

May, 2022

মহাশিলাইল স্ক্রুজ

Vol. XLIII. 3

MANIPUR TODAY

WAR
ON
DRUGS
2.0



Chief Minister, Shri N. Biren Singh
flagging-off the Advancing North-East
Career on Wheels on 20th May, 2022



ADVANCING NORTH EAST
Presents

CAREER ON WHEELS

20 May 2022

FLAG-OFF CEREMONY

HON'BLE CHIEF

MINISTER, SHRI N. BIREN SINGH

GOVT.

ASSAM

www.advan-northeast.org

ADVANCING NORTH EAST



ADVANCING NORTH EAST



EDPI



ADVANCING NORTH EAST



ADVANCING NORTH EAST

EDUCATION

THE BANK

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh credited the general public for all the achievements and development in the government's War on Drugs campaign and said without the untiring support and positive response of the public, the government alone couldn't have achieved all the success.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur may be known for his hyperbole by his critics and detractors. Yet, it can be rightly said that he is very vocal on anything he does. But one thing is very clear that he means business for what he is trying to do. Apparently, he always tried to do something good for the state and public. This has been manifested from what he did and plans to do. He openly admitted that he got inspiration from doing something good for society by seeing the problems facing the people, especially the youths and aged people. This has prompted him to dedicate his life to the service of people and take up some important schemes which have a direct bearing on the lives of the general public.

Mention may be made of those notable schemes initiated during his first term and currently under implementation: CMHT, CMST, CMAT, Peoples' Day, G2H, G2V, etc. His new government @Biren 2.0 sets 100-day action plans for the first 100 days. This apart, "War on Drug, War against Corruption, War against Encroachers, Drive against Deforestation are all included. He is now seen making all out effort to fight these diseases and succeed in his attempt. Some concrete actions are now seen on the ground. To fight corruption in the recruitment of Grade-III & IV posts in all departments, he plans to set up a Staff Selection Commission, which many of us have been clamouring for a long time. It is good that he ultimately listens to his inner feeling and people's voices.

The War on Drugs is heading towards the right direction with many supports from different sections of societies pouring in. The Chief Minister of Manipur is firmly determined to convert these developmental initiatives into mass movements. He now put to effective use his valuable insights from the past happenings and sufferings to write a development script for the state. If he succeeds in his attempt, he will create a new development history in the State. Even his detractors will agree that he is a phenomenon. There is probably no other public figure in our contemporary times who has had a comparable experiential journey as Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Biren Singh'.

(Heisnam Balkrisna Singh)

Manipur Today

Published by Directorate of Information &
Public Relations, Government of Manipur

Chief Editor

Heisnam Balkrisna Singh, MCS
Director, IPR

Senior Editor

T. Ramesh Singh, Deputy Director (P/P)
L. Ashok Kumar Singh Deputy Director (HQ)

Manager of Publication

Yanglem Geeta Devi

Editorial Board

Oinam Shyamo Singh, Translator

Design

Banabanta Ngangom, DEO
Rakesh (NEST)

News

Inputs from NEWS Section, DIPR

Photographs

DIPR Photo Section

23rd May, 2022

The views expressed in the articles are the personal opinions of the contributors and are in no sense official, nor is the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Government of Manipur is responsible for them.

Printed at

NEST Advertising, Babupara

No. of Copies: 1000

Content

7 100 Days
100 Action
Points



31 A
Survey of
Disease
Needed



War on
Drugs **10**

Manipur becomes first State to
grant all RoW permissions **34**

14 Inauguration of
Health Mela



37 Ukraine Crisis
and the Lesson in
Diplomacy it Has
for All Nations, and
Communities



Mesmerizing
Yangkhulen **18**

43 World Press Freedom Day:
Journalism Under Digital Siege



21 Garib Kalyan
Sammelan

Horticulture & Soil Conservation
Officials Inspect Peh Village For
Alternative Livelihood Arrangements **52**

International Labour Day and
Manipur **24**

Minister Biswajit
Launches Save Singda
Movement **54**



27



Governor La.
Ganesan Tours
Manipur



58 Davis Cup Junior Asia-
Oceania Champion
Bushan Haobam



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

100 DAYS ACTION POINTS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH

- Health Camps in each Block
- Health Insurance under CMHT to Rs. 5 lakhs
- Inauguration of 50 bedded Government
- De-addiction Centre at Sinusiphai
- Inauguration of Paid Private Ward at JNIMS



EDUCATION

- Distribution of 1900 Smartphones under CMs College Maheiroi e-Support Scheme
- Finalize Scheme to provide Free Scooty
- Scholarship to children of small, marginal or landless farmers pursuing Technical education
- Inauguration of infrastructure development under RUSA at Dhanamanjuri University
- Distribution of 4750 tablets to Government School students
- Strengthening of 50 schools under School Fagathansi Mission/ Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan



