

মহাশিলাইল স্কুইড



# MANIPUR TODAY

DESTINATION MANIPUR

*Potential of Tourism*



Department of Information & Public Relations  
Government of Manipur

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This year's Manipur Sangai Festival unfolds on 24 November, 2019 at Imphal for a week. Like the previous years, the festival would showcase the State's commitment towards promoting tourism, handloom and handicraft products, entrepreneurship skills of local artisans apart from display of attractive art and culture items.

It is high time to retrospect the consequential effects of the Manipur Sangai Festival. Has the annual festival lived up to its objectives or has it fulfilled the great expectations of the local people in promoting a sustainable tourism? Of course, the number of incoming foreign and domestic tourists has been increasing gradually, thanks to the efforts of the State Government in mitigating the law and order problems and restoring faith and confidence to the tourists. The much needed tourism infrastructures are yet to be installed in places where tourists love to visit. The sluggish progress of the ongoing infrastructural facilities is a matter of concern.

Tourism is a new hope for a landlocked state like Manipur. Goa attracts lakhs of foreign tourists annually and the state thrives on the business of tourism. Kerala is fully harnessing its backwaters for promoting tourism and earning hard cash from millions of domestic tourists. A boom in internet and air connectivity in the country has boost up the tourism sector beyond expectations over the past decade. Mother Nature has endowed Manipur with enormous tourism potentials. What is lacking in our State is promotion of tourist destinations, infrastructural gaps, feel good factor, micro management, etc.

Another aspect of tourism is Myanmar, being a corridor to South East Asia. The recent developments in Indo-Myanmar bilateral relations brings smile to our younger generations. Around ten Asian ambassadors are visiting Manipur during the Sangai Festival to further their ties and to explore possibilities of upgrading the border town of Moreh as a world class international trade hub. International Polo Tournament at the world's oldest living polo ground, Mapal Kangjebung, friendly soccer matches between women players of Manipur and Myanmar, display of Mukna Kangiei, Arambai, Kang, traditional boat race and various manifestations of art and culture will keep the festival a memorable one. Let's hope that this biggest extravaganza will surely fill the void.

(H. Balkrisna Singh)  
Director, IPR

# MANIPUR SANGAI FESTIVAL

24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

AN OCCASION TO UNITE AND CELEBRATE



Rams Beela



W. Ibohal Singh, Director  
Tourism Department

Our state is strategically located in the North Eastern corner of India bordering Myanmar and serves as a corridor for India to the South East Asian countries. We offer immense possibilities for the growth of tourism and regional business. Adorned with a variety of breathtaking locations, dramatic landscapes, pristine forests, rare wildlife, and an unmatched cultural diversity, our state has lots to offer to a traveller. The Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the North-East India, located in Bishnupur District, the 'Sanga' (*Rucervus eldi eldi*), the dancing deer

of Manipur, Ema Market, the world's largest only women market, Manipur's Polo and Shirui Lily of Ukhrul District are amongst our rarest attractions and are found nowhere in the world.

A diverse population that inhabits the state makes us apt to be called a mini India. The people of Manipur include Meitei, Nagas, Kuki-Chin-Mizos, Gorkhas, Muslims and other colourful communities which have lived in complete harmony for centuries. With so many tribes and an even greater number of sub-tribes, languages, indigenous religions multiplied by several festivals and traditions per

*Manipur offers immense possibilities for the growth of tourism and regional business. Adorned with a variety of breathtaking locations, dramatic landscapes, pristine forests, rare wildlife, and an unmatched cultural diversity, our state has lots to offer to a traveller.*



Sagol Kangte

tribe, our state is a rare living library of ancient North-eastern tribal festivals, folk songs, costumes, theatrical styles and dances, crafts, ceremonies, cuisines, wild foods and dozens of languages—a special kind of cultural diversity unmatched by any other state in India. Throughout the year our varied tribes celebrate their festivals and the state is also apt to be called a Land of Festivals.

### Manipur Sangai Festival 24th to 30th November, 2019

The “Manipur Sangai Festival” named after the state animal ‘Sangai- the brow-antlered deer’ will be held from 24th to 30th November 2019. The Manipur Sangai Festival started in the

year 2010 and over the years the festival has grown into a big platform for the state to showcase its rich tradition and culture to the world. The festival is today labeled as the biggest festival of the State today and helps promote Manipur as a world-class tourism destination.

Every edition of the festival showcases the tourism potential of the state in the field of arts & culture, handloom, handicrafts, cuisine, music and indigenous sports etc. The festival is the right time to experience the proud cultural heritage and the love for art which is inherent amongst various tribes inhabiting the State of Manipur. The state’s famous classical dance, ‘RaasLeela’ forms an important part of the dance performances at the Manipur



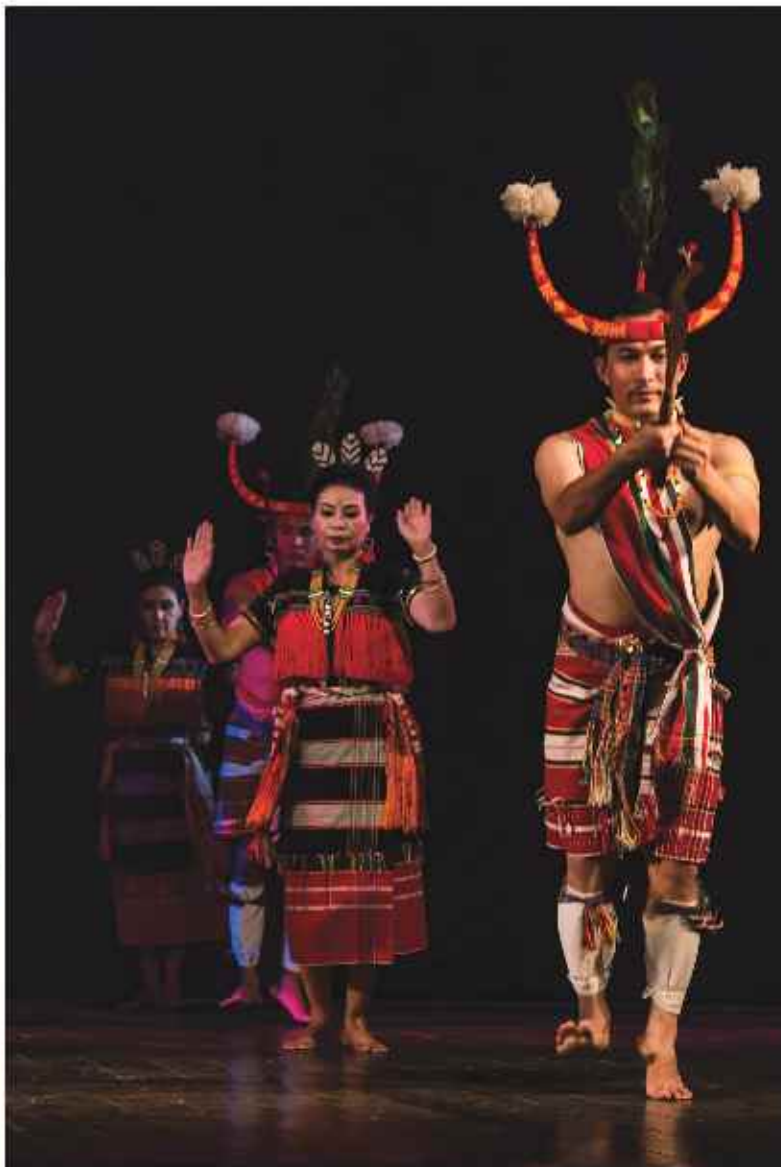
Sangai Festival 2019 besides the various other folk dance performances like the Kabui Naga dance, Bamboo dance, Maibi dance, La Haraoba dance, Khamba Thoibi dance etc which will be showcased at the festival.

The past editions of the festival have been a huge success and brought a huge number of visitors from within and outside the state. The 2019 edition of the Manipur Sangai Festival will be organized at different locations in Imphal, Bishnupur and Senapati Districts. The Opening Ceremony of the Manipur Sangai Festival 2019 will be held at Keibul Lamjao National Park at Bishnupur district, Manipur. The Keibul Lamjao National Park located on the Loktak Lake is the only floating National Park in the world. It is

the last natural habitat of the “Sangai” (*Rucervus eldi eldi*), the dancing deer of Manipur. A glimpse of the deer in this unique wetland ecosystem is a must for any wildlife enthusiast. Other wildlife to be seen include Hog Deer, a host of waterfowls and migratory birds, the latter usually sighted from November to March.

The main venue for the festival will be at the Hapta Kangjebung (Palace Compound) and Bhagyachandra Open Air Theatre (BOAT). These venues will host several cultural programmes as well as showcase the rich culture and tradition of Manipur. The venue at HaptaKangjebung will feature the indigenous huts of the varied tribes that inhabit Manipur.





*Kabui Dance*

The Manipur Sangai Festival 2019 will also introduce visitors to the best of the State's cuisines at a number of food stalls which will be opened during the festival. Manipur's popular dishes include Nga-thongba (fish curry), Eromba (a dish prepared with boiled vegetables and fermented fish), Ooti (mustard beans), Bora (pakoda), Paknam (a baked cake of gram flour mixed with other ingredients), Singju (a spicy hot traditional salad), and Brown-rice Kheer etc. Every Manipuri dish whether vegetarian or non-vegetarian has its distinctive flavour because of

the natural and indigenous ingredients used in preparing them.

The festival will also showcase themed huts representing the living-style of a variety of tribes at the heritage park and exhibit their indigenous products. Indigenous sports and martial arts- Thang Ta (a combination Spear & Sword skills), Yubi-Lakpi (a game played with greased coconut-like rugby), Mukna Kangjei (a game that combines hockey and wrestling), and Sagol Kangjei- Modern Polo (believed to have evolved in Manipur) will all form part of the festival. Besides, the state offers a lot of activities that one can indulge in while visiting this festival.

In addition to these venues, the Trade & Permanent Exhibition Centre at Lamboikhongnangkhang will also serve as a venue for various stalls and also host other cultural programmes and tourist activities. This year we are at the tenth edition of the Manipur Sangai Festival and Manipur Tourism aims to leverage this festival to attract increasing number of visitors to the state.

In recent years, we have witnessed increasing numbers of visitors and at this event from the tourism business fraternity as well as travellers from all states of India as well as other countries. The tourist arrival figures of Manipur in the year 2016-17, was 1,45,685 Domestic Tourist Arrivals (DTAs) and 3,036 Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs). In the year 2018-19, we received 1,66,032 DTAs and 9,794 FTAs. These figures show a 14% increase approximately in DTAs and a 222% increase in the number of FTAs within three years. Increased tourist footfalls help generate income and





have a direct positive impact on the state's economy. This shows that our efforts in promoting this state have been fruitful.

Tourism brings people together, helps understand each other, offers mutual understanding and helps us grow as people. Through this industry, we learn and share experiences about diverse cultures and it teaches us how much we need each other to help this industry grow. In the spirit of 'Unity in Diversity,' let's all unite and celebrate this year's edition of the festival and I wish all an enjoyable celebration of Manipur Sangai Festival 2019.



*Thang-ta: Manipuri Martial Art*



*Dzuko Lily*

# DESTINATION MANIPUR: POTENTIAL OF TOURISM



Manipur is a land of great tourism potential. Nestled deep within the lush green corner in the North-Eastern part of India, it is endowed with a green and fertile valley, glittering lakes and the evergreen hill ranges that environed the oval-shaped valley. With a population of 27.2 lakh, the state has over 34 recognized tribes with a background of a very rich cultural heritage, which offers huge potential for the development of tourism in the state.

UNESCO as an intangible cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Manipur is a treasure trove of indigenous games. Manipur has Ema Market known as the world's largest only woman market, Polo, Shirui Lily, and the state's amazing variety of flora and fauna which are rarest of the rare in the world. Manipur's handloom and handicraft products are unique with high artistic and oriental designs.



The immense tourism potential in the State has remained unexploited to its potential. 'Loktak' the biggest freshwater lake in the North-East and 'Keibul Lamjao' the only floating National Park in the world are known world-wide and is the home of Sangai, the rare brow-antlered deer that is reportedly found only in these floating islands. The Manipur Nat Sankirtana, an art form conceived by the famous Manipur King Bhagyachandra Singh in the 18th Century is recognised by

In addition, there are plenty of opportunities particularly for Eco-Village Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Battlefield Tourism, Urban Tourism (Hospitality Industry).

The state also has great potential in Health Tourism. The unique strength of Manipur in the medical sector with its huge medical professionals and its famous nursing care coupled with new and modern state-of-the-art medical facilities has opened up a new horizon in Health Tourism, especially from the neighbouring states as well as the



neighbouring country of Myanmar. The State-run RIMS, JNIMS, and other medical facilities along with private hospitals like Shija Hospitals, City Hospital, Advanced Hospitals, Raj Medicity, Sky Hospital, Imphal Hospital, Maipakpi Child & Maternity, Mothercare Hospital, Horizon Hospital, Jeevan Hospital, etc have created a good potential for the State in this regard.

Manipur is a land of many festivals. The Manipur Sangai Festival 2018 was organized on a large scale and at multiple venues. The Cherry Blossom Festival at Mao was included as part of the Festival. The age-old traditions, culture, and hospitality of Ukhrul District were showcased as part of the 3rd State Level Shirui Lily Festival. The festival which offers an eclectic blend of cultural, traditional activities and adventure sports and music activities, featured two legendary international rock bands—Extreme from Boston,

Massachusetts, US and Nazareth from Dunfermline, Scotland headlining ShiRock 2019.

Other Festivals like Orange Festival, Barak festival, Kut festival, Lui-Ngai-ni, Mera Hou Chongba, Lemon festival, Pineapple festival, Amur Falcon festival, etc were celebrated with the support of the State government.

For the creation of tourism infrastructure, major schemes have been implemented in the State under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India's Swadesh Darshan (Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourists Circuits) scheme.

With improved tourism infrastructure and security scenario in recent years, Domestic Tourist Arrivals increased by 14% in 2018-19 with 1,66,032 over that in 2016-17 with 1,45,685 arrivals. Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) for the year 2018-19 was 9,794 from 3,036 FTAs in 2016-17.



# CHANGING FACE OF TOURISM AND DIAGNOSTIC HEALTHCARE SCENARIO IN MANIPUR



*Dr. Th. Dhabali Singh MD  
Chairman & Managing Director,  
BABINA GROUP*

Manipur, with her favourable climate, rich cultural heritage and natural beauty has immense tourism potential. However, tourism as an industry could never achieve its full potential somehow. Manipur is promoted as the gateway to Southeast Asia, which is considered the preferred destination for adventure and sports tourism, war tourism, ecotourism and medical tourism.

Manipur receives both domestic and foreign tourists, and if one looks at the trend, the arrivals have been increasing over the past few years. When compared to the figures in the last decade, there are positive signs

to indicate that the tourist flow has increased. To illustrate - the number of domestic and foreign tourists in 2013-14 were 1,43,059 and 2588 respectively. This increased to 1,64,483 and 3787 in 2017-18.

The major impediments to the growth of the tourism sector have been the unfavourable law and order situation in the state, lack of infrastructure – accommodation and tourist spots with amenities, and lack of proper promotion and marketing. Before 2009, there were very few private-run hotels. There was only one government-run hotel (Hotel Imphal) and some accommodation units at a few tourist destinations. However, these

**HOSPITALITY  
AND  
MEDICAL  
TOURISM**

were either underutilised or not utilised at all due to their poor conditions or were occupied by armed forces (Sendra Tourist Home, for instance). On the other hand, the few private hotels had very limited facilities and very few rooms.

