY in the State. As of now, 32 Hospitals have been empanelled under AB-PMJAY in Manipur - out of which 23 are Public Hospitals and 9 are Private Hospitals. Another 33 PSU’s (Public Service Undertaking) hospitals in the State have also been empanelled under PMJAY. The trend of hospital empanelment under CMHT/PMJAY has continued to grow in the State since its launch.



and Other poor families of the State. The State’s health scheme provides free hospitalization benefit of upto Rs.2 lakh per year per family for secondary and tertiary treatment. CMHT was launched by Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri. N. Biren Singh on 21st January 2018 prior to the national launched of AB-PMJAY. Since its launch, 3.7 lakh beneficiaries of the State have been enrolled under CMHT and 33 hospitals have been empanelled for the scheme, out of which 23 are public hospitals and 10 are private hospitals (1 Private Hospital outside Manipur - Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, Guwahati). In 2018-19, CMHT provided more than 7000 free hospitalisations



Top tertiary illnesses treated for free are Cancer, Unspecified Surgeries & Treatment of Bone Fractures. The top 5 specialties by number of utilization for treatment of PMJAY beneficiaries are: General Medicine, General Surgery, Radiation Oncology, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Paediatric Medical Management.

Rs. 34.09 Crore Worth of free treatment	26,516 Number of free treatment provided
2.73 Lakh E-cards issued to beneficiaries	Rs. 1.44 Crore Worth of free treatment provided outside the State
Rs. 17.65 Lakh Worth of COVID-19 free treatment provided	65 Hospitals empanelled in the State

Performance of PMJAY Manipur at a glance

Some of the best practices of the State:

1. SHA Manipur has organized over 120+ Enrolment Camps for CMHT/PMJAY across the State to ease the burden of the poor beneficiaries, saving them from the inconveniences of travelling for hours to get their CMHT/PMJAY Cards.
2. SHA Manipur has partnered with SDOs and District Administration of all districts in the State for BIS drive in the villages under their concerned jurisdiction for ensuring awareness as well as maximum verification of beneficiaries.
3. To ensure maximum verification of beneficiaries in the State, SHA has been awarding monthly cash awards to CSC VLEs with the highest golden card issued to PMJAY beneficiaries.
4. SHA Manipur is among the first state in the country who have partnered with National Urban Livelihood Mission in Manipur to orient key officials of Department of Municipal Administration, Housing & Urban Development (MAHUD), Municipal Commissioners, PRI Chairpersons/ Councillors, etc.
5. With the aim of improving service delivery at Empanelled Public Hospitals, SHA has been giving incentives for deserving staffs implementing PMJAY in empanelled public hospitals in the State with effect from 1st January 2020.
6. SHA Manipur accords high priority on efficient and timely claims payment to empanelled hospitals.
7. To ensure that patients are not denied hospitalization/treatment by any hospital during the pandemic, SHA MANIPUR launched its toll free number (1800-103-2015) as 24x7 Hospitalisation Helpline Number for the State.
7. e-office: SHA Manipur is one of the first few departments in Manipur to have implemented e-office successfully since August, 2020.

A CSC VLE creating golden card for a PMJAY beneficiary on his sick bed in a remote village.



JNIMS surgical team in collaboration with District hospital Tamenglong successfully conducted free surgical camp for CMHT PMJAY beneficiaries at Tamenglong District.





ROLE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN IMPROVING RURAL LIVELIHOOD IN MANIPUR

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What the Manipur State Cooperative Bank Ltd is doing to enhance rural livelihood

Manipur's Economy

Manipur's economy is based on agriculture and allied sectors. The main activities of the local people are farming, weaving, fishery, etc. But the credit flow to the rural area is very limited. Credit flow is mainly limited to the



1. Long gestation period – between sowing of products and marketing.
2. To buy inputs – Credit is needed by farmers to meet the initial investment on seeds, fertilizers, tools, etc till the crop is ready.
3. Credit is also required for personnel expenses like marriages, religious ceremonies, etc. so that the farmers are saved from moneylenders and traders who exploit them
4. Credit facilities are also needed by farmers to upgrade the technologies and mechanized farming so that the marketable surplus can be increased.

They were dependent on local money – lenders and private microfinance institutions which charged exorbitant interest rates.

A key objective of rural financing is to provide these people with the funds and financial services they need to multiply their earnings and build a more prosperous future. Rural credits serve as a tool for providing a sustainable livelihood for millions of rural Indians who don't have a means of livelihood.

Role of Financial Institutions

Financial Institutions, especially the banks have a key role to play to enhance and improve rural livelihood by making available easy and soft credit to the rural farmers at minimum interest rate. They can support the economic development of rural areas by providing financial services to local farmers and agricultural enterprises. Availability of credit at a low cost is one important factor for growth in rural areas.

Manipur State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) LTD., being the Apex Cooperative bank in the State of Manipur is actively involved in activities to ensure that the rural livelihood is enhanced and to improve the rural economy by making credit available to the rural people of Manipur especially in Agriculture and Allied activities for the last many years.

urban area. Most of the financial institutions like banks paid more focus on profitability, give comparatively less priority to marginal farmers and does not venture into rural areas, especially in the agri and allied sectors. A study suggests that 70% of the rural people do not have any access to financial institutions/credit. But it is the people living in the rural area who need credit, which will drastically improve their livelihood.

Why Rural Credit is needed

The people in the rural area especially those engaging in the agri and allied sector need credit at the right time for the following reasons:



Established on 24th June 1956, MSCB plays a key role in the rural economy by extending loans/credit through a cross-section of co-operatives in the Agriculture and Allied sector.

The performance of MSCB in agriculture lending is quite commendable. The minimum benchmark set by the Reserve Bank of India for agricultural lending is 18% of the total loan advances. As per the SLBC data for the period ending March 2020, the agricultural lending of MSCB Ltd was 39 % of the total loan advances. For the period ending March 2019, it was 30.20%.

Activities of MSCB Ltd. In Rural Livelihood Sector

MSCB is concentrating on three main activities for enhancing rural livelihood:

1. SHG formation
2. KCC Loan
3. Fishery Sector

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are playing a significant role in raising the level of income and standard of living of the rural people in Manipur. SHGs are a valuable investment in human capital through training and capacity-building measures. SHG movement was meant to build economic self-reliance of rural poor, overcome misuse, and create confidence predominantly among women who are mostly unseen in the social structure. They played a significant role in improving the quality of life of women in rural areas and promoting self-reliance. These SHGs are involved in a wide spectrum of economic activities to generate the income of these SHGs ranging from weaving, handicrafts, piggery, poultry, dairy etc.

How is Self Help Group formed?

“Self Help Groups (SHGs) are a small group of 10-20 individuals, mainly women

who are homogenous with respect to social and economic background and come together voluntarily for promoting savings habit among members and for a common cause to raise and manage resources for the benefit of group members”.

The Group need not be registered. Only one member of a family can become a member of the Group. The internal savings mobilized by the group are then lent to its members for emergent needs or such other purposes as decided by the Group. Thereafter, they are deposit /credit linked to a bank, also called Bank Linkage Programme (BLP).

MSCB and SHGs

The MSCB Ltd. has been actively participating in SHG-BLP and it had formed 850 SHGs during the last four years, all of which have been linked with a deposit as well as with credit by extending a sum of Rs. 8.52 crs.

The SHGs who are part of the Bank Linkage Programme of the MSCB are mainly of three types -

1. SHGs formed by the MSCB Ltd itself with the assistance of NCUI -National Cooperative Union of Manipur (Women’s Project), Institute of Cooperative Management, Imphal.
2. SHGs formed by SHG Promoting institutes like UDWIN in Ukhrul and ACCORD in Senapati District.
3. SHGs formed by the MSRLM (Manipur State Rural Livelihood Mission)

All these SHGs are properly trained for at least six months by the bank in accounting, maintenance of cash books etc. The Bank also conducted a Financial Literacy Awareness Camp (FLAP) for these SHGs to familiarise them with banking activities. Then these SHGs are duly inspected by a committee known as Programme Implementation Monitoring



Committee (PIMC) whose members includes amongst others representatives of NABARD, NCUI etc. and given ratings based on certain criteria like the number of members, group homogeneity, maintenance of records, repayment rate of internal loans, frequency of meetings, their corpus amount, their lending habit etc . Only those SHG which got a minimum of 15 ratings points out of 20 are given credit linkage.

The Ministry of Rural Development, DEENDAYALANTYODAYA YOJANA – NRLM, Government of India, in recognition of the MSCB's role in SHG-BLP has issued a "CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION" for outstanding performance in SHG-Bank Linkage in 2018-19.

Case Study of Successful SHGs

The village of Khurkhul in Imphal West District is famous for its Silk cloth, 'Muga'. The women were also very hard – working but they had no access to any formal financial institutions before MSCB came to the village and formed SHGs. Now, these self-help groups of MSCB in Khurkhul are engaged in a variety of economic activities viz weaving, duckery, poultry, mushroom cultivation, farming, bakery, etc. And it was a proud moment for MSCB Ltd when members of these SHGs were selected by ICAR, NEH, Meghalaya for launching the "Female Farmers Project" for the first time in Manipur.

The case of Smt. Rojita Devi, a member of an SHG in Khurkhul is a classic example of SHG enhancing the quality of life of its members. She is a young widow. Earlier she was not able to borrow from the local people because the people were apprehensive that she would remarry and not repay the borrowed money. "After joining the Self – Help Group, I have free access to loans and now I run a hotel and can easily earn a profit of

Rs. 500 daily by selling puris in the morning and home delivering it to the customers," she said.

The SHGs in Awang Potsangbam Village is another example of success. Their main occupation was earlier stone/sand quarrying in Sekmai River. But their lives changed after there was a ban on quarrying. MSCB Ltd. organized these women into SHGs and provided them soft loan. Now they have started earning income through activities like mushroom cultivation, duckery, bakery, etc.

KCC (Kishan Credit Card)

The Kisan Credit Card scheme is a scheme launched by the Government of India to provide farmers with timely access to short – term formal credit. The KCC scheme was introduced to ensure that the credit requirements for farmers in the agriculture, fisheries, and animal husbandry sectors were being met. This is a security-free loan and the most useful loan scheme for the farmers in the rural area, in the form of credit card with a very low-interest rate. At present, it is 7 % per annum for MSCB ltd.

But after interest subvention of 3 % by NABARD, actual interest to be paid by the farmers is 4 % p.a. only, and that too only for the period for which they have withdrawn the money from the bank.

Providing institutional credit facilities at concessional rates through Kisan Credit Cards is also one important component of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan – (Self Reliant India Movement) announced by the Government of India during the Covid pandemic to ease the sufferings of the people who have been adversely affected by Covid.

MSCB Ltd is also playing a major role in this regard. As per the report circulated in the Economic Task Force Meeting held every month under the Chairmanship of



Chief Secretary, Manipur, MSCB is the best performing bank in providing KCC Loans.

Till 17th December 2020, the MSCB Ltd. has extended KCC loans to the farmers amounting to Rs.845.49 lakhs to 1256 farmers during the period from 1st April 2020 to 14th January 2021. The beneficiaries are selected by MSCB from amongst the SHG members, Farmers Club Members, members of Farmers Producing Organization, members of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society.

Fishery Sector

Fish is one of the staple food of Manipur. However, the state depends on fish from outside the state for its consumption as the fish production in the state is very low in quantity. The irony is that there are many water bodies in the state where fishes can be reared successfully. But the fisherman of Manipur does not practice scientific fishing method to increase the yield. The State Government of Manipur has undertaken a mission as a flagship programme to increase fish production and giving loan to the fish farmers as one of the major component of it. The MSCB Ltd. pioneered itself to be a front runner in implementation of this pet project of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur and till 30th November 2020, the MSCB Ltd. has extended credit facilities worth Rs.571.00 lakhs to 245 fish farmers ranging from a minimum of Rs.2.00 lakhs to a maximum of Rs.20.00 lakhs per fish farmer under this project.

The fishery loan given by MSCB is different from the one given by other banks in that the scheme /project for the fishery farm is formulated by the bank itself with the help of scientists of KVK, Progressive farmers etc. The scheme is for scientific pisciculture. MSCB Ltd also organise training on scientific fishery for all the loanees with the help of experts from the Fishery Department, ICAR,

and KVK. And it is a matter of pride for the bank that Shri L. Dhanachandra Singh of Khabam Bamdiar Imphal West who is financed by the bank under the Government Project was awarded the first prize in the Manipur State Annual Fish Fair for 2018 for producing the maximum fish in the state. Further, Shri Oinam Jenish Singh of Khordak who is also financed by the bank was awarded the first prize in the Manipur State Annual Fish Fair for the year 2020 for producing the maximum fish in the state.

Shri Ningthoujam Herojit of Laphupat Tera Integrated Khunou Farmers Club is a classic example of how adequate and proper bank support can change the life of a fish farmer. Earlier, he was doing masonry works on daily wages without much improvement in his economic condition. But after becoming a member of the Farmers Club, which is affiliated and supported by MSCB Ltd, he started scientific fishery in 2 sangams of land which his family owns. Now after getting support from MSCB Ltd. in the form of fishery loan, he is now able to earn Rs. 7 lakhs as profit in a year from his fish farm and is now able to lead a comfortable life.

Thus, the banks have a major role to play in enhancing the rural livelihood by making available easy credit facilities at affordable rates. However, from the data available as per the State Level Bankers Committee Report, it is observed that many of the big banks operating in Manipur are not actively involved in agricultural lending. And they should start giving more emphasis to this sector as Manipur is a rural agriculture driven economy. And the State Government should also regularly monitor the progress of the banks in these sectors as Manipur will develop only when its rural areas developed. The Government should start pulling up the banks that are not into agricultural lending.



DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUAL CIRCUIT IN MANIPUR UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN

*W. Ibohal Singh
Director
Tourism, Government of Manipur*

The spiritual circuit which includes the Shree Govindajee Temple, Shree Bijoy Govindajee Temple, Shree Gopinath Temple, Shree Bunghshibudon Temple and Shree Kaina Temple hold special significance to Manipur and its people. These temples need no introduction to us all.

They are a symbol of our cultural

civilization and our age old religious traditions lies embedded here. As such, it was only inevitable that the State government develop them as major tourist attractions in the form of a spiritual circuit in the state.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extended support for development of these temples as a Spiritual Circuit in our State under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.



Swadesh Darshan Scheme is a Central Sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits. The scheme aims to promote, develop and harness the potential of tourism in India.

Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments,

Union Territory Administrations for the infrastructure development of circuits. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned Rs. 53.79 Crore for Development of Spiritual Circuit in Manipur in the year 2016.

The completion of the Development of Spiritual Circuit in our State under the Swadesh Darshan II Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, is yet another major milestone for the State of Manipur. It is the first of its kind for our state and the completion of this project will help attract more visitors and cater to the needs of travelers wishing to learn about the history of this age old Kingdom of Manipur.

The development of infrastructures and restoration of age old structures in the state helps us preserve our culture in the long run. It will support the growth of visitors to various other attractions in the state. In the coming years, the Department of Tourism plans to include different strategic locations of the Manipur in the state government's plan to develop infrastructures that supports tourist activities in the state.

Our districts like Bishnupur with its varied tourist attractions like Loktak Lake, Keibul Lamjao and the INA Memorial at Moirang, Red Hill's India Peace Memorial, Loukoi Pat and nearby tourist spots like the Sadu Chiru Waterfalls have the potential for development of tourist infrastructures.

Loktak particularly holds strategic importance to its nearby attractions and the development of infrastructures in and around the Loktak Lake will help support the growing demands of the tourism industry today.

The Department of Tourism is planning to take up a mega eco-tourism project at Loktak Lake, which is proposed to be funded through EAP. The project will include many firsts of its kind facilities in the State and will be undertaken with an estimated cost of Rs. 1,350/- crore.

The Department has also submitted new proposals for potential projects which can be taken up under the Ministry of Tourism's, Swadesh Darshan III for development of infrastructures for Eco and Ethnic Park at Loktak Lake; Adventure Sports and Eco-tourism



at Mapithel and for Eco-tourism facilities at Sadu Chiru-Kangmong- Kanto.

PROJECT DETAILS

Name of Project: Development of Spiritual circuit in Manipur (Shri Shri Govindajee Temple, Shri Bijoy Govindajee Temple, Shri Gopinatha Temple, Shri Shri Bungshibodon Temple & Shri Shri Kaina Temple)

Sanction Amount: Rs. 53,79,56, 948/- (Fifty Three Crore Seventy Nine Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand and Nine Hundred Forty Eight Only) for 6 Components (including dropped component of Light & Sound Show of Rs. 807.21 lakh)

Date of Sanctioned: 25th July, 2016

Amount Released from Ministry of Tourism, GOI: Rs. 4303.65 lakh

Work Agency: Public Work Department (PWD), Manipur

Fund Deposited To PWD : Rs. 3842.57 lakh

Amount Utilized: Rs. 3842.57 lakh

Physical Progress: 100% (Excluding dropped components of Light & Sound Show)

Date of completion : 28th October, 2020



DETAILED BREAKUP OF PROJECTS OF SPIRITUAL CIRCUIT IN MANIPUR UNDER SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

Sl.no.	Description	Amount Sanctioned
1	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Manipur: Shree Shree Govindajee Temple	Rs. 10,71,08, 184/-
2	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Manipur (Shree Shree Bijoy Govindajee Temple)	Rs. 6,21,78,477/-
3	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Manipur (Shree Shree Gopinath Temple)	Rs. 9,18,78,272/-
4	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Manipur (Shree Shree Bungshibudon Temple)	Rs. 10,68,35,100/-
5	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Manipur (Shree Shree Kaina Temple)	Rs. 6,74,62,035/-
6	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Manipur (Light and Sound Show) Component Dropped	Rs. 7,68,77,882/-



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL GOES VIRTUAL



Chief Minister N Biren Singh graced a virtual Cherry Blossom Mao Festival on January 9, 2021. The festival which featured the picturesque landscape of Mao town adorned with beautiful Cherry Blossom flowers was streamed live from 2 pm on Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Colourful traditional dances and special ballet titled 'Cherry Nachom' were other attractions of the virtual event.

Addressing viewers worldwide from the Cabinet Hall of the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Imphal, N Biren said that Mao is not only a major tourist destination but also a crucial hill station for reaching breathtaking tourist spots like Dzuko Valley and Mount Iso - the highest peak of Manipur and other places.

Stating that Dzuko is a National wealth, the Chief Minister said that the wildfire that had ravaged the hill ranges of the area had died down with the sustained efforts of NDRF, Indian Air Force, SDRF State Police, Fire Service, Forest Department, district administration, village volunteers, MMTA, Assam Rifles, etc.

He said that the Cherry Blossom Festival of Mao town had already been made a part of the Manipur Sangai Festival.

Though it is a virtual event, this year's festival would provide an excellent platform for promoting tourism even as everybody is constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also exuded that the virtual event would give hope and inspiration to the viewers around the world during this difficult situation. The Chief Minister stated that Cherry Blossom Festival could be an international event in the coming years. The State Govt is planning to invite delegations from countries like Japan where they also celebrate Sakura Festival. The virtual Cherry Blossom Mao Festival was jointly organized by the Department of Tourism and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Shillong in association with the Organizing Committee Flower Festival, Mao. Tourism Minister Oinam Lukhoi, Tourism Corporation of Manipur Ltd (TCML) Chairman Ashab Uddin and Commissioner (Tourism) Devesh Deval also attended the event, among others.



BIDYARANI NONGMAITHEM'S PEARL BERRY

*THIS FOOD STARTUP IS ENCOURAGING HEALTHY CONSUMPTION
AMID THE PANDEMIC*

*Sagolsem Snehprabha
Manager of Publication*



Bidyarani Nongmaithem with her staffs at Pearl Berry

The pandemic has underscored the importance of healthy consumption like never before. According to an online survey by Habit, the Covid pandemic has changed Indian's outlook on health and 70% of Indians are prioritizing eating healthy to improve their physical and mental health in 2021. Many Food & Beverages startups from Manipur are redefining the way healthy, immune-boosting foods are consumed.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to shift consumer habits towards being more health-conscious, Imphal-based Pearl Berry

saw an opportunity to win on taste and fuel healthier lifestyles at the same time. Bidyarani Nongmaithem opened the multi-cuisine restaurant with particular emphasis given to traditional Manipuri cuisine at Keishampat, Sega Road, Imphal in November 2020.

“Healthy eating doesn't have to be expensive or tasteless. With that as my vision, Pearl Berry was opened as soon as the State relaxed lockdown measures and allowed physical dine-in with limited capacity. We are offering, basically steamed and baked food items”, she said.



A visit to Thailand in 2019 for a destination wedding attracted her into the food business. “I love eating and making tasty and healthy foods for my friends and family. While on a visit to Thailand, I came across this restaurant in Pattaya and feasted on the seafood delicacies, like lobsters. I never thought about opening a restaurant

aromatics, and ingredients directly sourced from a local farm and markets in the zero mile radius.

“I loved experimenting with Manipuri cuisine. Especially healthy foods, either steamed or baked. My place used to always end up as the hang out zone. So basically, my friends and relatives were there for taste tests.



earlier. There was not enough time, nor the courage to try something new. However, the pandemic gave me a jolt and I took a leap of faith and decided to open a restaurant as soon as the government eased restrictions”, she added.

What’s on the menu?

Pearl Berry’s menu offers mainly steamed and baked items ranging from Asian (Chinese & Korean), Continental and Manipuri Cuisine. The restaurant also uses less oil and spices and instead uses traditional herbs,

I introduced them to a lot of new recipes, like boil or steamed fish with kanghuman, stewed chicken and ducks using traditional and authentic ingredients like kanglayen”.

‘Kanglayen’ (*Schizophyllum commune*) is a type of mushroom commonly used as one of the favourite ingredients for Manipuri style pancakes called ‘paaknam’. It also has medicinal properties and is prescribed in hoarseness, asthma, and tonsillitis. It is also reportedly used for treating diabetes in folk medicine.



Pearl Berry's menu also features steamed and fresh local vegetables such as pea shoots, beans, mustard greens etc as sides. Other interesting additions are fruits and salads prepared from traditional ingredients like Heitup and 'Pallukabi', which tasted like raw mango salad. Heitup is commonly used to cure indigestion, typhoid, dysentery etc.

The menu which celebrates authentic Manipuri recipes and ingredients with traditional health benefits focuses on sustainable sourcing from the local market.



Restaurants in Manipur have slowly started reopening recently following government guidelines. Covid-pandemic forced restaurants to close dine-in services since March when the nationwide lockdown was imposed only allowing delivery and takeaway.

"We are following safety and hygiene standards to perfection. Our staff wears masks and used gloves in order to prepare healthy and hygienic food", she said.

Online and offline

The restaurant is open for delivery and has partnered with BookTou, a consumer goods and services provider by EZANVEL Pvt Limited.

"We are looking at a combination of online and physical dine-in. Most of our consumers repeat orders. They either book a reservation in advance or call for food delivery. Order for home delivery can fetch us anywhere from Rs.2000-Rs.4000", she said.



Challenges

Sourcing raw materials and other resources have been the most challenging aspect of engaging in the food business during the pandemic.

The serial entrepreneur who was earlier engaged in many financial ventures said she will break even in three-four months. "I invested 3 lakhs so far. Although business is not roaring, I m doing pretty well, according to industry friends", she said.



INITIATIVES FOR DOUBLING FARMERS INCOME



Manipur is primarily an agrarian state and agriculture and allied activities continues to play a significant role for the inclusive and sustainable development of the economy. The Agriculture sector is the mainstay of the State's economy and provides food and livelihood for a bulk of the population, directly or indirectly.

The State Government has implemented several centrally sponsored schemes and policies in the light of its commitment to transform the agriculture sector and double farmers' income by 2022-23. These schemes/programs are meant for the welfare of farmers by increasing production, remunerative returns and income support to farmers.

Various interventions and Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Manipur

Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER):

Objective: To promote Organic Cultivation to enhance Crop Commodity-specific Organic Value Chain and address gaps in Organic Crop Production, Organic Livestock Management and Processing, handling & Marketing of organic Agricultural Products.

The organic production of Aromatic Black Rice (Chak-Hao) has been taken up in 3000 Hectares (Ha) in Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Chandel and Churachandpur. High Yielding Variety Rice (HYV) is grown in 1500 Hectares in Imphal East, Imphal West & Thoubal. Mustard Zero Tillage is cultivated in 1500 Ha in Imphal East, Imphal West and Thoubal.



Achievement: 5000 Mt of Aromatic Black Rice and 18 Mt of HYV produced under the Mission. The Aromatic Black Rice was sold through e-auction at Rs. 110 to 130 per kg against the local market rate of Rs. 60 to 70 per Kg.

Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM)

Objective: Increasing the reach of Farm Mechanization to small and marginal Farmers and to the regions where availability of Farm Power is low.

Under SMAM, subsidies on the procurement of various farm equipments were provided. Individual subsidy (ranging from 30 to 40 % of equipment cost) were provided for the procurement of 95 tractors, 166 power tillers, 144 reapers, 52 rotavators, 240 threshers, 148 mini-rice mills, 208 land levellers, 190 weeders and 128 diggers.

Group subsidy (40% of the project cost) was provided to 250 farm machinery banks.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) (Per Drop More Crop) :

“Per drop more crop” initiative under which drip/sprinkler irrigation is being encouraged for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.

Objective: Water Harvesting and optimum use of available water.