The travellers arriving in Manipur could be broadly divided into four categories: corporate sector/business (57%), government officials (15%), NGOs (human rights activists, journalists, film-makers, etc.) (7%) and others like interns, students, researchers, etc (21%)

The hospitality sector in Manipur changed significantly when The Classic Hotel was opened in 2009. This was the first 3-star hotel in Manipur and for the first time, the tourists were assured of reasonably good accommodation facilities. With this, the hotel industry got a major boost and encouraged other players to foray into the hospitality sector. Within a few years of the opening of The Classic Hotel, many arrived on the scene, which played a significant role in further bolstering the tourist arrivals. Of note are Hotel Yaiphaba, Hotel Lanchenba, a revamped Nimala Hotel, Sangai Continental, and Classic Grande. Over and above these, the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur has handed over the erstwhile state-run Hotel Imphal and Sendra Tourist Home to the Classic Group under public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The total room inventory of all major hotels in Imphal has now gone up to 500, with a major contribution from the Classic Group of Hotels alone that has a total inventory of 280 rooms.

In the unorganised sector,

accommodation facilities, in particular the ‘homestay’ type have come up in Imphal, Ukhrul, Moreh, Tamenglong, Churachandpur, etc. These homestay facilities are also extremely popular among foreign tourists and budget travellers.

Travel agencies and tour operators are important agents to change the health of tourism in a place. In that sense, they serve as important links between the tourists and the tourist spots. Barring a few tour operators such as Seven Sisters Holidays, KB Enterprises, Khoibu Travels etc. there are not many in this sector. In adventure tour operation, the Manipur Mountaineering and Trekking Association (MMTA) has been doing a great service and is a pioneer in adventure tourism. They offer different adventure tour packages and have introduced many adventure sports such as water rafting, hand gliding, para gliding, etc. MMTA has even set up a Mountaineering Institute. Other smaller tour operators have also come up. Some of them arrange ‘The Battle of Imphal Tours’ where the travellers are taken to important World War II sites. Manipur Tourism Forum in partnership with 2nd World War Imphal Campaign Foundation have been actively promoting war tourism, which is considered an important avenue for attracting foreign tourists. The Imphal Peace Museum was inaugurated in June 2019 as an important step towards this.

The number of flights to Imphal have increased over the past few years. Despite the Imphal Airport (Bir Tikendrajit International Airport) being upgraded to the international airport status, regular operation of international flights to and fro from Manipur hasn't been launched. Imphal

*The travellers arriving in Manipur could be broadly divided into four categories: corporate sector/business (57%), government officials (15%), NGOs (human rights activists, journalists, film-makers, etc.) (7%) and others like interns, students, researchers, etc. (21%).*



is now connected with most major cities in India by air. There are three main road approaches to Manipur – Dimapur Road (from Nagaland), Jiribam Road (from Assam), and Moreh/Tamu road from Myanmar. The North-Eastern Frontier Railways will complete the construction of the railroad to Imphal soon. This will be extended till Myanmar, which is a significant development in lines with the Act East Policy.

The Restricted Area Permit regime is being relaxed on a yearly basis since 2011 and the Protected Area Permit (PAP) which applies to foreigners has been relaxed too. This step is another reason for the increase of foreign tourist arrivals in the past few years.

The Classic Group of Hotels has played a major role in changing the face of hospitality sector in Manipur. The three hotels under the Classic Group of Hotels have a total room inventory of 280 rooms. Further, the Classic Hospitality Training Institute have been training professionals in the hospitality industry and skilled manpower for the sector.

Inaugurated on 9th November 2009, The Classic Hotel is the first 3 Star category hotel in the state with an inventory of 55 rooms is the preferred choice for most tourists and officials visiting the state. With three conference halls, a multi-cuisine restaurant and a fast-food joint.

Hotel Imphal by The Classic is being managed under PPP model by The Classic Group of Hotels, after it was given a face lift to the erstwhile state-run, Hotel Imphal. The BABINA Group has been managing the hotel since November 2013. With a total inventory of 55 rooms and a sprawling campus, the hotel is considered to be one of the finest in Imphal and is another favourite of the visitors. Formerly known as Sendra Tourist Home, Sendra Park and Resort by the Classic is another project under PPP model. The Classic Group has been managing its affairs since December 2013. The resort now has four cottages and six deluxe rooms, a multi-cuisine restaurant and viewpoints



that provide a 360 degrees view of the majestic Loktak Lake.

The Classic Hospitality Training Institute is a premier hospitality training centre in Manipur. The institute runs courses to train and prepare individuals to meet the industry standards as well as to ensure employability in the job market. Certified by Manipal City & Guilds (MCG), under the aegis of Manipal Education (India) and City & Guilds (UK), the institute offers certificate and diploma courses in hospitality operations and food preparation and culinary arts.

The Classic Grande, with its 170 rooms, is the latest addition to the Classic Group of Hotels offering world-class service for different types of visitors. The 4-star category hotel boasts of having the largest room inventory in the entire Northeast. Classic Grande is equipped with a beautiful swimming pool, fitness centre, spa and saloon, business centre, double basement floors and multiple conference halls.

### Diagnostic Healthcare Scenario in Manipur

The emergence of medical diagnostics as a discipline coincides roughly with the establishment of the Regional Medical College (now Regional Institute of Medical Sciences) in the year 1972. Till then, Manipur remained mostly insulated from the advances in medicine and the rapid strides in

modern day diagnostic techniques elsewhere. The concept of medical diagnostics was almost non-existent. The health service in Manipur is primarily under the government sector, although there are a few private hospitals and nursing homes to reckon with.

Now, the healthcare system under the State Health Department is organised at three levels, each level supported by a referral centre – Primary Health Sub-Centres (PHSCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and Community Health Centres (CHCs) for primary care, District Hospitals for secondary care and Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) for tertiary care. Besides these, there's Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), a centre-run hospital for tertiary modern-day care.

It is encouraging to note that there are many private hospitals coming up to provide modern-day healthcare facilities. Important ones are Shija Hospitals, Imphal Hospital and Research Centre, Advanced Hospital and Research Centre, Raj Medcity, Jeevan Hospital (Kakching), etc. There are also a few private hospitals in Churachandpur district.

Today, laboratory is an important component in healthcare and is widely acknowledged as the seat of medicine. Most critical treatment decisions are based on laboratory results and with the advent of Information Technology and computers, people are becoming more and more health conscious. Good quality diagnostic tests are of prime importance in effective disease control and reducing the burden of infectious diseases. The choice of which diagnostic test to use will mostly depend upon the treating clinician's judgment about its appropriateness and on the availability of approved tests in laboratories nearby.

In the recent times, the absence of strict regulatory environment has led to the mushrooming of large number of small laboratories with limited facilities. The diagnostics market in India is largely unorganised and this unorganised sector constitutes a major portion of the industry. At present, there are no well defined established set of criteria in

terms of qualification, infrastructure or equipment for setting up a laboratory. Of the almost 60,000 diagnostic laboratories in the country, only about 200 of them are accredited. The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) is the sole accreditation body with the criteria assuring accuracy, reliability and conformity of the tests results. The diagnostics landscape is expected to change in the coming years with registration and quality compliance mandatory for laboratories and diagnostic centres under the National Clinical Establishment Act, 2010. At present, the absence of strict regulations for setting up diagnostic laboratories is a major area of concern which has the potential to further accentuate the problem of the chaotic and largely unorganised health sector.

BABINA Diagnostics, established in 1983, the flagship unit of the group, is a leading medical diagnostics service provider in the Northeast India. BABINA Diagnostics operates in two different locations, one at RIMS Road, Imphal West and the other at Soibam Leikai, Imphal East, which also serves as the main laboratory. In terms of the range of equipment and facilities available, the diagnostic centre is the largest of its kind in Eastern India. Its services are spread in the region through its wide network of collection centres and joint venture units in different states of the Northeast and the neighbouring country of Myanmar.

BABINA Diagnostics is accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), the first medical laboratory in the Northeast to achieve this rare distinction. It got its accreditation in 2007. The quality policy pursued by the centre is an ongoing process and a stringent quality assurance system has been implemented that fulfills the ISO 15189:2012 standards as per the requirements and guidelines of NABL.

It is the first laboratory in the Northeast and among only a few private laboratories in India to be formally approved by the Revised National Tuberculosis Programme (RNTCP) for "Culture-DST Services" for the follow-up of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR) patients. Under the scheme,



patients registered for DOTS programme can apply for culture and identification of species testing for TB at free of cost at BABINA Diagnostics.

With the availability of a wide range of diagnostic facilities at affordable rates, patients now need not travel to far metropolitan cities. The flight of capital from the state when patients travel to far metropolitan cities for basic as well as high-end tests and investigations has been reduced because of the ready availability of a wide range of diagnostic facilities at reasonable rates.

BABINA Oncology and Specialty Hospital is an ambitious project of the group that is expected to significantly change the healthcare landscape in the region. The 100-bedded hospital is a partnership with American Oncology Institute Spread over an area of 4 acres in Khabeisoi near Manipur Central Jail (Sajwa), the hospital will be inaugurated in January 2020.

BABINA Group (the healthcare and the hospitality units together) employs nearly 1000 people and in a region with acute unemployment problem, this is significant. It aims at providing the best healthcare and hospitality services. It seeks to achieve this mission by strictly adhering to its set of core values that characterises the beautiful culture of the people of the region.

The Government of Manipur, on its part, has been pushing tourism industry as the key source of economic growth in its endeavour to provide ample job opportunities and overall progress of the state. Medical tourism is one sector that BABINA Group is keen at promoting to the fullest. With its twin services in healthcare and hospitality areas, the Group has a big role to play



to bolster tourism in Manipur.



# HOMESTAY TOURISM

Experience home-away-from-home and authentic rural life by the scenic Loktak lake



**T**ourism in Thanga, Bishnupur District has long been a small business aimed at casual nature tourists who visited to take in the splendour of the Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in North East India. However, the growing demand for “experimental travel”, wherein nature watching is mixed with cultural activities is opening up opportunities for local communities, especially homestay owners/promoters.

Thanga arising out of the shimmering blue waters of Loktak Lake is located in Bishnupur District, a land filled with stoned past, myths and legends. Apart from the Loktak Lake, Moirang the land of Lord Ebudhou Thangjung, home to legendary lovers

Khamba-Thoibi and INA Museum, Keibul Lamjao National Park, natural home of Sangai, the rare brow-antlered deer, are also located in the district.

The unique village of 2,458 families that depends on the Loktak Lake for their livelihood is facing many challenges due to falling income due to dwindling catch. Thanga village has a population of 14,316 of which 7,302 are males while 7,014 are females as per Population Census 2011.

Leveraging their proximity to these tourist attractions, homeowners provide beautiful and traditional home stays where one can feel the real taste of the lifestyle of the

*Sagoslem Snehprabha  
Oinam Shyamo Singh  
Maringmei Gaijinmeilu*

*According to the Ministry of Tourism, the Government of India, a Homestay is where owner/promoter of the establishment along with his family/her family is physically residing in the same establishment and letting out a minimum one room and maximum six-room (12 beds).*



Oinam Maipakchao with his House Guest from Belgium Dennis Van Poucke.

people residing around the Lake. Homestay is a form of hospitality where tourists, usually on a budget, stay at the home of a local person for a fee.

### Home-away-from Home

Maipakchao Family Home Stay at the Thanga Ngaram Leikai, is a great base from which to explore the Loktak Lake, KLNP and cultural fabrics of the area. Oinam Maipakchao Singh, National Youth Awardee, 59, formally started the first homestay in Manipur on 14 February 2014 under the Loktak Eco-tourism Development Organisation (LEDO), intending to provide travelers a "home away from home" to relax at the same time experience local culture, history, food and overall lifestyle of the region. LEDO was registered on 5th September 2013.

"Apart from making sure that guests have access to basic services, we go the extra mile to make them feel at home. I sit with them, talk to them and customised their itinerary", said Maipakchao who lives there with his wife and two kids and often

accompanies his guests out for sightseeing.

Maipakchao's homestay offers simple traditional rooms with attached modern toilets, sumptuous tasty local food and invaluable insight into village life. He also organises boat rides in traditional hand-rowed wooden boats (instead of motorboats to reduce carbon footprint) to explore the lake at the same time experience rural life of the fisherman at phumsang the traditional way, trekking in the evening to nearby Leimarel hilltop and Chaoba Ching for panoramic viewing of 360 degree of Loktak Lake, visit KLNP to witness the only floating National Park in this planet and cultural performances for the guests. Guests can also explore on foot or borrow a cycle for a leisurely ride on the roads.

Kh Buddha Singh, 44, and his wife Khwairakpam Nirmala Devi, 34, also run a Homestay with a similar approach at Ithing Sendra Chinghong, Sendra Road, Thanga Part II.

"In the late 1990s, I used to run a

bed and breakfast establishment. It folded in no time. However with the improvement in law and order situation in Thanga and Manipur, in general, we saw an increase in visitors eager to explore the region," said Kh Buddha who started the homestay in his ancestral home in 2013.

The simple family-run homestay provides authentic Manipuri Cuisine which is rustic and hyperlocal like Soibum Eromba (fermented bamboo shoot), Khajung Bora (prawn fritters) and Ngan (fermented fish), and also allow their guests inside



Khwairakpam Nirmala received financial assistance under the Manipur Startup Scheme 2018-19.

the kitchen to take part in the cooking process.

The homestay operated under the Startup, Loktak Home Stay and Hospitality Services, which was registered under the Manipur Shops and Establishments Act, 1972 on 18th February 2019. It also received financial assistance from the Government of Manipur under the Manipur Startup scheme for 2018-19 to scale up their operations.

### Cultural immersion

Loktak Lake, which is also known as “Mirror of Manipur”, or “Lifeline of Manipur” has been associated with the Meitei-socio-economically, ecologically and culturally—since time immemorial.



The 287 sq.km (111 sq.mi.) freshwater lake offers rich biodiversity comprising of around 233 species aquatic flora and 425 species of fauna. The original habitat of Sangai, the endangered and endemic subspecies of bro-antlered deer, is the floating marshy grasslands of KLNP in the southern part of the Loktak Lake. Besides the Lake is also the visiting place for around 28 species of migratory birds from different parts of the northern hemisphere. The lake has been designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on 23rd march 1990.

“We design the package in such a way that visitors while staying as our guests, can experience the day-to-day activities of the host family or accompany the fishermen as they go out to the lake for their catch, or learn

traditional basket making and weaving skill or making fish nets. Staying at phumshangs or taking part in local events and festivals are also a part of cultural experiences”, said Maipakchao.

Homestays provide a means of sustainable income for the homeowners. However for former teacher Nirmala the benefits go beyond economic.

“The homestay has given me a sense of empowerment as I’m financially independent I left my teaching job after marriage. But more than that, the homestay gave me the agency to support and conserve the cultural heritage of our region,” said Nirmala.

“The Homestay provides our family with direct employment. Before opening the homestay, I was self-employed and engaged in social service and my wife used to make fishnets. Through the homestay at least 40-50 people are benefiting indirectly—fishermen, boatmen, vegetable vendors, cab owners, handloom and handicraft artisans and cultural performers—every month”, said Maipakchao.

Not only from the economic point of view, tourism is also providing avenues for conservation of environment and social values. Under his president ship, LEDO, has provided handicrafts training on Water hyacinth for residents of Thanga under Ministry of Textiles, Government of India through Handicrafts Development Cooperation, Government of Manipur for a duration of four months course.

A new and alternative livelihood for the fishing community in the tourism sector will, in the long run, lessen the pressure on the lake. For some like boatman Salam Khadrakpa, 71, popularly known as Mama (Uncle) see the tourism drive not to make tons of money but towards self-sufficiency. The experienced boatman earns around Rs. 12,000- Rs15,000 per month.

The promoters of both homestay establishments aim to open a chain of homestays to share the economic benefits with the residents of Thanga.

### Cost-benefit

Homestay caters to various budgets and is particularly attractive to budget travelers. The price band in most homestays is between Rs. 1200 (with meals)-Rs.1500 (menus on special request) per person per night.

Most homestay owners cannot afford paid advertisements, thus guest testimonials, blogs, and social media video uploads and word-of-mouth became a marketing drive for most of them.