To increase the irrigation potential, procured 3088 Sprinkler Irrigation set sand created 727 Water Harvesting structures. Moreover, 1206 Ha has been created for Protective Irrigation.

Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Yojana (RKVY)

Objective: i) To increase annual growth in Agriculture sector ensuring a holistic development of Agriculture & allied sector. ii) To achieve the goal of reducing yield gaps in important Crops through focused interventions. iii) To maximise return to the farmers in Agriculture and Allied Sectors.

43,840 ha is under Integrated Programm on crop Production. Established one Seed processing Unit. Conducted 981 Farmers Awareness Programme. Constructed nine Agriculture Market Shed and 282 Vermi Compost Unit. Further, one Training Hall, one Training Hall cum Farmers Hostels, one Seed Testing Lab and one 150 MT Godown has also been constructed.

Soil Health Card & Soil Health Management (SHC & SHM):

Objective: Promoting soil test based and balanced use of fertilizer to enable farmers to get higher yields at lower cost.

10,000 Soil health Cards printed and distributed to registered farmers. Constructed nine STFR (Soil testing & fertilizer recommendation) and 16 Mini Soil Lab. Organized Staff Trainings & Farmers Registrations etc.

Pradhan Mantri FasalBima Yojana (PMFBY) :

Objective: Financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage due to unforeseen events.

Covered 18664.9 ha covered benefiting 99109 farmers during 2017-18 of Mustard Crop. For Rice crops, covered 768 ha benefiting 1452 farmers in 2018-19 and 255.235 ha. benefiting 3256 farmers during 2019-20.



Rainfed Area Development (RAD):

Objective: To increase the Agricultural Productivity of Rainfed Areas in a sustainable manner by adopting appropriate Farming System based approaches.

Areas brought under different farming systems, i). 150 ha based on livestock, ii) 218 ha based on fishery based, 24 ha based on horticulture, 100 ha Soil reclamation, 40 constructed vermicompost unit and conducted 55 farmers' trainings.

National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

Objective: Increasing Production of Rice, Pulses, Coarse Cereals & Nutri-Cereals through Area Expansion and Productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner.

Demonstration during 2017-18 to 2019-20 :

Rice: 1,712.77 ha., Pulse: 4,111.83 ha., Coarse Cereals: 3,454.34 ha., Nutri Cereals : 653.83 ha.

Seed Distribution during 2017-18 to 2019-20.

Rice: 7,223.9 Qtl., Pulse : 6,116.24 Qtl. , Coarse Cereals : 5,676.9 Qtl., Nutri Cereals : 1,402.52 Qtl.

National Mission on Oilseed and Oilpalm (NMOOP):

Objective: To increase in production of vegetables oils source from Oilseeds

Block Demo=701 nos. IPM Demo=75 nos., Farmers' Training = 94 nos. , Production inputs = 3800 ha., 4297PP equipments, 38 farm ponds, 245 improved farm implements.

Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA):

Objective: Providing innovative, re-structure and autonomous institution at State/District/Block level. Ensuring an integrated, broad base Extension delivery mechanism consistent with Farming System Approach.

Training of Farmer = 108 nos, Exposure Visit = 156 nos, ,Demonstration = 838.8 ha. , Capacity Building = 1354 nos. , Best Farmers' Award = 99 nos., District level Exhibition = 12 nos, Farm School = 333 nos., State Agriculture Fair = 3 nos, Farmers' Scientist Interaction = 27 nos.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PMKISAN):

Objective: The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of all landholding farmers' families in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income as well as for domestic needs. Under the Scheme an amount of Rs.6000/- per year is released by the Central Government online directly into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer mode, subject to certain exclusions. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India.

State	1st Installment	2nd Installment	3rd Installment	4th Installment
Manipur	2,17,516	96,894	51,774	29,675



ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Launches Oil Palm Project to make Manipur self-reliant in edible oil



Importance of Palm Oil

Oil Palm is a highly versatile and hardy crop. It is a popular cooking oil with unique and wide-ranging properties.

Oil Palms also produce more oil per hectare of land than any other oil producing crop. In addition, its production requires less energy, as well as less fertilizers and pesticides.

“The Government had started the project after identifying suitable areas for its cultivation and the Government had identified areas in Chandel, Churanchandpur, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Ukhrul and Thoubal Districts. The oil palm cultivation could be an alternative to jhum cultivation and poppy cultivation as oil palm is the highest vegetable oil yielding perennial crop with an effective income generation to farmers and beneficial to the environment as well”, said N. Biren.

It may be mentioned that the Oil Palm Mission Manipur was constituted on August 20, 2020, with the Joint Director of Agriculture as the Mission Director with technical staff supported by a consultant.

A Sub-Committee on Oil Palm was also constituted with Principal Secretary (Health), Government of Manipur as Chairman.

As part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and on the recommendation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to set up Oil Palm Missions in North-Eastern region, the Chief Minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh, launched the Oil Palm Project in the State on 12th November, 2020, via video conferencing.

PM Narendra Modi had previously appealed to farmers of Manipur and North-Eastern States to adopt Oil Palm plantation in a big way to support Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme to reduce the import of edible oils, which puts pressure on our Forex reserves.

This project is taken up under the National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm, and aims to make India self-sufficient in edible oils, even export to other countries.

Around 66,652 hectares of suitable land was identified by the Climate Assessing Departments to cultivate the oil Palm with seeds procured from Mizoram and Andhra Pradesh.



SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES UNDER FOREST DEPARTMENT

*Kereilhouvi Angami, IFS
PCCF & HoFF, Manipur*

The Forest Department, Manipur is the organization in the state dedicated to the development and improvement of Forests and Wildlife of Manipur. The Department is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Manipur under the guidance of the Administrative Department in charge of Forests and Environment in the Secretariat.

Various initiatives taken up by the Department in 2020-21.

Green Manipur Mission

Launched in 2019, the Scheme is being undertaken at village levels under the supervision of respective DFOs in order to increase forest cover outside forest areas and green cover on community lands, farmlands and wastelands by involvement of village Panchayats/authorities. A total amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was released on 7th October 2020 and raising of nursery is in full swing.

The 65th Wildlife Week Celebration

Forest Department, Government of Manipur Celebrated the 65th Wildlife Week, 2020 from 1st to 7th October, 2020 all over the State with the objective to generate mass awareness on Wildlife Conservation and their habitats among the public with a special focus on students/children. The theme of this year was "Sustaining all Life on Earth".

Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme

Under the Scheme, a total amount of Rs. 3.52 crore was released for the procurement of field vehicles, construction of three barracks, awareness programme, incentivising villages and procurement of firefighting equipments.

Integrated Development of Wildlife habitat-Conservation of Amur Falcon, Under the Scheme, a total amount of Rs. 32.35 lakh was released for protection of roosting sites of Amur falcon at nine locations, distribution of piglets, chicks etc to 50 households, distribution of one lakh fruit bearing saplings to local villagers etc.

71st Vanamahotsava Celebration 2020

The 71st State Level Vanamahotsava celebration, 2020 was held all over the State with the main function at Tamenglong District HQ on 10th July, 2020 which was graced by the Hon'ble Forest Minister, Manipur. Altogether 20.05 lakh seedlings had been distributed to public free of cost during 2020. 22.30 lakh seedlings had been raised at different centres for distribution during 2021.

Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) TRIFED, under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India together with the Manipur Forest Department jointly



initiated the PMVDY in the state of Manipur to harness the enormous Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) resources of the state and to provide livelihood opportunities to the forest-based groups of Manipur.

A total number of 100 VDVKs consisting of 1,557 SHGs with 30,189 tribal beneficiaries have been created across 14 Districts of the State with a financial outlay of Rs.11.55 crores. During the current year, a total amount of Rs. 134.00 lakh has been sanctioned for construction of four storage godowns, four Haat Bazaar, procurement of hill broom etc.

IDWH- Recovery Programme for Saving Critically Endangered Species and Habitats

Under the Scheme, a total amount of Rs. 1.47 crore was released for recovery programme of Manipur Brow Antlered Deer (Sangai) including Habitat management, consolidation of boundary, infrastructure development, creation of artificial water holes, Salt lick, protection activities, fireline cutting Eco-development, research work, awareness etc.

National Bamboo Mission (NBM)

Under the Mission, a total amount of Rs. 3.61 crore was sanctioned for taking up High Density Plantation over 220 Ha, maintenance of bamboo plantation over 700 ha and setting up of two handicraft units.

Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA).

Under the Scheme, a total amount of Rs. 28.41 crore was sanctioned for creation of plantation over 6056.94 ha, maintenance of plantation over 4,879 Ha, Advance Work over 1,125 ha etc generating 8.07 lakh Mandays employment to the villagers.

Externally Aided Project (KFW Project)- Community based Sustainable forest Management for water resource conservation.

Under this scheme, plantation over 239 ha, establishment of nine community procurement of six four wheelers, 10 two wheelers have been achieved with a financial outlay of Rs.4.97 crore.

Eco-Tourism Projects

With fundings from the DoNER, development of eco-tourism projects have been taken up at Duncan park (Ukhrul), Shokvao (Ukhrul) and Andro (Imphal East) with financial outlays of Rs.5.36 crore, Rs. 2.85 crore and Rs.4.29 crore respectively. Construction of one Quarter, eight Eco-huts, 12 Home Stay Accommodations, approach road over 1,000 km etc have been completed at Shokvao. At Duncan Park construction of boundary wall over 1,913 Rm, foot path over 1,911 km, three Lily ponds, 10 Visitor Rest Sheds, one children park etc have been completed. Similarly, construction of eight blocks of Cottage Type-A, one Block Cottage Type-B, approach road over 1,000 km, one Community Hall etc have been completed at Andro under the project.

State Plan Scheme

Under State Plan, a total amount of Rs. 17.12 crore was sanctioned for Creation of Plantation over 805 Ha, advance work over 628 Ha, maintenance of plantation over 805 Ha, preparation of working plans, development of infrastructure, wildlife management, improvement of Zoo, etc.



mPENSION MANIPUR

Prepared by:
NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE
MANIPUR STATE CENTRE
Government of India

Introduction

Photograph of every pensioner drawing service pension from the Directorate of Treasuries, Government of Manipur is required to be updated every six months either by personal appearance of the pensioner at the treasury office or by home visits of treasury officials to the residence of the pensioner (in case of illness/old age).

In order to ease the burden both on the pensioners and treasury officials, an online solution called “mPension Manipur” has been introduced whereby the pensioners, instead of visiting the treasury offices, can make their periodic photograph updations online through a smartphone or a desktop/laptop. mPension is a Web App and provides facilities to the pensioners to send feedbacks and make queries online. It also notifies pensioners on the status of photographs submitted and the responses of their queries.

The App uses Artificial Intelligence techniques to detect liveness of the pensioner being photographed and will allow upload of only photographs taken from living persons.

1.1 Salient features of mPension

mPension is Web App and a pensioner can use it to

- Upload photograph for updation
- Check validity period of the last photograph updation
- Send feedbacks and queries to the concerned

Treasury Office

- Receive messages from the Treasury Office.

1.2 Requirements for using mPension

The mPension web app and can be used and installed on any of the following devices

1. A smartphone with a built-in camera (Both Android and IOS)
2. A desktop or laptop with webcam

1.3 Standard operating procedure

- The mPension Web App is to be used by pensioners wishing to update pension photographs online.
- The photograph of the pensioner will be taken while holding the front page of a leading daily newspaper (local/national) of the day in front of the chest.
- The app verifies liveness of the pensioner being photographed. Therefore, while the photograph is being taken, the pensioner has to perform some facial movement in front of the camera as instructed by the application like smiling, opening of mouth, turning of face etc before being permitted to upload a photo.
- For pensioners with face movement disability, special permission has to be obtained from concerned Treasury Officer for enabling upload of the photo without face movement.
- Pensioners will be permitted to take photograph using mPension only after 150 days and before 365 days from the previous photograph updation.



- If more than one year has elapsed after the last photograph updation, the pensioner has to physically visit the treasury office for photograph updation after prior approval from the
- Directorate of Treasuries and Accounts.
- Photograph uploaded by a pensioner has to be approved by the Treasury Officer from the concerned treasury.
- Pensioners can see the status of the uploaded photograph by clicking the “Check Last Photo Status”.
- Pensioners can give feedback or raise query to concerned Treasury Officer by clicking “Feedback/Queries”.
- Reply to queries raised by a pensioner and message from the concerned Treasury Officer can be seen by clicking “Check Message”.
- Pensioner can see broadcast messages from the concerned Treasury Officer.
- Pensioners will be allowed to take any number of photographs during the permitted period but only the last photograph submitted during the period will be considered for verification and updation by the treasury office.

Installation and Operation

2.1 Installation

The mPension Web App is available at the site <https://pensionmanipur.nic.in/app>. Open a browser on any device Desktop/Laptop/Android/IOS device and enter the above URL on the address bar of the browser. To install it on the device, click the Install button seen on the landing page. It can be also used without installing on the device.

2.2 Login

Provide Treasury, PPO Number, Date of Birth and Bank Account Number and click on the LOGIN button.

2.3 Main Menu

After successful login, the main menu of Manipur Pension App will be displayed. Information regarding Last photo date, Date of next photo and Broadcast message from Treasury will be displayed.

The main menu has buttons for Take Photo, Check last photo status, Feedback/Queries, Check message and Logout. Pensioners can click on these buttons to perform the specific task.

2.4 Check Photo

Pensioners can use Take Photo button to capture their photo and submit it to their respective treasury. At any point of time before final Upload, pensioner can retake photo if they desire to.

Once Uploaded, the photo will be available to the treasury for verification.



Main Menu



ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION IN MANIPUR

*Dr. M. Meenakumari Devi
Director, SCERT,
Government of Manipur*

It is well known that teachers have a pivotal role in the development of an inclusive education system. Highly motivated qualified and trained teachers are important factor for ensuring meaningful access to Education. Teacher education is the process for the development of proficiency and competency of teachers which in turn enable and empower them in meeting the requirements and challenges of the profession in present times. A good teacher education system is a major requirement of any nation for its progress in education sector which is considered as backbone in the development of the country. Teacher quality is the most important factor of school education. Teachers who are shouldering the teaching learning process at the stage of class 1 to VIII comes under the Category of Elementary Teachers. They are required to equip with the technicalities, proficiency to meet the challenges they may encounter at this crucial stage of school education. Having regard to role of Directorate of State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) for providing academic and resource support to School Education is undertaking various academic activities in the state. It includes advising, formulation of policies, decision making, preparation of qualified future teachers to meet the demand of new teachers and to provide continuous development trainings to in service elementary school teachers every year on real need basis besides other activities which are the responsibilities of this Directorate. Following the identification

of SCERT as the Academic authority by the State Government for framing of curriculum syllabus and evaluation procedures at the elementary stage (Class I to VIII) and nodal agency for training of teachers under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, (RTE, Act) reinforces its activities on elementary school education stage in all aspects particularly on professional development, revision of curriculum syllabus, development of textbooks, digital resources, study modules amongst others.

TEACHER EDUCATION:-

After independence, several committees, commissions have been constituted resulting into bringing out documents and policy documents such as a National Education Policy which are the basis for review and suggestions towards progress and achievements in every aspect of education including Teacher Education. Teacher Education may be classified into two, viz, Pre-Service and In-service. Pre-Service relates to providing professional training to future teachers who are not yet in service but aspiring to be in teaching profession whereas in service relates to Professional development of teachers who are already in teaching profession through various comprehensive professional development programs.

National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE), a statutory body of the Government of INDIA is regulatory body responsible for planned & coordinated development of



teacher education in the country. NCTE lays foundation for various teacher education courses, course content and minimum qualification for entry of student teacher for the various courses. NCTE being the regulatory body is the authority to grants recognition and permission to Institutions (Govt., Govt. Aided & Private) interested in undertaking such courses by adhering to its inbuilt mechanism to regulate & monitor their standard and quality. Thus, through a network of Teacher Education Institutions (TEI's) recognised by NCTE, pre service teacher education program of elementary teachers are undertaken. As regards to in service teacher training, it is done by undertaking various capacity and professional development programs organised in this regard by the NCERT at national level and SCERT and other stake holders at the state level. NCERT with its six Regional Institutes of Education (RIE's) prepares modules for various teacher training courses and also undertakes specific programmes for training teachers and teacher educators. SCERT, Manipur also develops reference books, and training modules in English language with local contents.

Elementary Teacher Education in Manipur:

Under this Directorate 9 (nine) DIETs and one HTTI (Hindi Teacher Training Institute) are offering 2 year Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) program for pre-service teachers, recognized by the NCTE with a total intake capacity of 600. The passed out qualified trainees can

be applied to the recruitment of elementary school teachers. Two DIETs of Heirok and Kangpokpi are shortly at the stage of functioning and construction of more Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITEs) are near to completion, construction work of one DIET center at Jiribam is also under process.

The DIETs and HTTI are executing other various academic activities and onsite support to schools and teachers, like school adoption, research/surveys, development of teaching-learning materials, professional development programs for in-service elementary school teachers in their respective districts. These TEIs have been organizing online/virtual classes of D.El.Ed program during this COVID-19 lock down.

In addition to the above altogether there are 25 TEIs in the State which are engaged in providing pre-service teacher education program.

Implementation of National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) at elementary stage:



TRAINING SESSION

The Ministry of Education's initiative NISHTHA training of school heads and teachers at the elementary stage through NCERT by State Council of Educational Research and Training, Government



of Manipur in the State with a target of 14897 teachers under face to face mode started since 2019 under Samgra Shiksha Manipur.

NISHTHA is a commendable effort of Central Govt. and State Government. NISHTHA has many unique features such as integration of subjects and pedagogies, social concerns, leadership qualities with target groups being teachers, school heads, educational functionaries who will share similar training, follow up, and support through an online web portal as well as through school based assessment.

SCERT conducted Training of Key Resource Persons (KRPs) and State Resource Persons (SRPs) and created a pool of 120 State Resource Group (SRG) by the National level Trainers for implementation of NISHTHA in the State. Further, District level training of elementary school teachers and school heads were conducted at DIET centres and Higher Secondary schools.

Further, online NISHTHA Elementary school Teacher training is organizing on

Manipur Digital Infrastructure Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) Platform since 6th October 2020 and will continue up to January 2021 as per the NCERT schedule. Under this online training program 12150 teachers are enrolled. During this training program virtual interactive sessions on every module with trainees are also organized by the State Resource Groups. Moreover, live streaming sessions on every module in Manipuri language is being organized & post on SCERT Manipur Official YouTube Channel for effective implementation of the NISHTHA training program.

With the closure of schools due to Covid-19 pandemic since late March 2020 and loss of instructional days, the State Government instructed to develop an alternative academic calendar/curriculum & syllabus. Accordingly, this Directorate reviewed the school syllabus and developed two sets of condensed syllabus for 60 and 90 instructional days for classes I to IX which can be used after reopening of schools in the State.



THE SUBJECT OF FILM IS IT A MEDIUM OR AN ART FORM?

The author stressed on the need to bring back the subject of Film from the Art and Culture Department to its original Department of Information and Public Relations

Meghachandra Kongbam



Beyond food and shelter, another fundamental need of a human being is the urge of communicating with each other. Communication brings integrity to human civilisation, a necessity for survival. Thereby, the people looked for the art of communication in different methods to attract a large audience for a peaceful existence. Theatre came into existence in the 6th century BC in Greek. Various forms of traditional media of

their own emerged in different communities. Songs and dances were common as the medium of communication. In Manipur too, the traditional methods of communication like Lai Haraoba in theatrical form, Pena singing, Khongjom Parva, and Waree Leeba in ballad form came into being. The main purposes of these traditional methods of mass communication are to inform, educate, and entertain the masses.



Modern Means of Mass Communication

With the growth of human civilisation, modern men built intricate, multi-faceted machineries for delivering their messages. The unfolding achievements of science made communication machineries more and more fantastic in its ability to conquer the physical barriers of our world. The modern era of mass communication started when Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press and published a Bible in 1452. The Film medium came when the first public screening of films took place in Paris on December 28, 1895, by the Lumiere brothers. Later on, the radio medium came into existence commercially around 1920-23 and the television medium reached the public in 1925.

Print, film, radio, and television are all modern means of mass communication that can carry any important messages to reach a diversified audience. With the advancement of science, there have been technological changes in these media. In this digital era, the technology of these media became digital. Among the mass media, the film medium is the most effective medium which can easily strike the audience to auditory and visual senses.

Film: Born As Medium

Though the product of the film is an artistic expression, the film itself cannot be produced without a medium that is the technology of film. Like press, radio, and television; film depends on technology. Some argue that film is an art form and claim that it should belong to the Department of Art and Culture. If film is an art form, let us invite a poet, a painter, a theatre director, a dancer, a singer, and a filmmaker at Imphal Pologround to display their respective art in public. Can a filmmaker perform his artistic

expression of film in public? It is impossible. The filmmaker must look for the medium of film which is employed with various technical hands to express his creativity of visual narrative.

Film: An Important Sector of Government

While the Government focused on the development of post-independence India, the then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru did not fail to include the film sector as an important sector. The Government of India set up a Film Enquiry Committee (FEC) led by S.K.Patil in 1949 to inquire into the conditions of the film industry. The committee examined the state of the film industry and proposed measures to further its development along desirable lines which included the formation of the Film Finance Corporation (FCC) in 1960 and the establishment of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in 1960. Based on a FEC report, a national film seminar was conducted in 1955. With B.N. Sircar as the chairman, Devika Rani as the executive director, and Prithviraj Kapoor as the director, the six-day seminar offered recommendations on institutional changes to alter the course of film making in India including training, archiving, and funding, as also to attract new talent. UNESCO has also proposed to build one cinema hall per 20,000 population.

Film Under Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution of India, the President of India made on 14/01/1961 the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 for allocation of business of the Government of India to be transacted in the Ministries, Departments, Secretariats and Offices



specified in the First Schedule to these rules and the distribution of subjects among the departments specified in the Second Schedule to these Rules.

Under the Rules, the subject of film has been allocated under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Different activities of film as given below are assigned to the Ministry as reflected in the Rules.

Legislation under entry 60 of the Union List, viz., 'Sanctioning of Cinematograph films for exhibition'.

Administration of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952).

Import of feature and short films for theatrical and non-theatrical viewing.

Export of Indian films, both feature and short films.

Import of unexposed cinematograph films and various types of equipment required by the film industry.

All matters relating to the film industry, including developmental and promotional activities thereto.

Promotion of good cinema by institution of State awards for films produced in India and assistance through the National Film Development Corporation Limited.

Production and distribution of documentaries and newsreels and other films and film strips for internal and external publicity.

Preservation of films and filmic materials

Organisation of International Film Festivals in India and participation of India in International Film Festivals abroad.

Organisation of Film Festivals under Cultural Exchange Programmes.

Film society movement

Two more entries – (a) Films and audio-visual programmes made available by online content providers and (b) News and current affairs content of online platforms are inserted to be transacted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting following an amendment of the Rules dated the 7th November 2020.

Besides, (a) Central Board of Film Certification; (b) Films Division; (c) Directorate of Film Festivals; and (d) National Film Archives of India are attached and subordinate organisations; (a) Film and Television Institute of India, Pune; (b) Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata; (c) Children Film Society of India; and (d) Federation of Film Society of India are autonomous organisations; and National Film Development Corporation Limited is Public Sector Undertaking of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as indicated in the Rules.

Thus, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India has been formulating the policies and the guidelines of the Film sector and also funding from time to time for the development of film industry in the country and the State Departments of Information and Public Relations have been following the policy guidelines and receiving the projects and schemes from the Ministry.

Film Under DIPR in Manipur

After attainment of Statehood in 1972, the then Publicity Department of the Government of Manipur was renamed as the Department of Information and Public Relations with the expansion of different media units. The Cinema Section was the biggest section among



the various media units in the Department. It had three wings- Production wing, Exhibition wing, and a film library.

The Production Wing had a 16 mm movie camera, a 35 mm movie camera, sound recording machines and light equipments with sanctioned posts of a Movie Cameraman, an Assistant Movie Cameraman, a Senior Cameraman, a Cameraman, a Tape Recordist, and two Light Assistants. The production wing produced documentary films and newsreels on the activities and achievements of the Government of Manipur. The Department maintained a panel of filmmakers like M. A. Singh, Aribam Syam Sharma, G. Narayan Sharma, and L. Banka Sharma for assigning the job for production of the documentary films and newsreels.

The Department of Information & Public Relations, Government of Manipur produced six Manipuri documentary films, one reel each in 16 mm namely: 1). Events in Manipur 1971-2, 2) Events in Manipur-1973, 3) Events in Manipur 1974-A, 4) Events in Manipur 1974-B, 5) Events in Manipur 1975 and 6) Events in Manipur 1975-76 directed by M.A. Singh, a double graduate from Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.

M.A Singh also made Manipuri newsreels namely- 1) Manipur News 1978 and, 2) Manipur News 1979 each having two reels in 35 mm. The films were recording of the current events in the particular years. M.A Singh also made two Manipuri documentaries in 16 mm - 1) Visit of Shri V.V. Giri, President of India in Manipur 1972 and 2) Ariba Pala (Bangadesh Pala), having a duration of 10 minutes each. All these films obtained censor certificates from the Central Board of Film Certification, Calcutta.

G Narayan Sharma also made a newsreel- Manipur News 1974 and L. Banka Sharma made a newsreel -Manipur News 1980

highlighting Yaoshang festival and Khongjom Day Celebration with other developmental activities of the government.