“I came across Maipakchao Family Homestay in a blog. So I messaged him and here I am. Loktak is simply beautiful”, said Dennis Van Poucke from Antwerpen, Belgium who opted to stay at the homestay for his two-day trip to Manipur.



# PASSPORT SEVA KENDRA, IMPHAL

## Ensuring convenient passport services in the State



*Phurailatpam Maheshwari Devi  
Assistant Passport Officer  
Passport Seva Kendra (PSK)*

The Passport Seva Kendra (PSK), Imphal at Old Assembly Complex, Imphal West has been ensuring convenient passport services to the people in Manipur since it officially opened on 31st March 2015. It has processed 40,000 (forty thousand) applications for passports from the State so far. A passport is an official document issued by a government, certifying the holder's identity and citizenship and entitling them to travel under its protection to and from foreign countries.

Originally, PSK, Imphal which opened on 2nd February 2015 ran at Camp Mode until it became

a fully functional PSK from 31st March of the same year having the facility of Normal Passport application. It was officially inaugurated by Gen. (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd), the then MOS for External Affairs and Statistic and Programme Implementation (I/C), Government of India. The facility for applying Tatkaal Passport was started from the 1st week of June 2015. One Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) was also recently opened at Post Office Kakching Office complex on 5th February 2019 processing only Normal passport applications.

The opening of the PSK has brought a huge transformation towards the delivery of passport services in the State. From its opening, it has played an important role in providing timely issuance of passports especially to sportsperson, students, businessmen, Haj pilgrims, etc.

Now, PSK Imphal has the facility for issuing Passports under-- Normal Passport application, Tatkaal Passport application, Official Passport application,



Diplomatic Passport application, PCC application and GEP application.

PSK Imphal is also providing special facility for passport applicants--for minors, senior citizens, VIPs, and VVIPs, etc It is also having an inquiry counter for guiding applicants

At present, PSK Imphal has one Assistant Passport Officer (APO), one Verification Officer (VO), one Resident Engineer (IT-Incharge) and two Customer Service Executives (CSEs). However, PSK Imphal also has a drawback The office is processing 120 applicants per day but the strength of the staff are not sufficient so more staffs are required IT equipment is also not sufficient having no proper backups at the time of failure of the existing IT equipments

PSK Imphal has provided good facilitation services to the general public in spreading the awareness



of the passport application. PSK Imphal is receiving positive feedbacks from all sections of the people of Manipur as there is no need for going to Guwahati, the capital of neighbouring State of Assam, for processing Passport application thereby saving hard-earned money and time





## SHIRUI LILY FESTIVAL

16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> October, 2019

Celebrating the Flower that Grows Only in Manipur

*This lily was discovered by British botanist and plant-hunter Frank Kingdon-Ward in 1946 and later named 'Lilium mackliniae' by British botanist J. R. Sealy in honour of Jean Macklin, wife of Frank Kingdon-Ward.*

**B**looming at the top of Shirui Hills, Shirui Lily brings in the people of Manipur together with its enchanting beauty and its annual observation, Shirui Lily Festival. Now, in its 3rd edition, the annual Shirui Lily Festival held amid the

picturesque Shirui hill ranges, returns on a grander scale this year.

The annual calendar event is celebrated to spread awareness about the endangered State flower 'Shirui Lily' as well as to promote Ukhru district



the festival

In the first edition of the Shirui Festival held in 2017, it was celebrated for five continuous days from 16-20th May. In 2018, the second edition of the festival was celebrated in 24th-28th April on a much greater scale after the grand success of the first edition.

Organized by the Shirui Lily Festival Organizing Committee under the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur, the festival came into being as a celebration for developing sustainable tourism in the State and promoting the exotic state flower.

### Promoting Shirui Lily

Shirui Lily, or "*Lilium mackliniae*", is a rare terrestrial lily, grown naturally only on the Shirui Hill ranges. The State Flower of Manipur is found only on the top of the Shirui Kashong peak in the upper reaches of the Shirui hill ranges in the Ukhrul District of Manipur at an elevation of 5,568 – 8,500 ft. above sea level. The flower is today considered an endangered species.

This lily was discovered by British botanist and plant-hunter Frank Kingdon-Ward in 1946 and later named '*Lilium mackliniae*' by British botanist J. R. Sealy in honour of Jean Macklin, wife of Frank Kingdon-Ward. The lily won the prestigious Ment Prize of Royal Horticultural Society at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1948. This shade-loving lily blooms at its best in May and June. Shirui Lily (locally called Kashong Timrawon) has been the State flower of Manipur since 21st March 1989.

### Musical Extravaganza

The festival which offers an eclectic blend of cultural, traditional activities

as a potential tourist destination in Manipur. The festival was celebrated by the locals at the District level till 2016 when the State Government in 2017 declared that the Shirui Lily Festival would be celebrated at the state level. After the successful run of two previous editions, Shirui Festival 2019 was held on 16-19 October 2019. Ukhrul District Headquarter, Bakshi Ground, Tangkhul Tribe Long (TNL) Ground are the main event venues of



*The district is inhabited by the Tangkhul Tribe- the colorful warrior tribe, the Kukiis and the Angamis. The Tangkhul tribe are considered one of the oldest major tribes of Manipur.*





and adventure sports and music activities, featured two legendary international rock bands— Nazareth from Dunfermline, Scotland on the opening night and Extreme from Boston, Massachusetts, US on the closing night at the ShiRock 2019. ShiRock, the musical extravaganza of live music performances and competition, is also one of the biggest highlights of the festival that attracts a large number of people from different corners of the State, and even from the neighboring states.

Apart from international acts such as Extreme and Nazareth, ShiRock-2019 also featured a rock competition taken part by different bands from across the North East.

Manipur Tourism recognizes the importance of Shirui Lily as the State Flower of Manipur and the event is a part of its efforts to develop and implement sustainable and responsible tourism in the State.

### About Ukhrul District

Ukhrul is the highest hill station in

Manipur. It is located at a distance of about 83 kilometers to the east of Imphal. The district is inhabited by the Tangkhul Tribe- the colorful warrior tribe, the Kukis and the Angamis. The Tangkhul tribe are considered one of the oldest major tribes of Manipur.

### Tourist Attractions in Ukhrul

#### Shirui Hills

The Shirui Hills, known for Shirui Lily which grows at a height of about 8,500 ft above sea level, is also considered as one of the most interesting treks in Manipur.

#### Kangkhui Lime Caves

This pre-historic cave is one of the major tourist attractions of Ukhrul district of Manipur.

#### Longpi Village

The Longpi Village is located in the north of Ukhrul town. The village is famous for its black pottery crafts which are widely used in many parts of Manipur.







# MOREH

## Shop till you drop

Sagolsem Snehprabha  
Manager of Publication

**M**oreh, the commercial town, located at 110 km Southeast from capital Imphal, is a paradise for shopping enthusiasts. Had it not been for an official visit, I might not have experienced the charms of this last piece of land on the Indian side of the border with Myanmar. A team of officials from Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Manipur visited Moreh, Tengoupal District on 19th October in connection with organising a short term two weeks media course for aspiring and working journalists there.

Moreh Town, the international trade center of the state, is a small but fast developing cosmopolitan town on the Indo-Myanmar border in Tengoupal District. Moreh is well connected to Imphal City by the

National Highway No. 102. Moreh is also linked up to Mandalay in Myanmar by the Asian Highway-1. Moreh is the only transit point through which exists the land route for trade between India and Myanmar and other South East Asian countries.

We started out early, at 5 a.m. as we wanted to avoid the long queues at various check posts en route Moreh. Due to paucity of time, as we had a 9 a.m. meeting scheduled with the principle of Moreh College, we rushed headlong on National Highway 102 without stopping. We took a breather at a check post of the strategically important Tengoupal Town, where we were mesmerized by a cloud-covered landscape. Situated 69 km away from Imphal and just 1 and 1/2 hours away from Moreh Town, Tengoupal Town, the District Headquarter of the newly created District is the highest point above sea level on the Indo-Myanmar road.

*Moreh Town, the international trade center of the state, is a small but fast developing cosmopolitan town on the Indo-Myanmar border in Tengoupal District.*

### Breakfast at Gaby's

"A stopover @ 1450m above MSL enroute to Moreh with uninterrupted views to Kabaw Valley. Stopover to stretch out, soak in the scenery or just a hot cuppa", best described Gaby's Café on its Facebook page.

We ordered our breakfast and took our time exploring and clicking pictures with the backdrop of the beautiful Kabaw Valley.

Perched on top of a hilltop, with its landscaped garden, in-house restaurant, and two beautiful cottages, Gaby's Café is a perfect weekend gateway.



*A view of Tengnoupal*



### Melting pot called "Moreh"

We reached Moreh College at 9.30 am. Moreh College, established in 1992 became a full-fledged Government college after a Cabinet meeting held on 21 August 2019 with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in the chair.

We went to meet Dr L. S. Lunzapau Vaiphei, Principal Moreh College, Moreh to discuss the feasibility of conducting a 15 days short term course on "Impact of Social Media" in Moreh.

Dr Lunzapau said such a course is very much needed in Moreh Town which is like a melting pot of different cultures and ethnicities. The residents of Moreh include Meiteis, Kukis, Meitei Pangals, Tamils, Punjabis, etc. who are mostly traders of different capacities living in a quaint confluence of cultures.

### Detour to Namphalong and Tamu

While there, we didn't miss the opportunity to make a short 3-hour detour to market towns of Namphalong and Tamu in Myanmar's Sagaing region. As soon as we finished our official business, we immediately headed to the check post of Namphalong. A day pass lets an Indian citizen explore the two market towns on the Myanmar side, which is home to many Nepali and Indian Diasporas.

These passes come with time restrictions, with check posts opening at 7 am every morning and closing by 4 pm, IST. Without wasting much time, our team of four hired a local auto-rickshaw (tuk-tuk) for Rs 500 for 2 hours to sightsee around Tamu. At break-neck speed, we did a round of various tourist hotspots solely relying on our affable Myanmar auto driver, whom we communicated with a mix of sign language and Meiteilon. Much was lost in translation, as we couldn't figure out the name of the street or monuments and only took in the splendour of Buddhist architectures located on the outskirts. Another tourist spot that we visited is Thoibi Pat (Thoibi Lake), of particular importance to Manipur as according to legend princess Thoibi of Moirang (Manipur) once took refuge there.

### Shop till you drop

*Moreh Town is an exclusively commercial town where formal and informal international trading is carried on between India and Myanmar through the markets at Moreh in India and at Namphalong on the Burmese side.*



After returning back from sightseeing at Tamu, we had a quick lunch at Namphalong Bazaar. Lured by dirt-cheap bargain, which comprises of things from durable goods, consumer goods to food items, we happily set forward to shop to our heart's content. At 2.30 pm, after wrapping up our shopping, we left Moreh, to queue up with all the passenger and private vehicles laden with goods to the nearest check post to go home.

Moreh Town is an exclusively commercial town where formal and informal international trading is carried on between India and Myanmar through the markets at Moreh in India and at Namphalong on the Burmese side.

Major export items include Indian goods like textiles, cotton yarn, cycle parts, engineering goods, lifesaving drugs, chemicals, and allied products while items imported from Myanmar include forest and agricultural produce like timber, betel nuts, turmeric, resin, dry ginger, etc. Scores of Moreh-bound vehicles packed with businessmen and small-time traders ply every day on the highway for a profitable venture.

Moreh handles 99% of formal overland trade between India and Myanmar. The volume of trade at Moreh-Tamu Border Point has been increasing year after year. The opening of the Border Trade along the Tamu (Myanmar)-Moreh (Manipur) sector is quite significant as this would act as an economic bridge between industrially developed India and the booming economies of Southeast Asian countries. Moreh, today called India's Gateway to South-East Asia, has immense potential of becoming a prominent and huge commercial hub.



#### STATE INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM, DIPR INAUGURATES SHORT TERM COURSE AT MOREH COLLEGE.

*The State Institute of Journalism, DIPR inaugurated the 15 days short term course on "Impact of Social Media" at Moreh College, Moreh town Tengnoupal district on 4th November, 2019.*

*The function was attended by Smt. Ng Bimola Devi, Upa Adakshya, Imphal West as the Chief Guest, Dr. L.S. Lunzapau Vaiphei, Principal Moreh College, Moreh as the Guest of Honour and Smt. Seema Sanjenbam, PRO and Course Coordinator, DIPR, as the president.*

*Dr. L.S. Lunzapau Vaiphei stated that "Border areas should be protected by education". He strongly urged the students to screen social media messages so that unnecessary misunderstandings are lessened in a cultural and religious melting point like Moreh. Smt. Ng Bimola Devi stressed on judicious use of social media.*



# VICTOR REST FARM

(A recreational Park and Homestay)

Shokholen Haokip  
Reporter, DIO Churachandpur

*Tourist Attractions in  
Churachandpur District:*

- *Khuga Dam*
- *Ngalloi Waterfall*
- *Tipaimukh*
- *Tonglon Cave*
- *Tribal Museum*

If you are looking for a destination to spend your holidays with family or any other recreational purposes, then your right place could be Victor Rest Farm, located at Muolvaphei, Churachandpur is just 1.8km away from Churachandpur Police Station (Zero point) along Churachandpur-Sugnu Road. Away from the hustle-bustle of city life, the Rest Farm is an added tourist spot of Churachandpur that truly compliments with its natural beauty, scenic delight, and cultural diversity.

“Having a Rest Farm to lose into nature was the dream of our father, Late Pu T. Pumkhokam Simte for more than a decade who expired on 07 November 2018 for the heavenly abode,” recalled the Proprietor Ms. Khaningla Simte. Conceptualized since 2013 under the patronage of Late Shri T. Pumkhokam Simte, Retired EE/PHED who was also the main architect, the development work for Victor Rest Farm initiated as a family venture, which continues till today. The Victor Rest Farm was finally inaugurated on 17th May



2019 by Shri T. Paukhanlian, Hon'ble Chairman, ADC Churachandpur. However, the up-gradation continues unabated in many ways, mainly from the resources generated within the Farm. Accordingly, Swimming Pool and Indoor Park were later added from such resources and were launched on 14th August 2019 and 20th October 2019 respectively.

It is worthwhile to mention that Muolvaphei Village won the award for Best Performing Village on Developmental Work on 15th August 2010 and 1st Prize in Village-wise Cleanliness Competition under Swachhata Hi Seva – 2019. Established in 1933 by Shri Lalkhenkhum Damgawn, Muolvaphei Village has 723 households and 4338 inhabitants (2150 males and 2188 females) at present. The village provides space for many institutes/NGOs, amongst which commendable mentions may be made for Muolvaphei Rural Health and Research Centre, Bethesda College of Nursing, Bethesda School of Nursing,

Swadhar, Shalom Community Care Centre, Integrated 50 Bedded Ayush Hospital (to be inaugurated shortly), Nehemiah Prayer Mountain, Destitute Children's' Home, Motherless Babies Home, Carmel Vernon Higher Sec School, Gilgal Children Home, Upgraded Primary School etc.

#### **Amenities & Utilities:**

The picturesque Victor Rest Farm – located on the bank of Khuga (Tuitha) river in the eastern side and Sugnu road on the western side, spread within an acre of land - is nature-friendly and is away from the hustle and bustle of town life. The fully grown eucalyptus trees all around, gul-mohar, ficus, etc. provide shades and newly planted ornamental plants like pencil pine trees, parkia, G-9 variety Banana trees, Mangolds, Hibiscus, etc. beautify the premises. The wide usage of local timber and bamboo at the farm makes the architecture wholesome and a traditional blend in the designs.