In 1977, the Department of Information & Public Relations, Government of Manipur produced two documentary films. The films were 1) Towards a better life, 2) 20-Point Economic Programme having 10 minutes duration in 35 mm directed by Aribam Shyam Sharma.

A 30-minute Manipuri documentary film- Sanaleibak Manipur directed by Aribam Shyam Sharma was produced in 1980. The film shot in 35mm colour covers the general aspects of Manipur with reports on development programmes of the government.

Also, to promote and encourage the filmmakers by way of engaging them in the in-house production of films of the Government of Manipur; the Department also encouraged the film producers by giving a subsidy of Rupees 50, 000/- for production of a Manipuri feature film. In the beginning, Rupees 25,000/- was given as subsidy to each selected Manipuri film. Kongbrailatpam Ibohah Sharma was the last producer who received the subsidy from the Department for his internationally acclaimed film- Imagi Ningthem.

The Exhibition Wing was equipped with 16 mm film projectors, sound equipments, and silver screens. The wing was run by two Cinema Mechanics, four Cinema Operators, and four Assistant Cinema Operators. The Exhibition Wing toured the interior areas of the valley and hills of Manipur for organising film shows on moral values and achievements of the government to inform, educate, and entertain the masses.

The Film Library of the Department of Information and Public Relations was the biggest film library in Manipur that housed



more than 500 documentary and feature films. It was run by a Film Librarian. Most of the documentaries were from the Films Division and Children's Films Society under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Department also bought some good Hindi films having moral values for touring film shows. To encourage the local producers, the Department purchased the Manipuri feature films like Khonthang, Mayophyi Macha, and Chinglensana. The Imphal Cine Club organized a Children Film Festival in 1979 where the organizers hired some valuable films including the silent film- Child and Fish from the Department. Precious films like Rabindranath Tagore's story Chandralika, a documentary on the life and works of the famous tabla player Ustad Alla Rakha, a documentary on the great painter Amrita Sher-Gil were stored in the film library.

The Department of Information and Public Relations was keeping constant touch with the Central Ministry and the State Governments towards the growth of the film industry in the State. The Commissioner or Secretary of the Department is a member of the Children's Film Society which is under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Biennial State Information Ministers' Conference

The State Information Ministers Conference (SIMCON) is being held in New Delhi every two years under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to discuss various issues on Mass Media-Press, Film, Radio, Television, Outdoor Media, Traditional Media and others for its development and effective role on informing, educating and entertaining the people of the country. When the growth of the Film sector at the regional level had reached its zenith, viability as an industry, the Ministry

considered setting up State Film development Corporations in each State and Union Territories in the pattern of the National Film Development Corporation. As decided in the Biennial Information Ministers' Conference in the latter part of 1970s, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had instructed all the States and Union Territories for setting up State Film Development Corporations to deal with the business of the film industry.

Meeting of Manipur Film Development Council Held on 13-11-1980

The meeting of the Manipur Film Development Council held on 13th November 1980 at 3 pm at the Chief Minister's bungalow office was an important meeting in the history of Manipur film industry which took a crucial decision on the transfer of the subject of FILM from the Department of Information and Public Relations to the Department of Art and Culture in Manipur.

The then Chief Minister R. K. Dorendra Singh was in the chair and the members in the meeting were C. Doungel, Finance Commissioner; K. Kamini Singh, Additional Director of Publicity; Filmmakers- A. Syam Sharma, G.C. Tongbra, M.A. Singh, S.N. Chand, K.Ibohal Sharma, and L.Banka Sharma; Film producers-G. Narayan Sharma, L. Shyamsundar Sharma and H. Gehendra Singh; Film artistes- K. Tomba Singh and Y. Roma Devi; Screenwriter- M.K. Binodini; Exhibitor- Th. Haridas Singh; Film society activists- R K Bidur Singh, Secy of Imphal Cine Club and K B Singh, Secy of Film Society of Manipur. The Proceedings of the meeting says, "The meeting recommended that as the State Directorate of Culture has come into existence, the Directorate should be the appropriate Department to deal with the subject and the subject should be transferred to the Directorate of Culture



from the Publicity Department”. Perhaps, the then Chief Minister of Manipur was intellectually misguided by some members in the meeting to gain their personal benefits.

The functioning of Manipur Film Development Council under any Department does not violate any Rules under the Constitution of India. It can be done. However, the transfer of the subject of FILM from the DIPR to any Department is a gross violation of the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 under the Constitution of India. It is questionable if some members in the meeting had determined for their personal gain, to spoil the future of film industry in Manipur by disassociating the nodal department in the State from the parent Ministry. In the article- ‘Whose Directorate Is It Anyway’ of his book- Array of Colourful Thoughts, Medley of Images; film critic R.K.Bidur wrote, “Then without so much as considering anything that had been done in the past years, a few powerful persons put to ruin DIPR’s effort and severed all meaningful ties with others”.

He further wrote, “Two members of the Executive committee- K. Ibohal Sharma and R. K. Bidur argued against the resolution saying that film and its related issues have fallen under the purview of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and thus Manipur Film Development Council should also be a part of DIPR of the State under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. But they sidestepped the truth, and as a show of clear self - vestedness and politicisation, the Council was absorbed into the Art and Culture Department. The next meeting of the Executive Committee held on 18 December 1980 saw the removal of the two members who had put up a fight against the wrong decision and they were supplanted with two new members.”

DIPR Property on Lease to MFDC

The plot of land covering an area of 1.517 acres under Dag No. 4423/4436 of Sheet No. 21- Imphal Municipality at Palace Gate, earlier allotted for Open Air Theatre was leased to the Manipur Film Development Council for 50 years for the construction of the theatre complex as per a decision taken in the meeting held on 31st January 1986 in the office chamber of the Chief Minister, Manipur. The land was leased out vide Secretariat: Revenue Department Order No. 21/59/79-R (Pt.) dated the 27th May 1986.

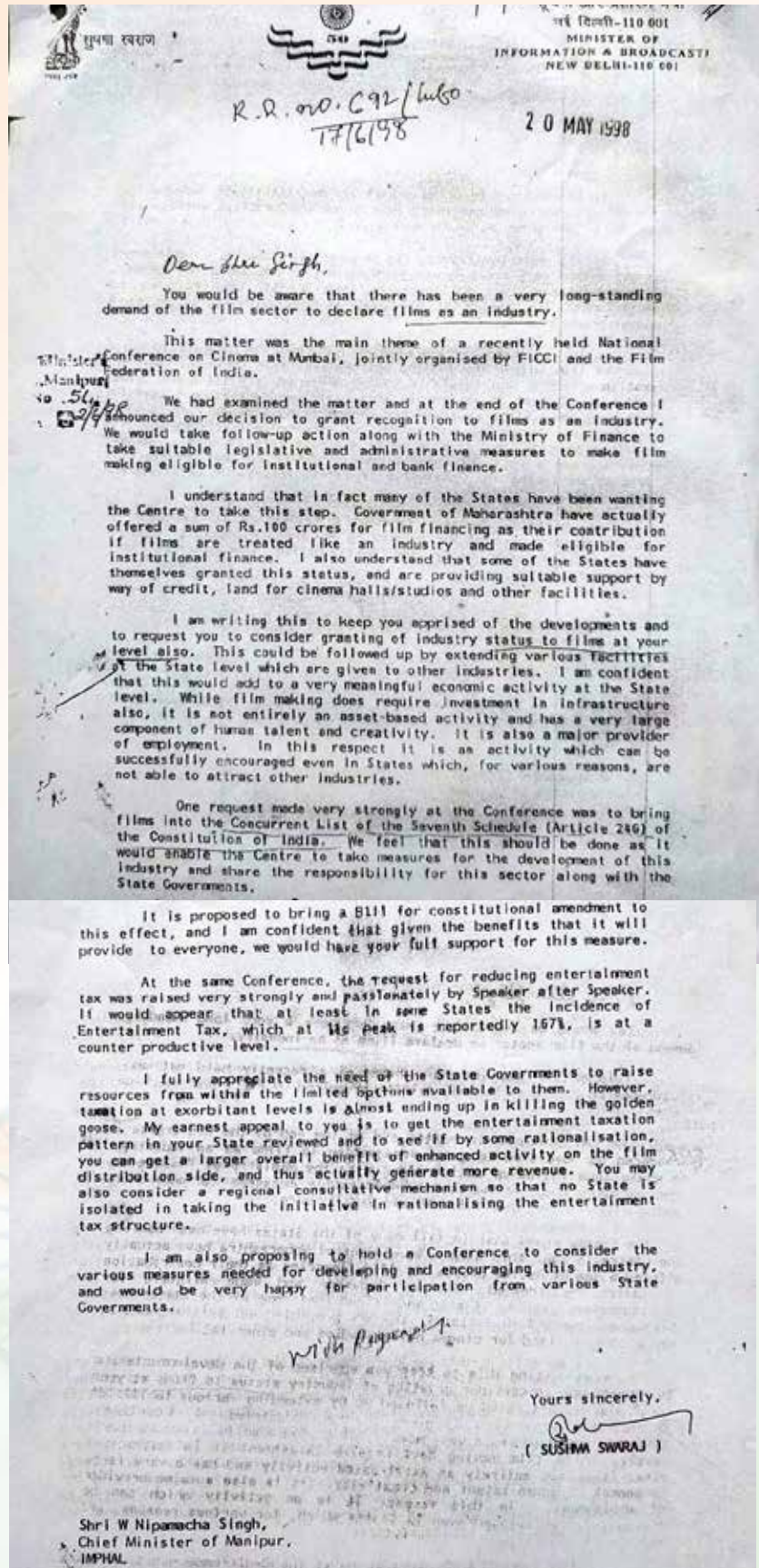
MFDC Cuts-Off Link With DIPR

When the existing Manipur Film Development Council was converted to the Manipur Film Development Corporation Limited vide Secretariat: Social Welfare, Arts and Culture Department Order No. 11/93/03-SE(SW) dated the 7th February 1987 and the Corporation was incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 on May 1, 1987; the State Department of Information and Public Relations which connected with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was not figured in the list of the Board of Directors of the Corporation constituted under Article 92 of the Articles of the Association of the Corporation. The first Board of Directors were 1) R.K.Jaichandra Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur as Chairman, 2) Y.Erabort, Minister of Art & Culture as Vice-Chairman, 3) B.S.Lamba, Commissioner(Finance), 4) Naved Masood, Secretary (Art & Culture), 5) D.V.Singh, Secretary(Industries), 6) C. Samarendra Singh, Director (Art & Culture), 7) M.K.Binodini Devi, Yaiskul, 8) S.N. Chand, Singjamei, 9) L.K.Shimray, Paona Bazar, 10) Anil Pandit, Manager(TF) NFDC, Bombay and A. Syamkrishna Sharma, Managing Director. It was not fair for the MFDC to intentionally disassociate DIPR as a Board of Director.



Non-Implementation of Centre's Policies on Film

When the advent of Cable TV and Video led to the closure of cinema halls in India in the later parts of 1980s, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a High Powered Committee on the Problems of Film Industry on February 14, 1989 and 24 recommendations concerning to the state governments were sent to every State for implementation. The Indian film industry, being the ninth biggest industry in India, the Government of India announced FILM as industry on the 10th of May 1998. The then Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Sushma Swaraj also wrote to the Chief Minister of Manipur on May 20, 1998 to grant recognition to films as an industry. The Union Minister said, "I am confident that this would add to a very meaningful economic activity at the state level. While the film making does require investment in infrastructure also, it is not entirely an asset-based activity and has a large component of human talent and creativity. It is also a major provider of employment. In this respect, it is an activity which can be





successfully encouraged even in States which, for various reasons, are not able to attract other industries”.

Being an irrelevant department, the State Art and Culture Department did not take up the important issues instructed by the Centre for growth of the Film Industry in Manipur.

Failure on Handling the Subject of Film

Under the Art & Culture Department, the Manipur State Film Development Council was set up in 1980 and later, the Manipur Film Development Corporation was founded under the Company Act in 1987. Due to mismanagement, the Corporation became defunct and dead. In 2015, the existing Manipur State Film Development Society with a very limited scope was established in namesake for development of Manipuri films. The Society does not carry on any business for the film industry.

The State Cabinet approved for setting up a FILM CITY in the State in the year 2015 but it is not yet realised. Manipur State Film and Television Institute was inaugurated in August 2016 along with the Manipur University of Culture. It has not started its classes till date, even though a Director was appointed since its inception.

The Art and Culture Department had announced a Manipur State Cine Policy 2020 which is unrealistic and has no financial provision for the revival of existing and defunct cinema halls in Manipur as well as the subsidy or any incentive for production of Manipuri films. The Cine Policy does not reflect any methods for earning large revenue of the State Government from the FILM sector in the form of entertainment tax

Besides non-implementation of policies and programmes of the film sector initiated by the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting; the Art & Culture Department of Manipur has so far not received any projects/schemes and funds for FILMS provided by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for the last 40 years since 1980.