### Guest Houses:

The farm has two guest houses viz Victor's Inn and Michelle's Inn which has four single bedrooms and two double bedrooms. Some have sitting areas and/or balconies. Room service is available 24x7. The guest houses have warmly decorated rooms that offer high-speed Internet access, fitted with LCD TVs, cupboards, sofas, room coolers and heaters, modern lightings, intercoms, etc with attractive interior design. It also has a European style bathroom attached in every room. Basic complimentary utility kits and breakfast are also provided to the guests.

### Meeting and Party Halls:

The well-furnished Conference Hall with a modern outlook can accommodate a maximum of fifty people. The hiring package includes chairs/tables, sound systems, projector, etc. Another Hall christened as Lenlai Hall, also having the same capacity is available for the public on hire.

### Swimming Pool:

A swimming pool of 25x45 ft. size was launched on 14th August 2019. It is located on the northern end of the farm area with enclosure all around and fitted with a decorative lighting system, separate hygienic shower areas and uninals for both male and female. A proper dressing room and multiple cupboards for safe storage of belongings for the visitors are readily available. It is the one favourite spot for both kids and adults. Complimentary swim shirts and pants, life vests, lifebuoys, towels, and soaps, etc. are kept readily available in abundance. Visitors are allotted in an hourly shift. Booking facilities



are also available for interested groups and families.

### Indoor Park and Hall:

The old poly-house has been modified into an indoor park and was opened to the public/visitors recently on 20th October 2019 by the Chief/Chairman of Muolvaphei Village, Shi Lalzarlien Damgawn. The hall has park area with swings, monkey bar, air walker, etc. for the kids to have fun, and sizable open lawn (carpet grass) for recreational activities of the visitors. The indoor park/hall is also given out on hire for meetings, and functions, etc. It can accommodate around 200 persons.

### Shop and Restaurant/Cafeteria facilities:

To cater to the basic needs and requirements of the visitors, a duly registered variety shop under the ADCC viz Lenlai Enterprises has been set up within the premises. Also, a mini Cafeteria with three cabins and a restaurant counter is open to the visitors to meet the demands of the visitors which provide fast food items,

various types of juices/shakes, etc. Lunch/Dinner facilities are also available.

### Animal and Vegetable farm:

With the conversion of the farm into a full-activity park, animal and vegetable farm areas are gradually compromised. However, the farm still hosts a pigsty, chicken coop, duckery, turkey shed and mushroom unit on the south-eastern corner of the farm.

### Cleanliness and Waste Management:

Victor Rest Farm is committed to health and hygiene through cleanliness and sanitation of all areas at all times. Dustbins and Spittoons are placed at strategic locations in the Farm area. The Restaurant and Cafeteria have duly obtained necessary license under the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI). The farm also subscribed to the Solid Waste Management Programme (SWMP) under the ADCC for its Waste Management and disposals.

The farm has already become a favourite spot for all sections of



people within the district and beyond mainly for a recreational purpose and outing. Often, the Farm witnesses visitors from the State Capital Imphal, other districts and neighbouring State of Mizoram etc. The in-house guests mainly are from mainland India and North-eastern States. On average, the farm has a record of 15-20 thousand visitors per month. Started with a handful of working staff, it has now grown up to around 20. Apart from providing opportunity to the unemployed youths, it has provided space for local businesses to speed up especially for the residents of Muolvaphei Village. The farm has created a livelihood for the residents by way of opening small shops, hotels etc in the vicinity. Without the support of the local residents, Village Authority, well-wishers and visitors the farm would not have been a success, the Proprietor acknowledged.



# LOKTAK FOLKLORE MUSEUM

A museum dedicated to the fishing community of Loktak Lake



Tongbram Amarjit  
 Founder, Loktak Folklore Museum

*Tongbram Amarjit, the founder of Loktak Folklore Museum, is also a poet. He has published an anthology of poems entitled "Labukhezi Manam" literally meaning "The Aroma of the Paddy Fields".*

Museums are often described as the soul of a nation and the backbone of human society. The priceless artifacts preserved in the museums tell the annals of human civilization. It exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity for the purpose of education and information. The erstwhile kingdom of Moirang and Loktak Lake is considered to be the cultural hub of Manipur. With the rapid pace in development and advancement of human society, things of the past have now become insignificant and seem to have lost the value it carries especially among

the present generation. Sometimes it becomes an uphill task to trace the history of some rare artefacts which are very much related to our material culture. And we have lost many such priceless artefacts due to our negligence and ignorance. The rare exhibits in the Loktak Folklore Museum which are much related to the ethnography of the fishing community are retelling the annals of this particular island village of Thanga in Loktak Lake of Manipur. Loktak Folklore Museum was established on 16th October 2016 with the sole objective of preserving





the folk art and crafts, fishing tools and equipment and also focus on conserving traditional medicines, rare fauna, and flora of the rich biodiversity of Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake of North East India. With the active support of my father Tongbram Ahongjao and my siblings, the Museum was established at Thanga Tongbram Lekai, Bishnupur District, Manipur. It is one of its kind in the locality, and a private collection in Thanga which has some rare specimens related with the life and history of Thanga and Loktak. It is my firm belief that museums should be considered as an important part of our maternal culture because it is the place where things of great significance related to our forebears are kept and preserved. The museum, though in its nascent stage, hopes to open an art gallery particularly focused on the myths and legends of Loktak Lake, Thanga and Moirang. Further, it hopes to bring back the glorious civilisation of Loktak, Thanga, and Moirang.

Ever since its establishment, many domestic and foreign tourists have been visiting the museum and it is encouraging to note that tourist footfall keeps on increasing. Loktak Folklore Museum serves as a storehouse of knowledge and information to the tourist and researchers who are attracted by the bewitching natural beauty of Loktak Lake. The rural setting, the clean and serene environment provided by the bountiful nature has created an alternative earning avenue to the fishing community by promoting rural tourism and ecotourism. In such surroundings, the presence of a folklore museum in the middle of Loktak Lake would certainly help in catering information of the natural history and maternal culture of the people and its traditions and customs of the region to the younger generation and enthusiastic visitors.



## Important Museums & Art Galleries in Manipur



There are several Museums and Art Galleries in the state preserving and displaying various relics, artifacts, manuscripts, etc. A few collections that are unusually impressive comprise of golden bird with canopy and gold-plated human mask with skull. Almost all the objects in display here signify rich past of the state that forms a quintessential part of the history of Manipur.

### Manipur State Museum:

Positioned in the heart of the city, near the historic Mapal Kangiebung (Polo Ground), the Manipur State Museum is definitely the most well-known museum of the state. This Museum was inaugurated by the late Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi on 23rd September, 1969.

The museum houses a number of galleries displaying rich collections of historical relics, artifacts, war weapons, traditional costumes,

jewelry, tribal ornaments, indigenous agricultural and domestic tools, antique pieces, etc. A few collections that are unusually impressive comprise of golden bird with canopy and gold-plated human mask with skull. Almost all the objects in display here signify rich past of the state that forms a quintessential part of the history of Manipur.

### Kangla Museum:

Located inside the historic Kangla Fort, the Kangla Museum in the old Victorian Building in Manipur serves as a space highlighting the culture, myths, and legends of Manipur. It also serves as a bridge between cultures, especially when it comes to people from outside Manipur. After the British left, the Assam Rifles used it as a hospital, before finally turning it into Kangla Museum.

### INA Memorial Complex:

The Indian National Army (INA) War Museum is located at Moirang town, around 45 km from Imphal. This is the place where the Tri-colour Flag was ceremoniously hoisted for the first time on 14th April 1944. The INA Museum is the only official museum in Manipur dedicated to the Second World War. Its focus is primarily on the rise of the INA and on the role and activities of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in particular. Relics of war from across Manipur dating back to 1944, including letters, photographs, badges of ranks, arms and ammunition and other memorabilia and articles.

### Cultural Complex, Andro:

Cultural Complex, Andro is located at Andro village in the foothills of the Baruni Hill ranges, about 26 km from Imphal City.



Kangla Museum

It is one of the most interesting locations in Manipur and one of its kinds in the country. This cultural complex was established in November 1993 under the initiatives of noted museum curator, writer, numismatist, and anthropologist Mutua Bahadur.

This cultural complex houses various kinds of indigenous pottenes, folk instruments, old stone inscriptions and a doll-house with replicas of various tribes settled in the state. This museum, which is quite different from other conventional and concrete museums has thatched huts and houses built in accordance with the traditional style of architecture. The wooden carvings and the paintings on display a more insight into the cultural heritage as well as myths and legends of the people of Manipur.

### Tribal Museum & Research Centre:

Tribal Museum & Research Centre is a private tribal museum

located at Sagolband in Imphal, about 1 km from the heart of the city. The centre exhibits the unique and antique pieces of traditional ornaments and handicrafts made by the brilliant artisans of the tribes. Artisan workshops on various crafts are organized regularly in this centre.

### Manipur State Art Gallery:

Manipur State Art Gallery, Palace Compound, Imphal, showcases the skill and talent of the artists besides giving a platform to their expression through arts. Large numbers of art lovers visited the gallery to see the array of paintings, drawings, sculptures displayed. All award-winning artworks were among the display.

### RKCS Art Gallery:

Established as an art studio under the title of The RKCS, Chitralaya in 1947, RKCS Art Gallery was officially inaugurated as a full-fledged gallery on 5th May 2005. The gallery displays a number of historical paintings of the



J.N.V Memorial Complex, Moirang

late renowned artist, Rajkumar Chandrajitsana Singh popularly known as RKCS.

A born-artist with creativity genius, Rajkumar Chandrajitsana Singh popularly known as RKCS, a doyen among the local painters is known for his remarkable imaginative portrayal in his paintings that has been patronized by connoisseurs outside the state as well.

RKCS holds the national record for the largest exhibit by a single artist for his "Historical Paintings Exhibition at Imphal" in 1990, which was included in the LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS, 1994.





## TAMENGLONG DISTRICT

Discover your adventurous side

The diverse topography of Tamenglong—a mix of dense tropical forest, waterfalls, rolling hills, wild rivers, caves, lakes and valley makes it a choice destination for an adventurous trip.

Located along the western boundary of the state, Tamenglong District is a haven for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts. The region is home to a variety of exotic orchids, dense untouched forests and rich wildlife amid the thick forests.

Tamenglong is also called the land of hornbills, where species of hornbill like the Great-pied hornbill, swan hornbill and Indian pied hornbill are found. Migratory birds like Amur Falcon and others visit this region

every year in huge numbers, probably in millions. Various species of bamboo are also grown in plenty on the hills of this district. The hilltops and valley sites of the district are dotted with small hamlets which are inhabited by majority Zeliangrong community along with other ethnic groups.

A team of officials from Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Manipur comprising the author, Ibomacha Oinam, Assistant Video-Cameraman, Anthony Gangmei, Reporter, and Oinam Deepak, Photographer, traversed the length and breadth of the district for three days, from 9th-

*Ibomacha Oinam,  
Assistant Video-Cameraman*

*A Three Days adventure trip to Piuluang/ Bunning, Farmland (Khou-pong-lang) Waterfall Cave and Chiuluan Village in Tamenglong District, Manipur.*

11th October, 2019. We reached Tamenglong Town, after a six hour drive covering 160 km from capital Imphal on 9th October. The team opted for a home-stay accommodation to have a better cultural exchange and experience authentic life of the region.

### Piuluang /Bunning Meadow

On the second day, 10th October, we started out around 06.00 a.m. after partaking of a sumptuous breakfast provided by our gracious host. The adventurous trip was guided by the locals of the village. The first place visited by the team was Piuluang/Bunning village which is under Tamei Sub-division. It is located at 30 km from main town and has a population of around 450 comprising of 57 households. The main characteristic of this village is its beautiful valley. The Piuluang/Bunning Meadow is marked by a number of well-groomed uneven small mounds as well as numerous streams. According to our local guide, the scenic valley is a virgin landscape that has not experience much human intervention so far.

The valley locally known as Piuluang, has the potential to be a tourist spot for adventure lovers who want to explore the wildness of nature. A trek through this picture-perfect valley is a lifetime experience that can be treasured.

A must visit while you are in the area is Bunning Wildlife Sanctuary, a proposed protected area located at an elevation of



## MANIPUR TODAY

786m above sea level. Part of the Barail Range, the Sanctuary is a delight for nature lovers as different wildlife like Hornbill, Black Monkey and rare flora including ground orchids and lilies (which blooms in early summer) and medicinal plants found in the wild here.

Another must see is the waterfalls that meets at the Agaki river, that starts from the Bunning Valley. The sight of the three waterfalls, collectively called the 'Agaki Waterfalls', that falls side-by-side, from one peak is worth experiencing. It is indeed nature's marvelous creation on earth.

If one is willing, like we did, to rough up in the harsh terrain which lacked all-weather roads, the warm hospitality from the locals, made it an adventure of a lifetime.



### Chiuluan Village

On 11th October, 2019, we started in early morning for Chiuluan village which is located in the Tamenglong Town itself. A must see in the village is a citadel/fort, a historic site that has ruins of the frontier walls that were meant for defending the village from outside invasion or attacks. It has rock fencings which is locally called Rangaeng/Raenggan (border walls). It is believed that the origin of the Chiuluan village dates back to the 650 AD, making it a place that needs to be conserved as an important archeological site of Manipur to understand early human settlers in the state.

### Farmland Cave and Waterfall

Last on our itinerary was to visit the Farmland cave and waterfall, popularly known as Khou-pang-lang

The local meaning of Khou-pang-lang is 'surprise cliff' (Khou-cliff and pang-lang-surprise). It is approximately, 100ft high and the uniqueness of this waterfall is that there are caves behind the waterfalls at the cliffs. The view of the cave veiled by the waterfall is a marvelous experience that will last for a lifetime.



**“WAR TOURISM IN MANIPUR”**  
AN IMPHAL CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION'S PERSPECTIVE



*‘What do you find when you get there’  
‘You’ll find a little Paradise on Earth’*  
E.M. Somerville

Joseph Longjam  
Translator, Manipuri

War has been a part and parcel of the human civilization. The first war in recorded history took place in Mesopotamia in 2700 BCE between Sumer and Elam. There must be no place on earth which had not suffered the brunt of war in one way or the other. The modern world, besides the many other wars had seen two Great wars which engulfed the whole world into its grip. It has been a tendency of the human race to preserve the remains of such conflicts, some to remind them of their victory, some their defeats but mostly in order to remind them of the terror and the destruction caused by such conflicts and to act as deterrence.

The then princely State of Manipur had its own share of conflicts, either the

victory over Ava in 1749 or the defeat of 1819-1826 (chahi taret khuntakpa). Or the Anglo Manipuri War of 1891. All conflicts have its effects varying only in degrees. Manipur also have been part of the second Great War. On 10th of May 1942, Manipur was thrown into the abyssal of the Great War. It was on this fateful day the people of Imphal valley witnessed the first bombing by the Japanese air force. Amid the deafening sounds of the sirens Japanese Air force Planes bombarded the Bazaar and the cantonment areas. According to the British records 84 Manipuri civilians were killed and as many were injured. Another one infamous incident of civilian casualty was the bombing of Khurai Chungangbam Leikai Mandop in 1943.

*The then princely State of Manipur had its own share of conflicts, either the victory over Ava in 1749 or the defeat of 1819-1826(chahi taret khuntakpa) or the Anglo Manipuri War of 1891.*

During the four month long battles fought between the Allied forces and the Japanese army, more than two lakhs army personnel from different countries roamed in and around the Imphal Valley. Around thirty thousand Japanese soldiers died in the battle field or due to disease or starvation and thousands more were injured where as the Allied forces' lost of life were estimated at sixteen (16) thousand.

Though the battles fought in and around Imphal and Kohima led to the ultimate on land victory of the Allied forces over the Japanese, it remains anonymous and almost forgotten that even some historian termed it as the Forgotten Army.

The 2nd World War Imphal Campaign Foundation a nonprofit and voluntary organization of young and dynamic, group of youths with Yunnan Rajeshwor Singh as the man researcher started doing research on these very important but much forgotten events that took place in their own back yard. With an aim to keep the history alive and find its different perspectives and also its prospects, potential and its relevance to today's Manipur.

The simple research activities of the organization took a major turn in the year 2014, on the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Imphal. With the declaration of the battles of Imphal and Kohima as the greatest battles ever fought by the British Empire, in a contest conducted by the British National Army Museum, in 2013 and 2014 being the 70th anniversary of the battle of Imphal.

2nd World War Imphal Campaign Foundation (ICF) organized the Commemoration of the 70th



*Reconciliation in Imphal. Kawamura Yasuhisa, Japanese minister chief of mission, Embassy of Japan with Dr Hugo Slim, grandson of General Slim.*

Anniversary of the "Battle of Imphal", in collaboration with Manipur tourism forum under the aegis of the department of tourism Government of Manipur. This event can be marked as the turning point or the beginning of War Tourism in the real sense in the history of Manipur. In this three months long commemoration, for the first time in Manipur, more than 200 foreign delegates and tourists converged in the Imphal valley to join the commemoration. It also saw the Embassy and high commissioners of various countries of the two warring groups sharing the same dais.

These events marked the initiation of Imphal Campaign Foundation's involvement in the Peace and Reconciliation amongst the once sworn enemies. Ever since, Imphal, through the different activities of Imphal Campaign Foundation have been one of the epicenters for the reconciliation process and have seen many occasions where people from the two sides not only share the dais but also

raising a toast of friendship.

On many occasions, Imphal also witnesses the Japanese official laying a wreath at the British war cemetery and official of the Allied countries offering floral tributes inside the Japanese Peace memorials in Imphal.

ICF has been working in collaboration with many local and international organizations and people on various issues related to research on events of WW II and its relevance in today's Manipur.

Few Achievements of ICF worth mentioning is the identification of all the five different battle sites where five Victoria Cross (Equivalent to Param Vir Chakra) were awarded. One of them is the Runaway Hill, a very important battle site where Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, the first Indian Muslim who was awarded Victoria Cross fought his famous battle. Others are the Water pickets, Mortar buff and Ningthoukhong. Amongst the many battle and related sites identified by the organization, two sites stand out, first the





Members of ICF after indemnification and excavation of Runaway hill

Harva Khangai where the first battle on Indian soil was fought. Second one is the identification of the crash site of General Orde Wingate's plane near Thiulon in Tamenglong district.

Imphal War Museum is one more initiative of Imphal Campaign Foundation (ICF). It was inaugurated by Christopher Johnson, a British war historian and son of a Kanglatingbi war veteran, who is also a patron of ICF. Since its establishment in 2014, this museum has been a major attraction for the war tourists, war historians, students and research scholars etc.

Imphal Campaign Foundation's Activities includes excavation of various battlefields as part of their research. Some important sites excavated by ICF includes battle sites of Nungshigum, Motbung, Kameng hills, Old Silchar track, Lamaton, Lamdang, Machi, Pallel, Runaway Hill, Pidonu, Lamlai, Torbung, Tengnoupal, The Keep at Heingang, Red Hill, Picket at Kanglatingbi and the most importantly the battle site of Mittong Khunou where INA

fought a fierce battle against the British etc. It may be mentioned that all the items recovered during these excavations are being displayed at the Imphal War Museum.

Imphal Campaign Talks is another initiative of the ICF. It was initiated to provide a much needed platform to create awareness about the various issues and prospects particularly about the various incidents related to the Second World War in relation to Manipur. It is not limited to 2nd World War but also subject to issues related to the present scenario of Manipur. One of the main objectives of this talks is to bring community engagement program and to build up different perspective of the battle fought around Imphal. And also tries to identify potentials in the State in terms of bringing a world market which is very much viable with the ever changing geo-political dynamics.

Till now the ICF has conducted series of talks. Some of the episodes are worth mentioning War Tourism potentials in the

state was one of the topics. It was an eye opening for the audience as it explores many avenues for further research and expanding of tourism industries in the state.

War Stories and Medium of Cinema was the deliberation of the third edition. Award winning Japanese actor and film maker Junichi Kajokita and Bollywood actor producer Sanjeev Virmani and many famous film personalities of the state took part in the deliberation.

Another episode worth mentioning was on the theme 'Peace and Reconciliation, Meeting of the minds designing the forward', where Okuyama Kenichi, Ex-Deputy Mayor of Shonai town, Japan, Terence O'Hallaron, curator of 31st Squadron Royal Air Force, Christopher Johnson, war historian, Akiko Macdonald, Chairperson Burma Campaign Society, London deliberated on the topic and many foreign and local delegates participated.

The list of the activities of ICF which plays a pivotal role in promotion of War Tourism in Manipur is so vast that it's not possible to fit in few pages but the about are few of the highlights of its activities.

War Tourism as an industry is in its nascent state in Manipur. The momentum to boost battlefield tourism has already started but it is a long and hard way ahead. There are a few things we need to take care of. First of all, we need to create awareness to the people of Manipur of these events and its importance. Secondly, to take steps to preserve these battlefield sites, its Bunkers, trenches, dig outs and all the other things related to the war.



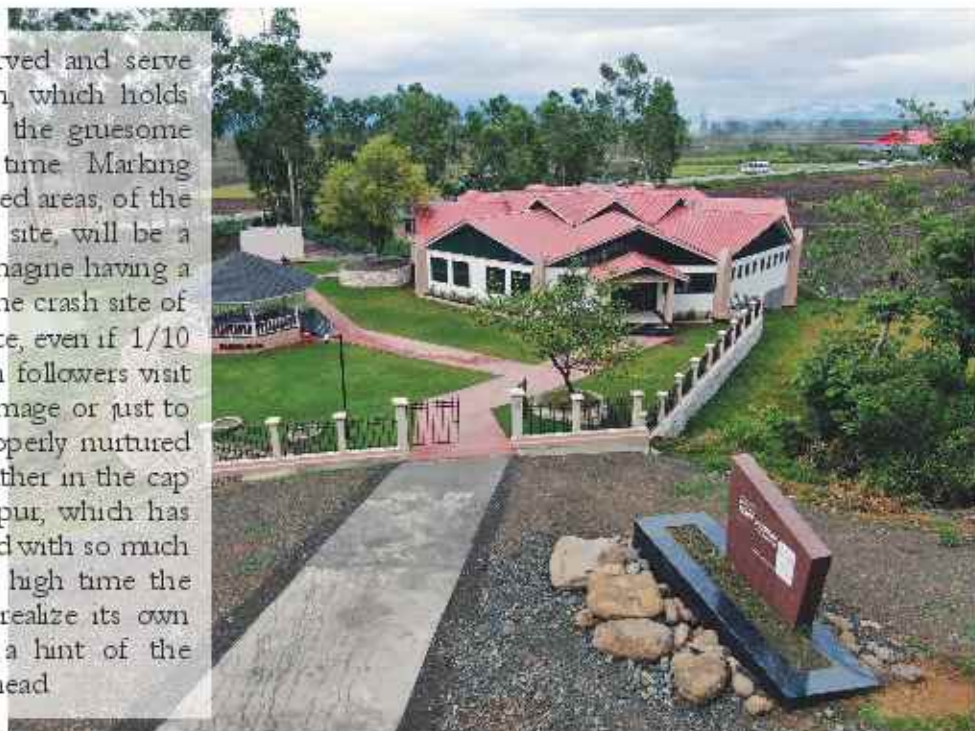
## IMPHAL PEACE MUSEUM, NAMBOL

### *Trace World War II History Here*

Imphal Peace Museum located at Maibam Lotpa Ching, Nambol 20 kms southwest of Imphal, the capital of the Manipur was opened on 22 nd June 2019. It is a 6,500 sq ft gallery which houses WWII archaeological finds. This thematic museum which consists of three sections gives a glimpse into the past right from World War II (March-July 1944) to the present Manipur. The first section displays a timeline of the Battle of Imphal, along with names of casualties in the war. It also features names of the local people of Manipur who joined the Indian National Army. Relics and Artifacts of the war such as artillery shells and other items, valuable personal notes, photographs, besides a map of the battle of Imphal, etc. forms an important part of the display. The second section depicts the post-war scenarios in Manipur highlighting the impact of war and the recovery process. Displays such as antique television sets, photographs, cameras, etc. are part of this section highlighting the entry of the modern era into Manipur as a consequence of the Second World War. The third section displays the arts and cultural life of Manipur through photographs, audio-visual features, and still models. The middle part of the building is kept as a large hall to accommodate possible program and special museum displays to be curated in the future.

Along the wall of this large hall are pictures of people from different communities in the state in their native dress. A framed calligraphy by the Prime Minister Abe Shinzo of Japan with the word 'Peace' or 'Heiwa' in Japanese which is an unflinching hope for a peaceful future is also the main attraction of the museum. This museum built adjacent to India Peace Memorial, Maibam Lotpa Ching was constructed with the funding from Nippon Foundation, Japan and was also awarded India's Best Design Award 2019 in September 2019. India's Best Design Award is first ever Global Design award from India, hosted by Indian POOL.

These can be preserved and serve as a Living Museum, which holds as the testimony of the gruesome conditions of that time. Marking and making it protected areas, of the important battlefield site, will be a good way to start. Imagine having a proper memorial at the crash site of General Orde Wingate, even if 1/10 of his more a million followers visit every year to pay homage or just to see the place. If properly nurtured it can be another feather in the cap for tourism in Manipur, which has already been endowed with so much natural beauties. It's high time the people of Manipur realize its own potentials and take a hint of the opportunities lying ahead.



# NAMASTE INDIA FESTIVAL IN JAPAN



On the invitation of Mr Tokio Hasegawa, Representative of NPO Society to Promote Indo-Japan Cultural Relations, Niigata, Japan and Director, Mithila Museum, Tokamachi, Niigata, a 15 member Manipuri Cultural Team led by Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh, the Hon'ble Minister (Art & Culture), Government of Manipur had travelled to different cities (Prefecture) of Japan to participate at the Namaste India, an annual event held with an aim to promote and showcase rich cultural heritage of India in Japan. This year the event was held at Yoyogi Park, Tokyo on 28th – 29th September 2019 and at Kariya City on 6th October 2019, and focused on Manipur.

Shri Bobby Waikhom, Commissioner (Art & Culture), Government of

Manipur flagged off the cultural team on 25th September 2019 at Government Dance College and the team left Imphal Airport by Indigo Airlines in the afternoon for Kolkata and then to Narita Airport (Tokyo) via Bangkok by Thai Airways.

The cultural team comprised Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister (Art & Culture), Shri A. Shivadas Sharma, MCS, Director (Art & Culture), Shri G. Dharmadas Sharma, Deputy Director (Programme), and the performing team of Government Dance College comprising Shri G. Loken Sharma, Senior Lecturer (Pung), Shri L. Brajakumar Singh, Senior Lecturer (Flute) with the students - Shri L. Somorjit Singh, Shri E. Somorjit Singh, Shri Sh. Abung Sharma, Shri Bikash Mutum, Smt O.

A Shivadas Sharma, MCS  
Director (Art & Culture)  
Government of Manipur

*This year the event was held at Yoyogi Park, Tokyo on 28th – 29th September 2019 and at Kariya City on 6th October 2019, and focused on Manipur.*



Anjella Devi, Ms H Indu Devi, Ms L. Bandana Devi, Ms Sonia Angom, Ms N. Jasika, and Smt Binapani Devi Kongbrailatpam as Coordinator

Shri L. Jayantakumar Singh graced the main event of NAMASTE INDIA at Yoyogi Park, Tokyo on 28th September 2019 as the Special Guest. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Ambassador of India in Japan was also present in the event.

The students and teachers of Government Dance College presented a glimpse of Kanglei Haraoba rituals, Thougaj Jagoi, Kabui Jagoi, Thang-Ta, Pung Cholom, Vasant Raas, Manipur Seitha Eshei (Folk based composition), Pung & Flute Duet, Nata Eshei etc. The performances received wide acclamation from many art lovers and thousands of audiences.

Performances were held at Yoyogi Park, Tokyo on 28-29 September, Echigo Tuman Cultural Hall, Niigata on 2nd October, Niigata Shimin Plaza on 3rd October, Sanjo Betsium Temple, Niigata on 4th October, at Tokyo for Durga Puja on 5th October, Kanya City on 6th October, Ryukoku University Avanti Kyoto

Hall organized by Consul General of India on 7th October, Nakasato Public Hall, Tsuruga City on 9th October and at Jato Harmony Hall, Higashiosaka City Cultural Creation Hall, Osaka organized by Consul General of India on 10th October 2019.

On 26th September, the team was received by Mr Tokio Hasegawa himself at the airport and was taken to the specially arranged microbus loaded with daily necessities like water and tissue papers and other materials such as sleeping bags, cookwares, and groceries, heading for Kuonji temple accommodation, Gunma Ken which was about 2 hours drive from Nanta Airport. The team stayed at the Kuonji temple for the first 6 nights.

Mr Sanjay Kumar, His Excellency, the Ambassador of India to Japan hosted a dinner in honour of the Manipuri cultural team led by Hon'ble Minister (Culture) on 1st October at his residence in Tokyo. During the dinner, Hon'ble Minister and Director (Art & Culture) had valuable discussions with the Ambassador about exploring some projects that can be jointly taken up with Japan. The same day in the morning, Mr Hasegawa took us to Tokyo Sky Tree (a tower about 500 metres height from ground level) from where the whole city of Tokyo is visible. Seeing it from a height of about 400 metres was a moment of thrilling and excitement. Then we were taken to Salt & Tobacco Museum in Tokyo.

On 2nd October, the team left Gunma Ken for Niigata Prefecture where accommodation was made at Kiyotayama lodge in Tokamachi in a hilltop. Our team dispersed in five small huts but each having all facilities of attached bathroom, kitchen and

drawing room in Japanese traditional style. On 5th October, we shifted to Suhara Lodge in Kanya City till 10th October except one night at Tsuruga city on 9th October.

After the last performance at Osaka on 10th October, the team left Japan from Nagoya International Airport for Kolkata via Bangkok, and our team reached Imphal on 12th October 2019 by Indigo Airlines.

Unlike other foreign tours made by this Department in the past where artistes are put up in a metropolitan hotel with ready to eat food, a very interesting experience in this Japan tour was that we were housed in a country-side lodge, hut, temple etc, all far from noise of city life, to mingle with nature and its beauty. We had cooked our meals ourselves, bought vegetables and other eatables from the market ourselves, prepared breakfast, lunch, dinner and cleaned the used stuff ourselves. In one sense, it was a very homely atmosphere. Yet, sometimes long-distance travel for about 3 / 4 hours on the day of performance from place of stay to venue made the artistes tired and exhausted. Had the place of accommodation and venue of performance been closer, our artistes might have got sufficient time for recreation and rest. Amid all, we were taken to Golden Temple in Nara City, Kyoto, Big Buddha Temple in Osaka, Sea Beach in Tsuruga etc. Despite all these, it was a memorable experience to bear in heart and soul of every member.

Japan, words fail to describe indeed, the uniformity and standard of lifestyle and the society are unique. The facility and setup were the same in every part of the country irrespective of distance



or remoteness. Super Highway / Expressway are connecting networks of the cities. Clean environment and technology keep the country apart from the other countries of the world. Cleanliness and maintenance is a unique culture of Japan that every tourist /visitor can bring back home as a lesson.

Our trip was a successful beginning of the effort made by the Department of Art & Culture to establish a long term cultural exchange with Japan.

The Department of Art & Culture expresses since gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chief Secretary & members of Bonafide Foreign Travel Committee, Finance Department, Government of Manipur and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for giving the opportunity and to everyone who extended valuable help to make the visit a grand success.



# WELCOMING GUESTS FROM SIBERIA



Tenshubam Ranita  
Reporter, DIPR

Once again, Amur Falcons have arrived in the State to roost and to captivate the imaginations of the people and wildlife enthusiasts and experts alike. Last year, the falcons had mesmerised everyone with their epic journey to the countries of African continent, astonishing everyone with their marathon flight.