Current Status of Film Industry

Film production started in Manipur on 9th April, 1972 with the Manipuri feature film- ‘Matamgi Manipur’. During the celluloid period from 1972 to 2014, Manipuri film industry produced only 64 films, as per the record of the Central Board of Film Certification.

The digital film started in Manipur in 2016 with the release of Paban Kumar’s ‘Loktak Lairembee’. With 3 films in 2018, 12 films in 2019 and 3 films in 2020; total digital films so far produced in Manipur were 19 only.

Film Exhibition started in Manipur before World War II. In 2000, there were more than 60 cinema halls in Manipur.

With the advent of Cable TV and Video as well as the ban of Hindi films in the State, the number of cinema halls sharply decreased due to a lack of patronage from the government.

In this Digital era, where all the mass communication media- Press and Electronic media like Radio and TV had switched over to digital technology, there is no single cinema hall in Manipur having digital cinematographic apparatus. According to the ‘Theatres List’ uploaded by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on its website for empanelment of Digital Cinema, Assam has 71 cinema halls, Meghalaya has 5, Tripura 4, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim 2 each, Nagaland 1. Manipur and Mizoram are not on the list.

Can we say that Manipur has a vibrant film industry without a visible market?

Film Industry is not only the major



provider of employment to the youths and a great platform for enhancing human talent and creativity but also a major source of revenue for the government. Around 10,000 persons were working in the production sector and 3000 in the exhibitor sector in Manipur.

The State government could earn more than Rs. 1 crore as revenue from the amusement tax in 1995-96, 1996-97, and 1997-98. And now, it is almost zero.

Conclusion

Given the deteriorating situation of the Manipuri Film Industry and the very handicap of the Art and Culture Department in dealing with the subject of FILM, there is an urgent need to bring back the subject of FILM from the Art and Culture Department to its original Department of Information and Public Relations to streamline the proper working on FILM in the State in coordination with the Ministry concerned.

Setting up a Manipur State Film Finance and Development Corporation Limited is also urgently called for vibrant film industry in Manipur, in the same line of National Film Development Corporation Ltd in the centre and State Film Development Corporations in other states. Without a Film Finance Corporation, the film industry in Manipur cannot be visible.

Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 23rd December 2020 approved to merge four of its film media units, namely Films Division, Directorate of Film. Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society, India with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Here lies the importance of a State Film Development Corporation in Manipur.



A scene from Imagi Ningthem

The umbrella organisation, NFDC, consequent upon the merger of Film Media Units will be uniquely placed with regard to promotion, production and preservation of filmic content – all under one management. The vision of the new entity will be to ensure balanced and focused development of Indian cinema in all its genres-feature films, including films and content for the OTT platforms, children's content, animation, short films and documentaries. With more than 3000 films produced in a year, India is the largest film producer in the world with an industry-led by the private sector.

Is Film a medium or an art form? Yes, it is a medium- the most powerful medium which belongs to the Department of Information and Public Relations. Save Manipuri Film Industry.

The writer is a Swarna Kamal Awardee for Best Film Critic of National Film Awards 2015, a member of FIPRESCI-India (International Federation of Film Critics-India), President of the Film Society of Manipur and former Director of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur.



PROMOTING GAMES & SPORTS IN MANIPUR

*T. Phulen Meitei
Director, YAS*



Youth Affairs & Sports Department is committed to the promotion of Games and Sports and Youth welfare activities in the State. Various training and coaching programmes, tournaments and championships in various sports disciplines and other physical activities were held in the state. Cash incentives award are given to outstanding sportspersons of the state in recognition of their performance/ achievements. The Department observes Shannaroishing-gee-Numit (Players Day) on 25th of February every year.

The Department of Youth Affairs & Sports is extending financial assistance to various sports Associations for organising/conducting coaching programme/tournaments of their respective sports discipline and participation in the National Level tournaments/competitions. It is worth mentioning here that the Government of Manipur has extended financial support of Rs. 50 lakhs each to the two I-League teams viz; NEROCA & TRAU of Manipur. Manipur is the only state in the Country to have produced two I-League teams. The same benefit will also be extended to the Women I-League team (KRYPSHA). We take the pride to let the whole world know that our state is the only State to have produced 43 Players in the Indian Super League (ISL) 20-21.

Multifarious Youth Welfare programme like; Youth Leadership Training Courses, Inter District Youth Exchange programme, Work Camp of Youths, Youth Integration Camp, Youth Festival at District/State Level and Youth Award are also organised. Apart from this Mass Physical Fitness programmes known as “Bharatiyam” were organised by involving school going students of the state. Training programme on Indigenous games viz; Thang-Ta, Mukna, Kang etc. were conducted.

Major Projects Completed in the year 2020-21

The Department has taken up creation/upgradation of sports infrastructure to provide standard sports infrastructural facilities to the players of the state with the funding from NLCPR, NEC, Khelo India and State Fund.



The Department has constructed/installed the following sports infrastructural facilities and inaugurated recently:

- a) Artificial Football Turf at Langjing Achouba, Imphal West with the estimated cost of Rs.10.00 crore.
- b) Installation of Flood Light at Main Stadium & Hockey Stadium at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal with the estimated cost of Rs.35.31 crore.

The Department is constructing the following sports infrastructural facilities with the funding from Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Government of India:

- a) Football Field and RCC Gallery at Hiyangthang, Kangjeibung, Imphal West.
- b) Football Field and RCC Gallery at HAO Ground, Imphal West.
- c) Multipurpose Indoor Hall at Mayang Imphal, Imphal West.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India has also accorded Administrative Approval for construction of sports infrastructure at 8 Blocks of Manipur and 1 (one) Swimming Pool with RCC Gallery, toilet, change room at Bishnupur District HQ under Khelo India Scheme.

Under the Khelo India Scheme, the Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government has approved to establish the Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) in the discipline of Archery, Hockey and Weightlifting at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal with a view to strengthen the sports ecosystem in the country at the grassroot level. This Centre is one amongst the eight selected centre of the country and was inaugurated on 22nd December, 2020 by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State, Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India in the august presence of Shri Letpao Haokip, Hon'ble Minister, Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of Manipur.

Installation of 5-a side Turf for Hockey

Our government is committed to pay attention to all the disciplines. Infact, we have started side selection for the installation of 5-a side Hockey Turf Grounds in all the district Headquarters. This will help in reviving/promoting Hockey in the State.

In recognition of our potential to produce international level players, Hockey has been chosen as one of the item (discipline) under the Khelo India Centre of Excellence (KISCE) at Khuman Lampak, Imphal.

Open air Gym at Khuman Lampak, Imphal

Our Department is planning to install one open air Gym at Khuman Lampak, Imphal.

Schemes to Benefit Sportspersons

Chief Minister's Akhannaba Sanaroisingi Tengbang (CMAST)

Chief Minister N Biren Singh announced "the biggest ever" scheme for the welfare of the sportspersons on 15th March 2020. The objective of the scheme, "Chief Minister's Akhannaba Sanaroisingi Tengbang (CMAST)", is to provide financial security and medical insurance to sportspersons who have excellent/superlative achievements in the field of games and sports.

The scheme is to attract and retain the best sporting talent in the State of Manipur to achieve excellence in sports and will also extend such facility to the Indigenous Games of Manipur.

The need for assured financial security through allowance for outstanding sportspersons has become imperative because sportspersons spend the prime of their youth in pursuit of intensive training, sacrificing



other beneficial opportunities normally available. The assured stipends/allowances will be a compensation for the opportunities spurned by them in pursuit of their high ambition and achievement in sports.

Eligibility of Application

- The Scheme shall be applicable to sportspersons who represent the Country of the State of Manipur and have won medals/participated in Olympic Games and Para-Olympic Games, or in Asian Games or Commonwealth games;
- Only sportspersons representing the State of Manipur will be eligible for the award in the National level. Sportspersons who represent the country through other affiliated units of the National Federation such as Railway Services and Police can also apply for the award, if he/she represents Manipur in the National Games though he/she is working in another state than that of his/her domicile state Manipur;
- Master/Children, Sub-Junior and Senior Players will be eligible for the scheme where applicable;
- National School Games for all age group i.e. under-14, 17 & 19 yrs will be eligible where applicable;
- Only National/International sports tournament/competitions will be considered but not invitational tournament/Prize Money competition and Memorial tournament;
- International sports competitions will be considered where at least 5(five) Nations from at least one National from each of 3(three) continents are participating;
- Internationally recognized games but not included in the Olympic disciplines for which an International Federation with members from at least 3(three) continents exist;
- The Scheme shall also be applicable to unemployed coaches who fulfills the criteria laid down by the Government;
- Sportspersons eligible for the scheme should apply through their respective Sports Association in the Prescribed Form available

in the Department of youth Affairs & Sports or its website within the time limit fixed by the Department.

- The Scheme shall be immediately cancelled for any beneficiary who has been penalized for age fraud, doping, etc.

Annual Cash Incentives for Recognised Sporting Clubs

An incentive of Rs 2.00 lakhs per annum shall be provided to recognised sporting clubs who have produced medallists in notified National/International sporting events for the purpose of promoting sports and players through purchase of equipment, sports gears and sports arena.

Pension Scheme for Unemployed Sportspersons/Coaches

A) Pension Scheme for meritorious, unemployed sportspersons

The Scheme will be applicable to unemployed sportspersons and have won Gold, Silver or Bronze medals in Olympic Games, World Cup in Olympics and Asian Games disciplines, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Para-Olympic Games or a notified sporting event as stated above.

SELECTION: Selection of eligible sportspersons for the scheme will be made purely on their achievement by the duly constituted Selection Committee of the Government. The coverage of the scheme will be made for a calendar year w.e.f. 1st January to 31st December.

A lifetime pension shall be started for unemployed sportspersons and coaches of 50 years and above who have represented India/ Manipur either nationally or Internationally at Rs 4,000/- per month.

The pension shall be payable to a sportsperson on his or her attaining the age



of 50 years (or date of retirement from active sports whichever is later) and will continue during his/her life time provided that the sportsperson at the time of applying such pension would have retired from an active sports career. An undertaking to this effect will have to be given by the sportsperson in the application form itself. The beneficiaries covered under the scheme will have to furnish their life certificate as and when demanded by the Sports Department. To get the pensionary benefits, eligible sportspersons have to apply in prescribed proforma duly recommended by the concerned State/National Sports Federation/Association and to submit bank account details.

B) Pension Scheme for unemployed coaches

1. OBJECTIVES

The Scheme is intended to:

- (i) Honour coaches who have done outstanding, meritorious work on a consistent basis and enabled sportspersons to excel in national/international events; and
- (ii) Motivate coaches to dedicate themselves with a singularity of purpose of raising the standard of sportspersons to highest performance in international events and thus bring glory to the country.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- i. To be eligible for the Scheme, an unemployed coach with the essential educational qualifications, whether he/she works full time or part time as coach, he/she should have produced outstanding achievement over a period of three years immediately preceding the year in which the award is to be given. During the years when Olympic Games, Commonwealth and Asian Games are held, achievements of the sportspersons, who have been imparted coaching, upto conclusion of these Games will also be

considered. Nominated coach will have to submit details of periods for which he/she coached the disciple(s) in question against whose performance he/she is seeking the benefits. The Department reserves the right to seek affidavit from the sportsperson concerned where it is found that more than one coach is claiming credit for achievements of a sportsperson

- ii. A coach found encouraging the use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA accredited laboratory, by a sportsperson whom he/she is coaching, will not be eligible for the Scheme. A coach against whom enquiry is going on/pending in this regard will also be ineligible.

SELECTION: Selection of eligible coach for the scheme will be made purely on their achievement by the duly constituted Selection Committee of the Government.

The coverage of the scheme will be made for a calendar year w.e.f. 1st January to 31st December.

A lifetime pension shall be started for unemployed sportspersons and coaches of 50 years and above at Rs 4,000/- per month. All payments shall commence from the date the Scheme coming into force and no arrears shall be payable for the period prior to that date. The selected Coach will be eligible for only one pension under the scheme corresponding to the highest sports achievement and subject to other terms and conditions of the scheme.



FOOTBALL CULTURE IN MANIPUR

MANIPUR MOST REPRESENTED STATE IN ISL 2020-21 WITH 43 PLAYERS

Banabanta Ngangom, DEO



Jeakson Singh heads in late equaliser for Kerala Blasters to secure a point against SC East Bengal

No matter which Football Club wins the Seventh edition of the Indian Super League (ISL) 20-21 which kick-started on 20th November 2020 in Goa, Manipur has emerged as the clear winner. The Northeastern state which has consistently produced quality players in the past like Renedy Singh, Gouramangi Singh Moirangthem, Udanta Singh, and many more have come to the limelight again due to football.

Manipur footballers career reached a zenith with 43 players featuring in several teams of the top Indian professional league—the most from any state.