The Amur Falcons migrating from Siberia, which is locally known as 'Akhuaipuina' roost in the Tamenglong district for a month and feed on the termites that are found abundantly in the

district. To welcome the migratory birds, steps were taken in advance this time as last year. A series of awareness campaigns were held by the Tamenglong Forest Division and Rainforest Club in every village of the district and an order was issued to deposit airguns by the Tamenglong Deputy Commissioner.

To tag the satellite radio transmitter on the Amur Falcons, a team of Tamenglong Forest Division and experts from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun was camping in Puchung village in the district

since 21st October 2019. This time, the WII team comprised experts from India alone.

After several attempts with canopy mistnet on 30th October 2019, the team caught three birds, out of which two were fit for GPS radio satellite transmitter tagging. On the next day, on 31st October 2019, two of the fittest birds were tagged with GPS transmitters and released in the early morning at the Puchung village in presence of the team of Tamenglong Forest Division, experts of WII and Puchung Village Authority.



The two Amur Falcon birds are named 'Puching', weighing 195 grams and 'Irang', weighing 155 grams. Puching, previously known as Khebuching is the village where Amur Falcon named 'Manipur' was shot dead last year by some miscreants. Irang, is the river which flows near the Puding village. It is a historic moment for the Puching village, as once upon a time famous as the hunting ground of the birds has been transformed into the dancing ground for the conservation of the Amur Falcons.

On 31st October 2019, the team captured another 21 Amur Falcons using the canopy mist net so that another three birds can be tagged with GPS transmitters. On the next day on 1st November 2019, three birds named 'Barak'

- weighing 185 grams, 'Phalong' - weighing 170 grams and 'Chuilon' - weighing 150 grams were released after tagging with the GPS transmitters.

'Chuilon', started its migration journey to Africa on 12th November 2019 making a first pit stop in Tapura, covering a distance of 1200 km. The location was traced 20 km off the coast of Chilika lagoon in Odisha. As per the data received on 17th November 2019, 'Chuilon' then left the western coast of India along the Goa-Karnataka border covering 750 km over the Arabian Sea and it was flying non-stop covering a distance of 3,000 km. The route taken by the bird is similar to the other falcons tracked previously. Meanwhile, other birds are still in Manipur

and have been transmitting data.

Last year, two Amur Falcons - 'Tamenglong' and 'Manipur' were satellite radio tagged on November 4, 2018, but 'Manipur' was hunted four days later in Keibuching area. 'Tamenglong' starting its journey on November 9, reached Somalia after a non-stop flight of five days covering 5,700 km. Unfortunately, the contact with the falcon was lost in Zambia on December 14, 2018.

The Amur Falcons arrive in large numbers during October in Manipur and Nagaland besides few places in the North-East states of India. They leave the region after having enough stock/food for their non-stop marathon flight to Africa.



### Expert team of WII:

Dr. Suresh Kumar led a four-member team in radio tagging the Amur Falcon for the second year in Tamenglong district, Manipur. The team members Manish Manick, WII alumni, freelance photographer, Rajaram Vasunderan, WII alumni, Amarjeet Kaur, PhD student, and Alex Jacob, research student accompanied the scientist this time.

Interacting with the DIPR reporter, Dr. Suresh Kumar said he was praying that the birds keep on giving data and the programme is a huge success. He said Amur falcons can surprise quite a bit which are on southbound migration to Africa. On their migration journey, the birds will fly through Gujarat, cross the states of Maharashtra/Goa, make the oceanic crossing of the Arabian Sea on the journey which lasts more than 5 days. Once they reach Somalia then the flight is gradual, he added.

He informed that as a preparatory exercise, the Tamenglong Forest Dept and Rainforest Club were involved in a lot of awareness campaigns before their arrival in the district. The team joined them in sensitisation programmes in the Chuilon and Puching village, meeting the village headman, elders, and the local people.

Stating that it is heartening to know that now the villagers are looking at the conservation effort of Amur Falcons in a different way unlike what they were seen before, he said the

villagers are almost looking at the conservation of the birds like the way the biologists or scientist are looking at the bird.

He said the people are very sincere about what they are saying which is something which is unimaginable thing happening in Tamenglong district. He said he sometimes wonder how it is possible that how people who were once hunting these birds are taking conservation so seriously. This is something which does not happen normally, he wondered.

Stating that he also witnessed the people submitting their airguns to the authority after an order issued by the DC as preparation for Amur Falcon season, he said a lot of positive efforts have been put by all the stakeholders. He said the events in the district have paved a way for long term conservation of Amur Falcons in the State.

### 5th Amur Falcon Festival:

Forest and Environment Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar kicked off the 5th edition of the Amur Falcon festival at the Unity Stadium in Tamenglong district were held on 4th November 2019. The festival was organised under the aegis of Tamenglong Forest Division, the Rainforest Club Tamenglong, and Tamenglong Baptist Church amidst fanfare.

Minister Shyamkumar lauded the villagers for their support in the conservation of the Amur Falcons and said the bird has put the Tamenglong district on the global map. The Forest department is sending a proposal to the Centre

to seek around Rs 30 crore as financial assistance so that the fund can be utilised for various developmental programmes in hill districts, he said.

Various cultural items enthralled the audience of the festival. The dances presented by Puching dance troupe, Khoupiliuang dance troupe and Chabagan dance troupe left the audience spellbound with their dance presentation.

### Need for Hornbill

#### Conservation:

Forest and Environment Minister Th. Shyamkumar assured the people of Tamenglong that he will consult with the Hon'ble Chief Minister N. Biren Singh regarding the conservation of the hornbill bird.

He made the assurance after Armstrong Pame, DC, Tamenglong pointed out that the hornbill bird is found in the Raengkikilong village, under Tousem subdivision, Tamenglong district. Armstrong in his speech during the 5th Amur Falcon festival appealed to the Minister that the State should start the conservation of the bird.

Armstrong Pame also announced that 500 hectares of land have been declared as community forest in the Tamenglong district and other villages have been convinced to come forward together for setting up more community villages.



# KNOW YOUR STATE

## Helicopter Ride for School Children

*Th. Kirankumar  
Director, Education (Schools) and SPD,  
Manipur*



It is always a child's dream to be on air and explore from above. Not every child fulfills this dream and this is more of a truth for students studying in Government Schools. Manipur is not an exception. The idea of flying in a Helicopter and exploring the State in a unique way is coupled with the objective of allowing children to understand the state in a better way by way of organizing a competition called "Know Your State".

At the moment the initiative covers students of Government Schools studying in Classes 4 - 8. Zone wise competitions were held on the broad theme 'KNOW YOUR STATE' in all the 17

(Seventeen) Educational Zones. Competitions were held to help students explore and understand the State better by way of quiz or extempore speech or storytelling of other communities, etc.

The aim of the "Helicopter Ride" is to provide a rare opportunity to the students of Government Schools under the Department of Education (Schools), Manipur to explore and understand the beautiful landscape and landmarks of the State in a unique way. This unique ride will indeed motivate our young students to work harder and dream big.

The competitions were based on matters related to Manipur only and were conducted in two

categories as given hereunder:

- Classes IV-V : Three best students (at least minimum of one student from each Class) for each educational zone/district
- Classes VI-VIII: Six best students (at least minimum of 1 student from each Class) for each educational zone/district.

After the selection, the ZEOs recommended the list of students along with one Teacher Representative and one Zonal Representative. Altogether 156 students were recommended for the trip by the Zonal Education Officers.



As planned, the Helicopter ride commenced from 14th November 2019 to culminate with the Children's Day. The fortunate students from ZEO Zone I, Zone II & ZEO Wangoi along with the Teacher & Zonal Representatives had an audience with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur at exactly 11 am at the CM's office Bungalow where the Chief Minister took time out to share some precious moment with our students and officials in a befitting manner. A group photo session of the students and organisers with the Hon'ble CM at the green and lush lawns of the Bungalow marked a positive moment in the students' lives and it will usher in a lot of hope and positivity.

The Hon'ble Minister of Education, Shri Th Radheshyam Singh flagged off the students at the arrival lounge of Imphal International airport at 1 pm on 14th November along with the Department officers.

Each "Helicopter Ride" is of



25 minutes duration and it will provide a view of the majestic Loktak Lake and its surrounding areas and the urban concrete jungle of Imphal city.

Arrangements have been made for Children of Hill Districts and Jiribam for halting at the night at Imphal at Residential School, Unipok before taking the Helicopter ride on the following day.

The Department of Education (Schools) would also appreciate cooperation of Transport Department and Global Vectra, AAI, Home Department, DIPR and Media fraternity in addition to all the Officers of the Department for the successful conduct of the Programme for the first time in the State.

## CHILDREN SHOULD BE ACQUAINTED WITH THE BEAUTY OF NATURE FOR HARMONIOUS LIVING

*DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER*

**D**eputy Chief Minister Shri Yumnam Joykumar Singh has stressed the need to acquaint with the beauty of nature and its importance in human lives to children for a peaceful and harmonious human existence. He was speaking as Chief Guest at the State level Children's Day Celebration held at the auditorium of Tribal Research Institute at Chingmeirong in Imphal on 14th NOVEMBER, 2019.

Deputy Chief Minister said, the celebration of Children's Day to commemorate the birthday of late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, has a significant connotation which has to be rendered upon towards the society. He said, we all know that children are the assets of future, but we are not fully aware of how we are responsible not only to our own children but also to the children of our society. Every child is born free and they should equally be treated by giving access to their rights irrespective of their status. They should be made aware of the

importance of nature to human lives and the need to preserve it for a peaceful co-existence and harmonious living. He said, there have been many issues pertaining to children with disability, mentally retarded, orphans etc. in our society which has to be sorted out by giving proper attention from time to time. He said, special schemes and welfare measures for giving them good education, proper healthcare and other advantages in various sectors of social life should be introduced. Special care should be given to the children in Children Homes, Orphanage etc. by treating them with parenting zeal so that they can feel the joy of home too. He also wishes children in the state for bright and responsible citizens in future.

Social Welfare Minister Smt. Nemcha Kipgen said, Pandit Nehru's vision to nurture children by fulfilling their rights to education, healthcare etc. has to be delivered and it is in this direction that Department of Social Welfare has taken up many welfare schemes for children especially for marginalized,

differently abled, mentally retarded and orphans in the state. She said, there have been many cases of exploitation, harassment and sexual exploitation to even differently abled children in the state which needs special attention. She said, the problem of children drug abuse has become a challenge to deal with and she urged parents to take extra care and love so that it can be minimized to a larger extent. She also appealed to the children in the State to be obedient and loyal to their parents, teachers, and elders, punctual in life so that they can be successful and responsible citizens in their lives.

Shri L. Rameshor Singh, MLA also spoke on the importance of nurturing children for a better society in the future. Shri Banty Singh Konthoujam, Joint Director, Social Welfare, students from different schools and children homes, parents, teachers participated among others in the celebration.



## ENSURING INCLUSIVE & EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

*Th. Kirankumar, Director, Edn-S & SPD, Manipur  
Smt. Sachi Ch, Addl. Director, Education(S)  
Wanneilen Serto, FC, Samagra Shiksha*



Since the last one year, the Government has adopted an integrated approach in the implementation of the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for School Education Sector to overcome duplication of efforts and personnel towards implementing similar interventions and achieving similar objectives. Moreover, given the shift in the approach to development of school education from input-based to outcome-based central sector interventions, The Integrated Scheme on School Education envisages the 'school'

as a continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to Senior Secondary levels. The vision of the Scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education.

In light of the above, the erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and Teachers Education are now merged as Samagra Shiksha, State Implementation Society, Manipur.

Few of the prominent activities undertaken in the last one year under Samagra Shiksha, Manipur and Directorate of Education (Schools) are as follows:

### **Towards achieving "LEARNING OUTCOME"**

'Learning Outcomes' are statements that describe the knowledge or skills students should acquire by the end of a particular assignment, class, course, or program, and help students understand why that



knowledge and those skills will be useful to them. These outcomes can be used as checkpoints to assess learning at different points of time.

### Shaala Siddhi (School Standards and Evaluation):

Shaala Siddhi is a comprehensive instrument for school evaluation leading to school improvement. National Programme on School Standards and Evaluation (NPSSE) is an initiative that aims at evaluating each school as an institution and creating a culture of self-progression with accountability. The NPSSE visualizes 'School Evaluation' as the means and 'School Improvement' as

the goal. Over 1/3rd of the schools have been evaluated so far.

### State Achievement Survey (SAS) 2018-19

State Achievement Survey 2018-19 has been conducted in classes I to VIII of Government and Government Aided Schools including ADC schools on 5th December 2018. The SAS is conducted in 539 schools in all the districts of Manipur. It assesses the learning competencies of students with a view to provide feedback and bring improvement in their learning levels. The results will provide the educational health of the students



and will further help in structuring the education sector in the state.

### Students Exchange Programme- 2019

The Students Exchange Programme was organised under the aegis of exchanging students and visiting a different state to exchange ideas among students and teachers, to know the different cultures and traditions of another state, eating habit and cuisines of another state, the topography of the state and above all exchanging ideas in the classroom and interacting with teachers, getting to know the teaching methodology practised in another state.

Keeping this in mind Samagra Shiksha, Manipur, and Samagra Shiksha, Sikkim conducted students exchange programme for students of the secondary section. 50 girl students of Sikkim visited Manipur from 3rd -7th February 2019 and in return 50 students from Manipur visited Sikkim from 12th-18th March 2019.

### Development of Indigenous/ Low Cost Teaching Learning Materials (A State Initiative)

The Directorate of Education(S), Government of Manipur and Samagra Shiksha, Manipur jointly initiated a project for the development of Indigenous/Low-cost Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs) for the elementary classes to be introduced in the government schools of Manipur. TLMs came in many shapes and sizes, but they all have a common goal i.e., the ability to support student learning.





It makes lessons interesting and makes learning easy.

### Learning Outside Classrooms.

The Department has taken up the initiative of a global educational programme with support from Generation Global, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change with a view to preparing students in the age group of 12-17 years for a globalized world by way of student to student dialogue through videoconference. Since the inception of the collaboration sometime in December 2017, Schools viz. C.C. Higher Secondary School, Ibotonsana Girls Higher Secondary School, Ram Lal Paul Higher Secondary School have registered with Generation Global and students of these schools have successfully participated several dialogues with their counterparts from countries like UAE, Israel, Italy, Pakistan, etc. on topics ranging from Climate Change, global warming to Festivals & other topics of global importance.

The Country Coordinator of Generation gave very positive feedback on our students performance.

### Training of English Teachers by the British Council

The Department of Education (S), Manipur in collaboration with British Council Division, Kolkata & North Eastern Council, Shillong conducted a five days Training of 100 number of English Teachers serving under 17 educational zones of the Department during the period from 22nd-26th July, 2019 at Imphal. Out of these participants, 50 teachers have been selected as Master Trainers. A follow up training of these Master Trainers is on the cards with a view to boost the Master Trainer's knowledge and classroom practice. We are hopeful that it would definitely have a cascading effect and our students will benefit in a huge manner in the days to come.

### Amalgamation of Schools.

Recently the Department of Education (Schools) by an order amalgamated 237 Schools (176 in the valley and 61 in the Hills) to nearby schools with better infrastructure, connectivity, student enrollment, possibilities for growth and overall improvement in Schools and the Education sector. The decision of the Government is a welcome step.

### Activities of the Science Unit.

The XLI State Level Student's Science Seminar, 2019 on the topic 'Periodic Table of Chemical Elements: Impact on Human Welfare' was held at the Gandhi Memorial Hall on 11th September 2019. Altogether 16 participants representing 16 Zones participated in the Seminar. Km Naorem Sovinity Devi, a class X student of Padma Ratna English School, Kakching was adjudged the best performer. Km Naorem Sovinity Devi will represent Manipur State in the National Science Seminar, 2019 scheduled to be held on 6th November 2019 at the Regional Science Centre, Guwahati.

# MANIPUR COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS

## Safeguarding Child Rights in the State



*Smt. Sumatibala Ningthoujam  
Chairperson*

*Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights*

Crime against children may perhaps sound unviable, but as a matter of fact, it has become a major issue where the minds of intellectuals of the land need congregate and work it out together to combat the high rising rate of crimes against children. Despite the selfless efforts made by various organisations such as NGOs, CSOs etc, to uplift the status of children by providing various provisions such as care and protection, crimes against them seem to be increasing. India has a population of 1.21 Billion while children represent 39% of the total population. This figure

indicates the urgency to elevate their conditions, irrespective of caste or religion, and provide them with care and protection and bring them up to be good citizens, for they are the pillars of the future nation.

Accentuating on the principles of humanism and protection of child rights and recognizing the need for urgent intervention in all child-related policies of the country, the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) directed all the States to establish its own respective State Commission under the Commission for the Protection

of Child Rights Act, 2005. The Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MCP CR), an independent State Level statutory body was constituted on the 2nd November 2012 under Section 17 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. It was constituted with main objectives to provide care, ensure protection, promotion, development, survival, and participation of children and most of all, to defend the rights of children in the State.

The MCPCR is headed by the Chairperson and six Members. Since its inception, the Manipur



Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MCPCR) has disposed off several cases related to Child Rights and has progressively worked to protect Child Rights in the State. It is still working relentlessly on various Child Rights issues. The MCPCR works in close coordination with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), State Line Departments and other State Commissions. The Commission is now working in full swing and plays a vital role in the process to provide care and protection to children in the State. The Commission's mandate is to ensure that laws, policies, programmes and administrative mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as envisaged in the Constitution of India and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child. The Department of Social Welfare, Government of Manipur is the Nodal Department of MCPCR in Manipur. Presently, the Commission is headed by Smt. Sumatibala Ningthoujam as Chairperson.

### Research Study

- A study on the assessment of Government Primary Schools in nine districts of Manipur on the status of implementation of RTE Act, 2009 was conducted under the sponsorship of SSA, Manipur and submitted during the year 2016. 110 schools from nine districts were selected for the study.
- Research study on Child Trafficking in the Indo-Myanmar Region – A case study in Manipur was conducted under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Women and Child during the year 2017 and submitted.
- An evaluation study on Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and Residential Schools of Manipur under the sponsorship of SSA, Manipur is in the process. (undergoing).

### Policy/Guidelines

- The Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MCPCR) in partnership with CRY and in consultation with High Court of Manipur and after a series of consultations, reviews and meetings including valuable inputs shared by eminent intellectuals, NCPCR, Jurists, Child Rights Activists, Head of Departments of Universities and NGO's among others has drafted a copy of the Manipur State Policy for Children, 2017. The drafted policy is now being handed over to the State Government for adopting by the State.
- Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights has drafted Regulatory guidelines for hostels of educational institutions for children in Manipur following the guidelines developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

### Consultations/ Workshops/Programs

- The State Commission in partnership with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Chandel District administration conducted a Bench at Chandel Mini Secretariat hall on 18th October 2019.
- The Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MCPCR) in partnership with Manipur State Legal Services Authority (MASLSA)



organized a “1 Day Training Program for Special Juvenile Police Units and ICPS functionaries in Manipur” on 28th September 2019 at Manipur High Court Auditorium

- A consultation on the drafted Regulatory guidelines for hostels of educational institutions for children in Manipur was organized on 28th January 2019 at Secretariat conference hall Rtd Judges, Deputy Commissioners, educationists, NGOs, stakeholder departments, etc participate in the consultations. The drafted guidelines were submitted to the State government for adopting by the State
- Organised a Consultation workshop on the formulation of a Manipur State Policy for Children, 2017 in June 2017. A copy of the policy is submitted to the Government for adopting
- Formulation of a guideline for Pre-nursery schools in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and School Education (S) is in the process. Regarding this, a meeting was held in the office chamber of Principal Secretary (SW) on 22nd June 2017. Representatives from MASLSA, Education Department and Social Welfare Department were present.
- Opening of a hearing room of Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MCPCR)

- Campaign (poster/leaflet)/rally and awareness programs on child trafficking/POCSO Act/JJ Act was organised in the border town of Moreh.

### Landmark Cases

- Kamuching Government Junior High School

Nungbram villagers lodge a complaint to MCPCR regarding drop out of 164 children from schools. A team from this Commission went for an official visit to check into the matter. Taking note of the deprivation of children’s fundamental rights to education, MCPCR directed the co-ordinator of the Legal Aid Clinic of Nungbram and Headmaster of Kamuching Government Junior High School to start admission process of 80 students in the category of class I – VIII. Underscoring Section 13 of the CPC Act, 2005, the MCPCR urged the Department of Education (S) to take prompt action in addressing the situation. It is learned that altogether 96 school dropouts from the surroundings villages got enrolled with support from Manipur State Legal Services Authority.

- Rescue of 21 children from Imphal Airport

Under the direction of the Commission, a team from Manipur police and anti-trafficking unit rescued 21 children from Imphal airport. The rescue operation was

conducted in compliance with the Hon’ble Supreme Court’s directions passed on dated 1st September 2010 in the matter of Exploitation of children in orphanages in the State of Tamil Nadu vs UOI and others.

### Other Achievements

- The MCPCR directed the Director-General of Police to establish Child-friendly police station in all districts of Manipur. First child-friendly police room was established in Churachandpur Police Station. Under the initiative of the State Commission, Child-Friendly Police Rooms were established in all Districts of Manipur
- The Commission has undertaken inspections of Child Care Institutions in all Districts of Manipur. Report of the inspection is already shared with Ministry, WCD, GoI, and NCPCR
- A team from MCPCR along with officials from Manipur Health Services and Department of Education (S), Manipur inspected school canteens in various schools (both Govt, run and private run) to check the quality of food sold in school canteens. Consumption of food high in salt and sugar (HFSS) has been found to be rampant amongst school children and lead to many hazards and diseases.



## IMPHAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUILDING BYE-LAWS 2013 IS NOW IMPHAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BUILDING BYE-LAWS 2019

W .Phajatombi,  
Joint Director, IPR.



*Our land, being very fragile from the viewpoint of Seismology and reports so far published add on to this fear psychosis. This is one very primary factor, affecting the mental stability of all inhabitants of Manipur at this point in the geological period.*

The Manipur state's one and only Municipal Corporation, Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC), now has its latest Building Bye-Laws for the public. The corporation is gaining new momentum of functioning with the emergence of Building Bye-Laws 2019. Collective effort and dedication of the Elected members and Executive/government officers/officials, as a solid team had pinched the outdated guidelines for a change, that could carve the State capital Imphal to a new smart Imphal city.

The Department of Municipal Administration, Housing & Urban Development (MAHUD) has immense challenges to fight for winning the grand transformation race. Make our land, our city, a clean, luxurious and smart Imphal.

A lot of modifications were made in the Previous Principal Law. Some clauses were deleted while on the other hand wonderful information, ideas, innovation, modern technical inputs were also inserted in the new Building Bye-Laws 2019 of the IMC.

Amendment of Section 1 itself created the new title, Imphal Municipal Corporation Building Bye-Laws 2019 (First Amendment). The Bye-Law, which we have now for us, is more refined, elaborate and clarity of concept is also fine-tuned. Technical explanations quoted are easy even for non-technical ones.

Our land, being very fragile from the viewpoint of Seismology and reports so far published add on to this fear

psychosis. This is one very primary factor, affecting the mental stability of all inhabitants of Manipur at this point in the geological period. Construction permission for very tall buildings which was once under limitation for many commercial purposes is now relaxed and made up to seven storeys.

Provision for High Rise construction highlighted in chapter VI A of the Imphal Municipal Corporation Building Bye -Laws 2019 is attracting the attention of Businessmen, Commercial Entrepreneurs and other local traders. Section 54 A of the Law has clear cut definition for High rise building.

**BUILDINGS HIGHER THAN 15 M OF HEIGHT WITHOUT STILTS AND ABOVE 17.5 M OF HEIGHT WITH STILTS ARE HIGH RISE BUILDINGS**

Any piece of land cannot accommodate such tall buildings. There are specific technical measurements to be followed for high rise construction. Section

54D of the Bye-Law tabulates the information in this regard.

The addition of a new chapter (Chapter XII) simply elevates the standard of the new Bye-Laws where issues like importance and feasibility of energy conservation as well as self-sustainability effort are emphasized.

Building By-Laws 2019 also provide information of great significance, highlighting the role of Nature / Environment in the arena of construction work.

Section 78 of Chapter XII which states about Electric Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) is yet to come into life. The IMC has not empowered this section as of now.

With rapid urbanization and growth of the Economy, it is anticipated that the construction activity will experience a proportionate growth. The State Government is committed to streamlining of clearance for buildings and real estate sector and empowering the urban local bodies with an objective of "Ease of Doing

Business"

Emergence of the Imphal Municipal Corporation Building Bye-Laws (First Amendment), 2019, is need of the hour for those, venturing in construction works within the IMC jurisdiction areas.

*Special Message to all Builders*

*"Build your structures with conformity with the Imphal Municipal Corporation Building Bye-Laws 2019"*

*"For a safe and smart Imphal city ahead"*

*The copy of the Bye-Laws is available at Directorate of Printing and Stationery, Government of Manipur([www.manipurgovt-press.mic.in](http://www.manipurgovt-press.mic.in))*

*Gazatte No. 58, Imphal Thursday, June 13, 2019 (Jyaistha 22,1941)*

**MANIPUR GOVT. ALLOWS CONSTRUCTION OF SEVEN STOREYS BUILDINGS IN IMPHAL**

Manipur government has allowed the construction of buildings up to seven floors within areas covered by Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC). Earlier, only three-storey buildings were allowed to be built here.

Minister of Municipal Administration, Housing and Urban Development (MAHUD) Department, Thounaojam Shyamkumar Singh said that the state government has approved construction of seven storey buildings within areas covered by the IMC. The Minister said that the decision has been taken after due consultation with experts and architects.

IMC covers an area of around 34.48 sq km in Imphal East and West districts.

He further said that this decision was necessary to relieve the pressure on agricultural land on the outskirts of the city. "Buildings up to seven storeys can now be built in the IMC limits but only after obtaining of permits," he said.

The minister also urged the builders to follow all the safety procedures and laws during the constructions as Manipur lies in a seismic zone.





## GLOBAL GRAD SHOW, DUBAI DESIGN WEEK 2019

“Bamboo Boy” Sushan Kumar Yumkhaibam makes his mark in Dubai

*Sagolsem Snehprabha  
Manager of Publication*

The fifth edition of Global Grad Show, a part of Dubai Design Week 2019, showcased 150 Graduate projects from over 100 universities from more than 40 countries from 11th to 16th November 2019.

Manipur’s Sushan Kumar Yumkhaibam (23) from the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad showcased his graduation project, “Shift, Command and Alt”, a series of three flat-pack office chairs made of solid bamboo, at the recently concluded

Global Grad Show. Another Indian, Jitendra Sharma, from Pearl Academy, Delhi also participated in the Show, which is also the world’s most diverse gathering of university graduates and professors in the fields of science, design, and technology, working on social impact innovation.

Known as “Bamboo Boy” in NID, Ahmedabad, Sushan Kumar, learned about the sustainability and renewability of Bamboo while working for the project “Shift, Command, Alt” which was showcased during the recently

concluded show in Dubai. The young designer whose parents, Dr. Y. Shyam Singh and Dr. Angom Sumati Devi, both Associate Professors, at Imphal College, Imphal had always been fascinated by how things were made since childhood.

Describing himself as a “furniture designer passionate about crafting furniture pieces that are functional, aesthetic, sustainable, symbolic and comfortable” he now plans to complete his masters and open a studio. Excerpts from an emailed interview.

**Tell us your experience at the Global Grad Show held during the Dubai Design Week 2019?**

It was fun! I met so many creatives all over the world across all aspects of design. We shared our projects about how it can bring a change in this world and take our designs ahead. The whole design innovation which focuses on people’s needs with what is technologically feasible and devising a viable business strategy to derive value from the market opportunity.

**Your final semester project for NID, Ahmedabad, was among the 150 grad projects selected to showcase at the Global Grad Show. How did it happen? What is the idea behind your project? Highlights of your project.**

My Graduation project got nominated by my college, NID, Ahmedabad, for the said event where the organisers have to select those which gives a social impact.

My project involved setting up a bamboo processing and manufacturing industry in Punjab which aims at promoting the use of bamboo by making it transportation friendly in the

office furniture sector. My intention was not only to create new products for the market but to introduce more use of bamboo in a place where the raw material is abundant.

Shift, Command and Alt are office chairs design that gives a natural touch to a highly industrialised space. The chairs are made out of solid bamboo which is locally available. The flexibility and the tensile strength of bamboo make the structure the chair lightweight and able to flat-pack.

**Do you have a favourite among the pieces you have designed so far?**

Yes, Alfresco! It’s an outdoor chair that I have designed and made by using only scrap materials. The product is up-cycled from a used AC gull. I have tried to achieve utopia in the furniture world by making it extremely lightweight and simple in order for it to be slot into different seating arrangements.

**How would you describe your design inspiration and aesthetic?**

I haven’t done much-commissioned work so my work is more about understanding the materials and making the best use out of it.

**You come from an academic background. So what made you take up designing?**

As a child, I loved breaking things apart and see the details, the joineries. None of my toys last for a week! I have always been fascinated by how things are made. The materials, texture, colour even the smell and how all of this contributes to developing into a product or furniture. This inspired me to take up designing and become a maker. As a furniture designer, I’m passionate about crafting furniture pieces that are functional, aesthetic,

*It was fun! I met so many creatives all over the world across all aspects of design. We shared our projects about how it can bring a change in this world and take our designs ahead.*



sustainable, symbolic and comfortable

**You use bamboo which is described as “Green Gold”, in your furniture design. Is it a conscious choice to be sustainable and environmentally friendly?**

Honestly, I have not worked much with bamboo as a material before my graduation project. This project made me explore and understand

how versatile and sustainable bamboo is. Yes, I am very much aware of sustainability every material has its unique properties. Making a product takes a lot of time and energy, neither of which is renewable. Hence, making it energy-efficient, recyclable is a must. To me, furniture can be functional, aesthetic, sustainable, symbolic of a big idea and comfortable at the same time

**Future design trends.**

I believe with the growing technology there will be a seamless integration of the physical with digital.

**Your future plans.**

For now, I want to go for my masters and start my own studio.



**SHIFT**



**COMMAND**



**ALT**

*Shift, Command and Alt is a series of three flat-pack office chairs made of solid bamboo.*

*Bamboo is a sustainable and economic material that can be grown extremely quickly with little to no harmful waste. Its flexibility and tensile strength make it ideally suited for use in furniture, creating a product that is lightweight but strong. The innovation in this design is to have produced three standardised chair designs that can easily be packaged down and transported, allowing for industrial production and widespread use.*



## CONTENT IS KING

LAWRENCE CHANDAM, DIRECTOR, 'CHARA AMA'

*Gaijinmeilu Maringmei  
Translator, Kabui*

**C**hara Ama (One Square Meal), 'A Loktak Story', a Manipuri short film, won the Best Indian Film award at the recently concluded 'My Rode Reel 2019' — An international short film festival held in Sydney, Australia. The Festival was organised by Rode — A company

that manufactures audio and sound equipment for professional filmmakers. Written and directed by Lawrence Chandam, 'Chara Ama' follows the travails of a poor fisherman and his young son set against the backdrop of Loktak Lake. The story reflects the reality of life for those who have not

been so fortunate

It was specially made to highlight the beautiful Loktak Lake of Manipur, which is becoming a favourite tourist destination. The competition witnessed entries from 168 Indian filmmakers and 1680 International filmmakers from around the globe. In spite of being a late entry, 'Chara Ama' was ranked in the International Top 10 and finally nominated for the most popular people choice Award based on voting worldwide. However, missed the top spot narrowly.