Moirangthem Ratankumar Singh, President, All Manipur Football Association (AMFA) credited the grassroot football clubs for such a feat.

“First of all, I would like to give the credit to all the local football clubs for bringing up new players. Since 1996, the Association has been organising AMFA Youth Football development Programme, the only one of such programmes in the entire country. This helped us in giving players in the ISL, I-League, and National team”, he said.

The FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017 contributed to the growing popularity of the game and helped create a ‘football culture’ in



the State.

“All the Under 17 World Cup players that represented India were products of the grassroots level training and they all participated in this season’s ISL”, added Ratankumar.

Indian national senior midfielder Amarjit Singh Kiyam, who captained the Indian side at the historic FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam who scored India’s first-ever goal in a FIFA game in the same tournament, and several others from the U-17 World Cup is part of ISL 2020-21.



Jeakson, who plays as a defensive midfielder for ISL club Kerala Blasters FC scored a last-minute equaliser and helped Kerala Blasters FC secure a draw (1-1) against SC East Bengal on 20th December 2020.

Amarjit said in an interview that after the FIFA U-17 World Cup, small kids -- even as young as 6 -- have started playing football, with their parents supporting them. “We often talk about European football culture and now, it has started here in Manipur too. The growth is happening and everyone is mad about football,” he said.

Migration of players

Rich in talent, but lacking in finance and infrastructure, many aspiring footballers from the State move to different clubs across the Country.

“Because of financial issues and lack of sponsors, our players migrate as they get more opportunities outside the State”, said Ratankumar.

Government interventions

But this is expected to change soon. The Government of Manipur has extended financial support of Rs. 50 lakhs each to the two Hero India League teams viz; Imphal based NEROCA Football Club and Tiddim Road Athletic Union FC (TRAU). Manipur, long considered the nursery of Indian football, is the only state in India to have produced two I-League teams.

The Manipur Government has also launched a scheme called “*Chief Minister’s Akhannaba Sanaroisingi Tengbang (CMASIT)*” to attract and retain the best sporting talents in the State of Manipur to achieve excellence in sports. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial security and medical insurance to sportspersons who have excellent/superlative achievements in the field of games and sports.



SPORTING STARS

AMARJIT SINGH KIYAM



*Sagolsem Snehprabha,
Manager of Publication
Okendro Sanasam, Photographer*

Amarjit Singh Kiyam, 20, is an Indian professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) and the Indian senior national team. Amarjit shot into fame after captaining the India U-17 team in the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017. He is also the first player to be born after 2000 to play in the senior team. We got an opportunity to catch up with the Amarjit just before he departed for the Seventh edition of the ISL 2020-21 which kick-started on 20th November 2020 in Goa. Here are the excerpts.

How did you become interested in Football?

I became interested in football as my elder brother Umakanta played football. He represented India at the U16 level and when I saw his jersey with the Indian logo I became interested in football as I too aspired to wear that shirt. I started training under my uncle, Diben Thounoujam, along with his son, Jeakson (who currently plays for Kerala Blasters) at Haokha Mamang village in Thoubal. Following my brother, Jeakson and I moved to Chandigarh and got admitted to the Chandigarh Football Academy in 2010. After my stint as Indian captain for FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017 and Indian Arrows, I was selected to play for the senior side in 2019.

Memories of the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup

Representing my country in a World Cup is a different feeling altogether. When

we reach the stadium, more than 60,000 fans, waved the Indian flag and cheered us on. I had butterflies in my stomach. It left me excited and emotional at the same time.

On the Indian Arrows project

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) formed the Indian Arrows (a youth developmental side that competes in the I-league) right after the U-17 World Cup. The members who played in that World Cup stayed and played as a family in the I-league. I played for two years with the Arrows and gained valuable game experience and exposure to grow as a footballer.

On ISL and playing for Jamshedpur FC

I was signed by Jamshedpur FC for the ISL while I was with the Arrows. So, I was loaned out to JFC. It was an exciting moment for me. But unfortunately, due to injury, I couldn't perform well in my ISL debut in 2019. After returning from rehab, the playing



11 was already well settled and they had played 7-8 matches already. So, to break into an already well-established formation was difficult. However, the seniors had faith in me and encouraged me. I could play only a few matches and was not able to display much of my talent. I m excited for this season, as we will be playing competitive football after a prolonged break necessitated by the COVID pandemic.

How did you cope during the Pandemic?

I keep myself occupied by focussing on my fitness. Trained at home for one hour in the morning and one and a half hours in the evening. Also helped in the family farm and spent quality time with them which I was not able to do for the past many years due to my sporting engagements. Lockdown allowed me to address my muscle weakness and the important process I missed out on during rehabilitation and come back as a fitter and better player.

Tell us about your background

I was born into a poor family. Buying my training kits such as boots etc was difficult, not to mention managing a square meal a day. I used to take care of my gear and mend my torn boots. My father was a part-time farmer and part-time carpenter and worked hard for the family even as my mother used to sell fish in Imphal to supplement our family income.

On playing for the National Team

Getting a call for the senior team was a dream come true. I made my senior debut with the Indian national team under head coach Igor Stimac during the 2019 King's Cup. I was very nervous but seniors like (Sunil) Chhetri bhai, Udanta(Singh Kumam) bhai encouraged me a lot and that helped me

transition from the colt team to the senior side well.

Among footballers, past and present, whom do you admire the most?

Sunil Chhetri from India and Andrés Iniesta from Spain. I admire all the players playing in my position (midfield) as I have a lot to learn from them.

Chhetri bhai, captain of the National senior team, is a legend and greatly supports young players like us. He encourages us and motivates us on and off the field, with our diet and financial planning. Even when we make mistakes on the field, he tells us it's okay to make mistakes just to not make the same mistake again.

Favourite professional football team/club

FC Barcelona.

On your cousin, Jeakson (Singh Thounaojam)

Even though we play for different clubs, I feel very happy when Jeakson(who also scored the first and only goal in the U-17 Fifa World Cup and who is currently playing for ISL club Kerala Blaster) plays well. We go a long way back. And when we are at home, we train together as well as hang out together.

Mantra for Success

Discipline, honesty and hard work and moreover "smart work".

Future goals

To continuously represent the national team and also play for the ISL.



KACHAI LEMON

THE PRIDE OF MANIPUR

H. Balkrisna Singh
Director (IPR), Manipur

An apple a day keeps the doctor away, an old adage commonly accepted by all for the highest concentration of nutrients including vitamins, minerals, fibers and anti-oxidants. There is a popular belief -“Eat an apple on going to bed, and you’ll keep the doctor from earning his bread.” Although research shows that eating more apples may not actually be associated with fewer visits to the doctor, adding apples to your diet can help improve several aspects of your health.

Modernization has brought a sea change in the food habits of people across the globe. Industrialization and technological advancement has completely transformed the life style of mankind. However, not all changes are good. Vast use of technological solutions affects human health by curtailing socialization and mobility. Researchers around the world are engaged in scientific studies to find out the secrets of food items people normally consume for combating dreaded diseases. In the process, they have discovered the healing powers and harmful effects of foods.

Research reveals that lemons are excellent source of vitamin C and flavonoids which are antioxidants. Antioxidants remove free radicals that can damage cells from the body. 58 gram lemon can provide over 30 milligrams of vitamin C. Vitamin C is essential for health, and a deficiency can lead to health problems. The early explorers knew this and took lemons on long voyages to help prevent or treat scurvy, a life threatening condition that was common among sailors. The benefits of consumption of lemon are (i) lower stroke risk, (ii) reduce blood pressure, (iii) prevent cancer, asthma & scurvy, (iv) maintain healthy complexion and (v) weight loss. Kachai Lemon (*Citrus jambheri* Lush) of Manipur



is an exotic horticultural fruit from Northeast India which has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag. Popularly known as Kachai Champra (Lemon), it is widely grown in the Kachai village in Ukhru District, Manipur. Unlike the other lemon varieties grown in other part of the world, Kachai Lemon is considered to be unique as it contains 45-51 mg/100 ml ascorbic acid, the highest so far available in the realm of citrus while other lemon varieties have only 45-51 ascorbic acid mg/100 ml of juice. The juice content is 36-56 ml per fruit. The fruit bearing plants of Kachai Lemon look like flowering trees during harvesting time.



Parameters

- Fruit Weight** : 60-100 g
- Fruit Length** : 44-55 mm
- Fruit breath** : 40-59 mm
- Rind thickness** : 1.9-3.5 mm
- Fruit shape** : Spheroid
- Fruit colour** : Yellow to Orange Yellow
- Juice / Fruit** : 40-57%
- Seed / Fruit** : 7-19
- TSS** : 6.8-10.5 brix
- Acidity** : 4.1-6.1%
- Ph** : 2.84-2.90
- Ascorbic acid** : 45-51 mg /100 ml juice

Kachai Village is one of the most scenic village in Ukhrul District. It has a total of 510 houses with 2107 population of which 1092 male and 1015 female. The average sex ratio of the village is 838 female per 1000 male. The village is home to people of Tangkhul Naga tribe. The inhabitants are 1005 Christian. Agriculture is the primary occupation of the inhabitants. Kachai Village is around 140 Kms from Imphal and 46 km approx. from Ukhrul district headquarters. It is located in the extreme west of Ukhrul district bordering Senapati district, Manipur. Kachai is flanked by Hoomi village in the east,

Theiva in the north (Senapati District), Tingshong (Senapati District) in the west and L.Phungthar in the south. Kachai village can be reached via Talui-Hoomi-Kachai which is connected by Talui-Hoomi-tadubi road (NH-102/A).

Kachai is known for the Kachai Lemon popularly known as Kachai Champra which is widely grown in the village. Now it is spreading to the nearby villages and also grown in Hoomi, Phungthar, Tora, Maichon and Theiva village. The village is blessed with a sub-tropical climate with a thick fog/mist in the morning which appears from the month of December to January till 10:00 AM, which naturally waters the lemon plants. This fog/mist is also an important factor that makes the Kachai Lemon unique. The Kachai Lemon is the pride of Manipur, because of its uniqueness the Kachai Lemon has been accorded geographical indication (GI) registration.(GI-466).

Kachai Lemon Festival is celebrated every year in the second week of January. With the celebration of this festival, Kachai Lemon has gained wider popularity and has created a premium value in the market and a boost to the Kachai lemon growers. The Kachai Fruit Farming & Co-operative Society Ltd. in the beginning had passed a resolution and has made it compulsory to all the villagers to plant at least fifty lemon tree saplings in





their backyard garden, the benefits of which the villagers are now reaping. In recent times, lemon growers of Kachai realizing its potential has started promoting lemon plantation with a missionary zeal amongst the youths and farmers of neighboring villages of Senapati and Ukhrul district and Kachai village in particular with technical support provided by the Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) under the State Horticulture Department, ICAR, Lamphelpat and KVKs.

The basic purpose of organizing this Lemon Festival is to give incentives and encouragement to the lemon growers and other farmers by giving them platform where they can interact with scientists and experts and have seller and buyers' meet. This festival also provides market for other agricultural and horticultural crops/products thus generating extra income for the farmers.

At present more educated youths are venturing into lemon farming. They have started commercial lemon orchard planting 500-3000 lemon trees shifting from the backyard garden type orchard where they had 30-60 lemon trees in their garden. This trend has made the numbers of lemon tree increase exponentially in the village. This trend is a big encouragement for the society

Nutritional value of Lemon One lemon weighing 58 grams (g) contains:	
energy: 16.8 calories (kcal)	carbohydrates: 5.41 g, of which 1.45 g are sugars
calcium 15.1 milligrams (mg)	iron: 0.35 mg
magnesium: 4.6 mg	phosphorus: 9.3 mg
potassium: 80 mg	selenium: 0.2 micrograms (mcg)
vitamin C: 30.7 mg	folate: 6.4 mcg
choline: 3.0 mg	vitamin A: 0.6 mcg
lutein + zeaxanthin: 6.4 mcg	

in generating income and employment to many youths. The Kachai Fruit Farming & Co-operative Society Ltd also owns and operates 50 Ha of land (area/farm) as donated by the Kachai Village Authority. Around ten thousand Lemon trees have been planted in this farmland.

During a visit to Kachai village in the third week of January 2021, I had an interaction with Shri Yangmiso Humao, a member of Themhor Shang Multi-Purpose Farming Co-operative Society Ltd. He informed that the lemon farmers of the co-operative society have produced 17 (seventeen) matric tones of lemon during the year 2020 and marketed to Imphal, Ukhrul and Senapati towns. He recalled the hardships faced by the lemon farmers in transporting the produce upto Imphal before the new road connecting Kachai from Imphal via Sinakeithei (Sanakeithel) and other Inter-village roads were fully operational in recent years.