Lawrence is now co-owner of Fast Glass, a Cinematic and Media company he started in Imphal in 2018 with Binny Longmei who is also the cinematographer of 'Chara Ama'.

Lawrence hopes that winning this International competition has boosted the confidence for filmmakers all over the state of Manipur.

**You won the Best Indian Film award at the recently concluded 'My Rode Reel 2019' for 'Chara Ama', a Manipuri short film. How do you feel?**

We found a great sense of accomplishment in making our first film in Manipur. This was a journey of discovery for us – both as a Manipuri and as a filmmaker. However, winning the Best Indian Film was the icing on the cake. Besides winning, getting our work noticed and recognised by professional filmmakers and artists of this industry from around the world, gives us an immense sense of satisfaction. Moreover, I hope that winning this International competition has boosted the confidence for filmmakers all over the state of Manipur.

**How tough was the competition at 'My Rode Reel 2019'?**

Well, we witnessed some remarkable movies this year. The overall quality of most films was top-notch, to say the least. 'Chara Ama' was selected 'The Best Indian Film' beating 168 other films from India. A total number of 1680 International films competed in this year's film festival held in Sydney, Australia.

**How did the idea of making a short feature arise? Why did you decide on making a short film?**

My media company, Fast Glass, has been working on commercial projects here in Imphal for the past one and half years. We had been waiting for an opportunity to do some film work for some time now. When my company partner, Binny Longmei, and I learned of My Rode Reel 2019, we felt the timing was just right. It was just the motivation we needed to dive into making films. About making a short film – it was the requirement by Rode to submit a film under 3 mins, which was challenging.

**The plot of 'Chara Ama' is strikingly similar to 'Ilisha Amagi Mahao' (The Taste of a Hilsa) a short story by Nongthongbam Kunjamohan Singh. Also, there is a short video film on the story by Ningthouja Lancha. How did the earlier works inspire you?**

'Chara Ama' is inspired by 'Ilisha Amagi Mahao'. We have duly credited



*Chara Ama was selected 'The Best Indian Film' beating 168 other films from India. A total number of 1680 International films competed in 'My Rode Reel 2019' held in Sydney, Australia.*



Late Nongthombam Kunjamohan Singh at the end credits of the film 'Tisha Amagi Mahao' is the epitome of rural life in Manipur. While keeping the theme of the story untouched, I wrote a script around it that would show the beauty and highlight the harsh conditions of life at Loktak. I worked on the dialogues striving to write a story that global audiences could relate to. I was made aware of (Ningthouja) Landha's film on 'Tisha Amagi Mahao' during the pre-production process of 'Chara Ama'. I intentionally abstained from watching it so it does not influence my vision of the story. I only watched it recently and enjoyed it thoroughly.

**The story also highlights the beautiful Loktak Lake of Manipur, which is almost like a character of its own.**

*Indeed, we are truly lucky to have such a natural resource in our State. Loktak Lake plays a vital character in the film. In 'Chara Ama', we showed how the lake has been feeding older generations of the protagonist. As it is in reality - it gives sustainability and employment to thousands in Moirang.*

Indeed, we are truly lucky to have such a natural resource in our State. Loktak Lake plays a vital character in the film. In 'Chara Ama', we showed how the lake has been feeding older generations of the protagonist. As it is in reality - it gives sustainability and employment to thousands. In the short span of three minutes, we have also tried to show the plight of the fishermen today, whose lives depend on the future of this lake.

**How did the filming of Chara Ama take place? Tell us about your journey while making it. What are the major challenges faced while shooting the short?**

We did a lot of recon work before the shoot. We had immense help from the locals. One of the biggest challenges was shooting on boats. There were

strong winds on the day of the shoot so the boats had to be tethered by ropes to stop it from floating away. The ropes were then removed by VFX in post-production. The sequence of the boy's home was shot in rural Kakching. The place had no electricity and was shot with natural light. Also directing a boy of 6 years had its set of challenges.

**What kinds of preparations did you make for working with non-actors especially child actors?**

We knew working with a child actor was going to be challenging. Our little actor Munim Hijam, is only 6 years old. When we showed him our storyboard he instantly knew what was expected of him. He was coached on how to deliver the dialogues with the help of his family and our lead actor Ratan Mayanglambam. But with kids, you have to take your time with the shoot. So we had to find a balance between coaxing and waiting on him patiently and losing out on natural light over delayed time.

**How involved are you as a filmmaker?**

I am obsessive when it comes to any work I create. And being a small budget film, it gave me the opportunity to have a very hands-on experience. Taking on multiple roles - I did the Scripting, Editing, VFX and Direction. Binny Longmei did Cinematography and Sound.

**What did you want to tell the global audience about Manipur through this film?**

In the age of CGI filled films, I



## Best Indian Film



wanted to tell an honest story of the simple life here in Manipur. Through this movie, I wanted to expose the beauty of our picturesque Loktak Lake to the world. I wanted to show the hardships of the life of people who are dependent on the very nature that we destroy in the name of development. Also, to me, the mother plays an important role in our society which I wanted to portray on the screen. Even if the man gets the food on the table, in our society, it is the women who make the hard decisions of the house in every family.

**Your film is also very different from the mainstream commercial Manipuri cinema. Do you think there is a market for such movies?**

On the contrary, I think there is no

market for the commercial Manipuri cinema. These films tend to have an audience based only within Manipur. Even Bollywood has evolved. It is the smaller films with better stories that are the bigger successes today. One should look for examples at filmmakers like Rima Das from Assam whose films on social issues made it to the Oscars, garnering attention across the globe. At the end - content is king.

**How did you get into films?**

It has been a natural progression for me. I started my journey learning editing at Asian Academy of Films and Television, Noida. Then I worked under Kavita Joshi, a documentary filmmaker based in Delhi. After this, I moved to New Zealand to learn VFX and Motion Design at Media Design School, Auckland. After graduating from MDS, I worked at a VFX post house called

Cause+FX . I spent eight years there working on several international projects like 'Ash vs Evil Dead', 'Spartacus', 'Into the Badlands' etc. Then I came back home to Manipur and started Fast Glass Cinematics and Media Co.

**You set up Fast Glass, a cinematic and Media Company in 2018. But you are based in Auckland, New Zealand. So how do you manage the company?**

That's a misconception that I am based in Auckland I returned home to Imphal from Auckland in December 2017. Since arriving here, I started my company Fast Glass with Binny Longmei, my cinematographer. Together we have taken up several projects like The Sangai Festival 2018 Promo, The Shuru Festival 2019 Promo, Photo Commissions from the National Sports University, Imphal, etc.

*I am obsessive when it comes to any work I create. And being a small budget film, it gave me the opportunity to have a very hands-on experience. Taking on multiple roles - I did the Scripting, Editing, VFX and Direction. Binny Longmei did Cinematography and Sound.*

**You are also an amateur musician, a VFX Artist and now also directed a short film. What do you prefer people calling you - a singer or a filmmaker? How did you shift from making VFX for others and shooting TVC into filmmaking?**

I was a vocalist for a band called Levitikus in 2004 -2005 during my college days in Delhi. Since then music has remained a hobby. As an artist, my medium has changed I now use films to express my art. And VFX is a small part of filmmaking. Being a VFX Artist taught me to look at every pixel with a fine-tooth comb. So becoming a filmmaker was not really a transition. I just see the bigger picture now.

**When will you make a feature film debut?**

We intend to make a full feature in 2020. We are thrilled to be making something that's deep-rooted in the history of Manipur and look forward to the support of everyone in the state.

**Your favourite film.**

'Ran' (translated as 'Chaos' or 'Tumult') by Akira Kurosawa. That film is a master class in itself. There's always something new to learn every single time I watch it.

**In your opinion, what is the present standard of Manipuri Cinema in the global sphere?**

I see a change coming in the Industry. New initiatives are being taken by Manipuri filmmakers. With the advent of streaming services like Netflix and HBO, people understand that audiences are intelligent and are ready to absorb original ideas. I see digital content like web series doing well here. It's not far off before we make our mark in the global sphere.

**What projects are you working on now?**

Currently, we have teamed up with JCRE Skill Solutions to convert their course modules into E-Learning videos. Also, we are making a series of videos for the Department of Transport, Manipur, to highlight road rules and safety for all.

**Do you have any advice for aspiring filmmakers and film authors?**

Watch good films, deconstruct and practice. Your gear is secondary - Invest in your passion and skills.





## MICROLITE AIRCRAFT INDUCTED TO NCC

**T**he National Cadet Corps (NCC) Group, Imphal inducted the Microlite Aircraft (Virus SW-80) to facilitate flight training for its cadets. The induction ceremony was held at Bir Tikendrajit International Airport with Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh as Chief Guest of the function on 19th November 2019.

During the function, Chief Minister said that Microlite Aircraft (Virus SW-80) is a powered driven Single propeller aircraft which would provide the students of Manipur NCC cadets maximum flying exposure. He thanked the NCC for

taking such initiative for the NCC cadets of the State. Stressing on the various initiatives and programs of NCC, Chief Minister stated that NCC inculcate the values of discipline, punctuality, correct work ethos and self-confidence among the young children of the State. Such values would help in transforming our children into leaders of the Nation tomorrow, he added.

Minister for Education Shri Th. Radheshyam, Brigadier R.S Sethi, Secretary to CM Shri Geoffrey Ningthoujam, Officers and Cadets of NCC, Imphal and others attended the induction ceremony.

## DIPR CELEBRATES 71<sup>st</sup> FOUNDATION DAY



**G**overnment spokesperson Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh who is also the Information and Public Relations Minister said that the government has a firm determination to expand the present Directorate of Information and Public Relations and open well-equipped District Information Offices in all 16 Revenue districts of the State on 1st November 2019.

Shri Biswajit was addressing the 71st Information and Public Relations Day, 2019 held at the Auditorium, DIPR New Complex, Nityapat Chuthek, Imphal.

As part of the foundation day celebration, DIPR also handed over awards in eight different categories to the Staff for their outstanding service to the Directorate.

Elaborating further that it is his vision to see well functioning

District Information Offices in all revenue districts, the Minister said that the government has been able to bridge the gap between the hills and the valley and that there is no apprehension today while visiting any corner of the State. He said this is a good sign of peace and development in the State.

The IPR Minister also expressed the need for the DIPR and media houses to work in close proximity. He said that the DIPR and the media should strengthen their relationship to win the trust of the public. He said that the DIPR and media should go together and share a positive and constructive relationship to develop Manipur, he said.

Commissioner IPR Shri Kh. Raghuman also reiterated the need to expand the Directorate and strengthen it.

Director IPR, Shri H. Balkusna Singh said DIPR is in a transitional phase now. The Directorate is moving to its new office building at Keishampat from the temporary office at Manipur State Transport office complex.

The award for the staff of the Directorate is being given to motivate and encourage the staff who work round the clock, he added.

He further said that the award is a kind of recognition and acknowledgment of the staff to boost their morale. He said this will also act as a realization of our responsibilities. He further encouraged the staff to continue performing and to perform better.

As part of the function, Shri Biswajit also released the October issue of Manipur Today.



# STATE LEVEL KUT FESTIVAL 2019

Post-harvest festival of Kuki-Chin-Mizo community celebrated



Okey Sinasam

Marlin Nungmaunching won the coveted Miss Kut 2019 title

**K**ut, a premier post-harvest festival of the Kuki-Chin-Mizo community of Manipur, was celebrated with great pomp and splendour on 1st November 2019. The State Level Kut Festival 2019 was held at 1st Manipur Rifles Battalion ground, Imphal with the Chief Minister Shri N Biren Singh as Chief Guest. Appreciating the Kuki-Chin-Mizo community, Chief Minister remembered the contribution of the Kuki-Chin-Mizo community for the good of the State. He appealed the people of the State to stand united and fight for the oneness of the State and Nation in the future too. He announced that the State government is ready to

extend any help to organise the Kut Festival on a bigger scale in future whereby guests and cultural troupes from outside the State could be invited.

Forest Minister Shri Th. Shyamkumar, Water Resources Minister Shri Letpao Haokip, Manipur Tubal Development Corporation Chairman Shri Vungzagn Valte, MLAs Shri T.N. Haokip, Shri Y. Surdandra, Chief Secretary, DGP, top civil and police officials attended the celebration.

Celebrated every year on the first day of November, Kut celebrates the generous harvest after a year of hard toiling, with thanksgiving prayer to the almighty.

Performance of traditional dances, songs feasting and merrymaking form a vital part of Kut celebrations. People of all ages enthusiastically took part in the festival.

Another main highlight of the celebrations is Miss Kut, a beauty pageant organised every year during the festival. Marlin Nungmaunching won the coveted Miss Kut 2019 title in the beauty pageant in Imphal. She won a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh in the beauty contest.

Kut Festival is of great significance as it highlights the cultural heritage of the Kuki-Chin-Mizo groups and also forms a platform to harness peace and harmony among the diverse ethnic communities of the State.

# MANIPUR

## A DOMINANT FORCE IN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Ningthoujam Roshan Singh  
Information Assistant



*The performance of the players or the quality of women footballing per se of Manipur remains in top-notch and in form*

*Bembem.*

Manipur state has yet again lifted the winner's trophy at the 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship. With this latest feat, Manipur has so far become the champion of the tournament 20 times out of the 25 editions held so far. The latest championship, which was held from 10th to 24th September, 2019 was hosted by Arunachal Pradesh at the picturesque town of Pasighat.

In the final, defending champion Manipur defeated Railways 1-0.

Now, it won't be a difficult task to deduce from this record that Manipur has dominated the scenario of women's football in India. Apart from this senior championship, our girls in the junior and sub-junior categories have also been bringing laurels by becoming

champions in their respective national level competitions.

Coach of Manipur state senior women's team Oinam Bembem opined that many talented and well-performing players of the state or in the state team have stopped playing for their motherland in the 'lookout for greener pastures'. The reason being most of the football players came from poor family backgrounds. And when any lucrative or secure or better option of earning comes, it is only natural for them to pick it up as most of them have to look after their family.

The performance of the players or the quality of women footballing per se of Manipur remains in top-notch and in form, added Bembem. As the coaches are qualified and licensed holders of the national football body or highly experienced former footballers, good coaching is always guaranteed. It can

be mentioned that the current coach Bembem is a former top footballer of the country having captained and represented the national team in the international arena many a time. Under these credentials, she was awarded the prestigious Arjuna Award by the President of India in 2017.

It is to be noted that recognitions like this have played a huge role in inspiring young women footballers of the state into this game. Also, it helped in convincing the parents and society in large who otherwise had been not-so-supportive when their daughters opted for this rugged and physically demanding game.

Under Bembem's coaching, Manipur has lifted the Champions Trophy twice i.e. in 2017 and this year 2019.

On the other hand, the initiation of professional women's football viz. the Indian Women's League has widened the scope for the talents of our state. Clubs and companies from outside had to look into this state, for recruiting their players and the deal is in huge figures. The scenario is if you have talent, then you will have takers. Currently, all the women's I-league teams of the country

have at least one or more Manipuri players in the team.

While we are basking in this continuous achievement, it is also very important to bring consistency to the performance of the girls and to safeguard this winning streak. Bembem opined that if the authorities concerned viz. the government comes up with a proper policy to ensure employment to our players, then it will help in retaining the talented players to our state and will help in preventing them from representing other states or team. She added although they very wanted to play for the state, it is the question of survival that compels them to play for other states. From the technical point of view, Bembem added that such frequent moving by the player create a big issue in the team in the matter of substitution. As football or any team sports for that matter is heavily dependent on the chemistry and dynamics of the players, to build up such chemistry again is a very difficult and time-taking process. However, coach Bembem also understood the limitations of the government in giving jobs to all the excellent trophy-winning players that had represented the state.