Shri Yangmiso Humao said that the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020 affected badly on the lemon growers of Kachai. However, the timely intervention of Manipur Organic Mission Agency in transporting the farm produces mostly lemons to Imphal has saved their lives. While showing gratitude to the officials of MOMA, he expressed strong desire for continued support from the State Government by providing drip irrigation for achieving sustainable growth and high yielding of lemons, farm mechanization, scientific intervention for control of insect, pests and diseases, farmer's training, construction of sheds, compensation on crop failure and marketing strategies in future.



AN OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMME



*Dr. H. Chaoba Singh
Director,
Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department
Government of Manipur*

In one of the major efforts towards doubling farmer's income, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-ji has launched National Animal Disease Control programme on 11th September, 2019 at Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. With 100% funding from the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry and Dairying of Rs. 12,652 crores for a period of five years till 2024. The programme aims at vaccinating over 500 million livestock including cattle buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against Foot and Mouth Disease which is one of the economically important diseases of cloven footed animals. This diseases cause loss of over Rs. 30000 (Rupees thirty thousand crores) of farmers income per annum in India.

In the context of Manipur, the first phase of vaccination against foot and mouth disease had been launched by Shri Oinam Lukhoi Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Department, Manipur on 5th October, 2020 at Wangoi Veterinary Hospital in Imphal West District. The following number of animals will be vaccinated against Foot & Mouth Disease which id locally known as "Machin Marei and Makhong Nabi Leina" with ear tagging having a unique four digit No :-

Cattle	-	2,24,480
Buffalo	-	36,227
Sheep	-	5,921
Goat	-	38,697
Pig	-	2,35,255

The programme has also target of vaccinating 36 million female bovine calves annually against Brucellosis, with the aim to control the two diseases in livestock by 2025 and its eradication by 2030 from the country.

Livestock health in nation's wealth of about 4.5 percent GDP of the country is contributed from the Animal Husbandry Sector. It is also well known fact that more than 70 percent of human diseases are originated from the animals and birds. It is necessary to keep the animals and birds healthy for human health. It is humble appeal to the livestock farmers and stakeholders of the state to cooperate and assist in the successful implementation of the important National Animal Disease Control Programme in the State of Manipur for control and eradication of these two economically important diseases so as to increase farmer's income. The Department is also taking up beneficiary oriented scheme under National Livestock Mission covering 4 sectors such as Poultry, Piggery, Goatery and Dairy during current year 2020-21 towards doubling farmer's income. Each beneficiary under backyard Piggery, Goatery and Poultry shall be given 4 (four) piglets, 5 (five) adult goats and 45 (forty five) low-input technology birds respectively. Total number of beneficiaries to be selected under Poultry, Piggery and Goatery shall be 4000, 1150 and 4500 respectively. A total of 3040 hand driven chaff cutters will also be distributed to the eligible dairy farmers of the State.



TRANSPORT MINISTER CHAIRS TRPC MEETING



To ensure free movement of traffic in and around Imphal, a meeting of Traffic Regulation and Parking Committee (TRPC) of Imphal East and West Districts was held on 7th January at the Conference Hall of the Secretariat, South Block, Imphal.

In the meeting, chaired by Vungzagin Valte, Hon'ble Minister (Transport), the inconveniences and sufferings caused by traffic congestion in and around the Imphal city were elaborately discussed.

Officials of various departments expressed their opinions, suggestions and measures to reduce the traffic congestions in the city. Altogether, 16 agenda were discussed in the meeting.

Seeking cooperation and suggestions from all stakeholders and civil society, Minister V. Valte described traffic management as a huge challenge, especially in view of long-term transport system that is being executed in the capital cities and major towns. He instructed the committee members to explore the introduction of private players to provide parking spaces in the city. He also asked the officials concerned for strict enforcement of the existing bylaws, norms and regulations of the government to solve the traffic issues in Imphal.



GOVERNOR RELEASED A BOOK THROUGH VIRTUAL MODE

Manipur Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla released a book titled "Making of a General - A Himalayan Echo" authored by (Redt) Lt. Gen. Konsam Himalay Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM through virtual mode at Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, Imphal on 8th January, 2021.

Speaking at the book releasing function, Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla said that besides discharging his responsibilities with dignified courage, Lt. Gen. Himalay has made the Indian Army pride of the Nation. His book conveys his dream and his views. The fact that his book is sought after is an indication that he



has indeed ignited India's young and thinking minds with his dream and his message.

Governor stated that the book released is a book on him, not by him. Yet, in its own way, it reinforces the ideals that Lt. Gen. Himalay has stood for and the concerns that he has been voicing. The book highlights Manipur, the "Land of Emeralds". On the other hand, this State is known as "Unexplored Paradise".

Most fascinatingly, the author has highlighted the memories of his childhood years and now has contrasted the same with the present day Manipur as he saw earlier. Governor is hopeful that any reader will find the author's perspective on nation-building

enterprise in the State of Manipur in the light of multitude of issues including the ethnic conflicts in the region and has provided his view of how things could be.

The chapter on the Kargil War and the author's tour of duty in the Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield in the world, the LOC and LAC days in various capacities is an illustration that is replete with pride, vigour and honour. The book elegantly summons the essence and imperatives of superior command of one of the most formidable forces in the world.

FOREST MINISTER AWANGBOW NEWMAI LAUNCHES COSFOM WEBSITE



Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Shri Awangbow Newmai launched website for the Community-based Sustainable Forest Management for Water Resource Conservation in Manipur (COSFOM) www.cosfom.mn.gov.in at the main conference hall, Forest Headquarters, Sanjenthong on 8 th January, 2021.

COSFOM is a component under the Indo-German Programme 'Climate Change Adaption in the Himalaya' with a focus on sustainable community forestry, soil and water conservation. A project of the Government of India supported by the Federal Government of Germany through KfW, a German development bank in Frankfurt with Manipur Forest Department as the executing agency and managed by the Community Forestry and Water Conservation Society- Manipur (CF & WCS).

The project combines a community-based and watershed approach to improve and conserve water resources. It aims at improving or restoring climate



resilience of upper watershed ecosystems and the adaptive capacity of forest dependent communities through sustainable forest management, close-to-nature stream management, spring shed development and biodiversity conservation. At the same time, it seeks to strengthen sustainable livelihood strategies, income generation opportunities and peace & conflict assessment. Every transaction and activities have to be done with the approval/consent of the community.

Speaking as the chief guest of the function, Minister Awangbow Newmaicongratulated the entire team and hoped that the website will facilitate the project. He requested the officers concerned with the project to work tirelessly as it will provide help to many people.

Although the project is in the initial stage covering the two districts (Ukhrul and Kangpokpidivisions), he expressed his hope that the project will cover all the districts in the near future.

Shri KereilhouviAngami, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of ForestForce (PCCF and HoFF), also the Vice Chairman of the COSFOM said that it for the first time in the Government of Manipur under the Forest Department that the department is implementing a Forestry based project which is funded from the external sources. Stating that the implementation process of the project took almost 4 years, he said that the department was persistent and consistent in pursuance of the project trying to fulfill all the needs and conditions put in by funding agency.

MINISTER RAJEN INAUGURATES BLOCK-I BUILDING AND FITNESS CENTRE OF K.P. COLLEGE, HIYANGTHANG.

Fitness and Science Backup Centre and Block-I Building for B.Voc Programmes of Kamakhya Pemton (K.P) College, Hiyangthang, have been inaugurated by Education Minister Shri S. Rajen Singh on 8 th January, 2021. The centre and Block-I have been constructed under UGC funding.

Speaking at the occasion as Chief Guest, Minister Shri Rajen said that the present government has initiated and introduced new schemes and programmes in order to develop education sector. National Education Policy, NEP, at the national level has been launched.

Under this scheme the number of dropout students will be reduced to zero. The scheme has covered a wide range of curriculums including vocational, skill development, personality development courses etc. apart from literary courses. For successful implementation of this scheme, task force and sub-task force have also been constituted at the state level, minister added.

Minister also maintained that the state government has launched School FagathansiMission. Under the School Fagathansi Mission, the education department has been visiting government schools located at different assembly constituencies examining the requirements at the respective schools. Renovation of old buildings and construction of new blocks is being taken up.



Some of them had already been inaugurated under the mission, he added.

Shri Rajen said that there will be no compromise in education. 37 Work orders issued earlier have been cancelled for not following the norms and instructions of the issuing department or authority. New work orders have been issued. The concerned contractors have also been advised to follow the instructions contained in the work orders, he added.

Minister also maintained that there will be no difference between private and Government schools, private and

government colleges if the effort of the concerned staffs and authority remain all the same. He urged all teaching and non-teaching staffs to render sincere service and appealed the people to cooperate with the government in its initiatives to promote Education sector in the state.

Speaking as Special Guest of Honour, Agriculture Minister, Shri O. Lukhoi Singh said that it is because of the efforts of the college authority and staffs of K.P. College that the college is now considerable as not less than other colleges. He also urged the authority to have competitive spirit.

NITI AAYOG RELEASES 2 ND EDITION OF INDIA INNOVATION INDEX-2020

'MANIPUR STANDS FIRST AMONG NE STATES AND THIRD AMONG NE &HIMALAYAN STATES'

NITI Aayog released the second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020 on 20 January, 2021. The index demonstrates the government's continued commitment towards transforming the country into an innovation-driven economy.

While releasing the India Innovation Index-2020 in New Delhi, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar said, the index illustrates that India is on the right path and the states are endeavouring to improve their innovative ecosystem.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi always emphasises on innovation and technological frontiers as these can solve the challenges and fulfill the aspiration of people.

Speaking at the event, Chief Executive

Officer of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant said that innovation will play a key role in making the country self-reliant and heading towards the five trillion dollar economy.

He said, the innovation index will increase the competitive federalism among the States and Union Territories.

In the India Innovation Index-2020, the States and Union Territories have been divided into 17 Major States, 10 North-East and Hill States and nine Union Territories and Small States for effectively comparing their performance.

In the 2020 ranking, Karnataka retained its first position in the Major States category. Maharashtra moved one position higher and stood at 2nd spot while Tamil Nadu slid to 3rd position.

In the North East and Hill States category, Himachal Pradesh stands at first position followed by Uttarakhand and Manipur. Delhi stands at the first position while Chandigarh retained its second spot in the Union Territories and small States category.

Manipur stands at first position among the NE states and third position among the NE &Himalayan states.



IPR MINISTER BISWAJIT HANDS OVER PENSION BOOKS FOR APPROVED JOURNALISTS



Information and Public Relations Minister Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh handed out pension books of 57 journalists approved by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, at the 46th Foundation Day celebration of Manipur Press Club, on 6th January 2021. The 57 pension books were handed over to All Manipur Working Journalists Union, General Secretary during the function held at the auditorium of the press club.

Speaking as the chief guest of the function, Minister Biswajit said that democracy has three pillars but the media is considered to be the fourth pillar.

Shri Biswajit said that as the Hon'ble Chief Minister was also from the media fraternity in the past, he understands the value and importance of the media fraternity. He said that the Manipur State Journalists' Welfare Scheme is an encouragement for the fraternity. The IPR minister also said that

recently the pension amount for journalists has been increased from Rs.4000 to Rs.8000 and family pension from Rs. 2000 to Rs.5000 respectively.

Further speaking on the issue of some media persons (above 45 years of age) being left out from the pension scheme, the Minister also assured to look into the issue. It may be mentioned that at present, the pension is provided to media persons recognised by DIPR between the age of 18-45 years.

The minister also spoke on the importance of unity. He said that the present government believes in inclusive development and added that both journalists and hawkers are covered under the CMHT scheme.

The function was also attended by Commissioner IPR Shri M Joy Singh, Director IPR Shri H Balkrisna Singh, Editor's Guild Manipur president Khogendra Khomdram, All Manipur Working Journalists' Union president Bijoy Kakchingtabam among others.



TOURISM MINISTER O.LUKHOI FLAGS OFF SWACCHTA CAMPAIGN

Tourism Minister, Shri Oinam Lukhoi Singh flagged off 'Cleanliness Campaign' held under the theme "Let us join hands and make a dream village" at Konthoujam Lairembi, Konthoujam, Imphal West on 10th January, 2021. This campaign is supported by North Eastern Council (NEC) under SWACCHTA Scheme.

Addressing the gatherings as Chief Guest, Minister Shri O. Lukhoi stresses on the importance of imbibing the concept of cleanliness by all sections of society specially

from grassroots level to lead a healthy and prosperous life. He expressed that the SWACCHTA campaign was carried out in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi who led the mass movement for cleanliness to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a clean and hygienic India. Shri Lukhoi also stated that cleanliness is the essential responsibility of all as clean and healthy society will bring massive development in all sectors.

As in charge of Tourism Department, Minister further said that the Department is always committed with the concept of clean surroundings with a view to attract more tourist from different parts of the world. He appealed all to be part of this cleanliness campaign as it required concerted efforts and should carried out such campaign frequently.

Minister Shri Lukhoi assured that the he will discuss with the CM to include the budget for the development of Konthoujam Lairembi religious site.