SOCIAL WELFARE

Inauguration of 16 Model Anganwadi Centres

Distribution of benefits to 16,000 beneficiaries under Manipur Old Age Pension Scheme

Distribution of benefits to 10,000 beneficiaries under Chief Ministers Widow Pension Scheme

Scale up of Poshan Tracker 2 utilization

Scale up of Fortified Rice under Supplementary Nutrition



CONNECTIVITY

Paving of Road Shoulder of all Highways in Greater Imphal area

Doubling of road width of all roads in Greater Imphal area and all District Headquarters

Inauguration of Khongsang Railway Station by May 2022

Inauguration of Lokchao Bridge on NH-39

Inauguration of Jiribam helipad terminal building



GOVERNANCE

All Deputy Commissioners, SPs, DFOs and all employees will remain within jurisdiction of their district

District Meeyamgi Numit

Streamline Vigilance & Anti-Corruption systems

Streamlined transfer & Posting policy

Launch of CM Dashboard

Operationalize 1000 new eOffice users

INFRASTRUCTURE

Inaugurate new Manipur Civil Secretariat

Inaugurate/operationalize Transit Accommodation in outlying districts

Inauguration of Tombisana Market Complex

Inauguration of Alternate Government Housing Complex at NGV

Transform Khuman Lampak ISBT into a vibrant commercial hub

Inauguration of ISBT at Sekmai

WATER RESOURCES

170 Nos of District-Wise water supply projects/schemes ready for inauguration

Target 50,000 households water supply connection

Inauguration of Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement at Singda dam

Inauguration of Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement at Imphal Barrage

Inauguration of 475 Wells under PMKSY-HKGP-GW

POWER

Inauguration of 2x5 MVA, 33/11 KV Substation

50,000 numbers of prepaid power meters will be installed

Installation of 600 Street Lights and 11 High Mast Lights

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)

Pre-feasibility study will be prepared for solar farm projects

WAR ON DRUGS 2.0



"War on Drug is necessary to save our future generation."

N. Biren Singh

Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh credited the general public for all the achievements and development in the government's War on Drugs campaign and said without the untiring support and positive response of the public, the government alone couldn't have achieved all the success.

Shri N. Biren Singh said with the formation of the new government, we have witnessed tremendous success in the War on Drugs campaign. He said since April 20, the State has been able to seize illegal drugs worth 182 crores 29 lakhs and 43 thousand in the international market and at the same time destroyed 380 acres of poppy cultivation in the State.

He said what is even more encouraging for the campaign is that on May 6, the Poumai tribe which is the second-largest tribe of the Nagas in Manipur declared its areas under a drug-free zone and to stand against poppy plantations. On May 9, leaders and CSOs of the largest Naga tribe, Tangkhul submitted a resolution to support War on Drugs and to stand against poppy plantations.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the resolutions supporting the War on Drugs campaign submitted by different CSOs including Inpui, Liangmai, Rongmei and Zeme tribes on May 12, village chiefs of Saikul AC, Tengnoupal and Chandel on May 14.

Citing reports of destroying illegal drugs by youth and womenfolk in the valley, the

Chief Minister said the momentum against drugs is also building up in the valley area.

Today we can see support and cooperation from almost all communities residing in the State, he said adding that for the first time in February 2021, in support of the War on Drugs, a village in Ukhrul, Peh (Paoyi) Village voluntarily destroyed poppy cultivation in their area, for which the village was rewarded with Rs. 10 lakhs. Now we have received reports that the villagers have already started alternative cropping and some plantations like ginger have already begun production, he added.

All these are encouraging, he said thanking everyone for their support and at the same time expressing hope that the collective campaign will start bearing fruit in the nearest future.

Regarding the arrest of so-called drug kingpins in the State, the Chief Minister said several drug traffickers have been arrested and named a few including one Monkhai, 19, from Myanmar. He said anyone convicted and lodged in jail for 14-15 years in drug-related cases is all kingpin.

Further highlighting the State's achievement in regards to War on drugs, the Chief Minister said that altogether 719.25 kgs of contraband Ganja, 940 grams of Brown Sugar, 18.7555 kgs of Heroin Powder, 87 kgs of WY Tablets (Methamphetamine), and 20 kgs of Crystal Ice (Methamphetamine) will be disposed of at the earliest.

- The State government's War on drugs campaign was launched on November 3, 2018, to combat the ill effects of drugs and to make a drug-free and healthy Manipur.
- The War on Drugs campaign has received an overwhelming response from the general public including Civil Societies, individuals, and village chiefs, supporting the government's effort to uproot the drug menace from the State.
- Receiving support from several village chiefs of Ukhrul, a consultative meeting was held with them on December 5, 2020, to discuss the destruction of poppy plantations and the plantation of lemongrass as an alternative livelihood.
- In what could be a major achievement for State forces in the fight against drugs, drugs worth over Rs. 34 CRORE in the international market, seized by NAB, was disposed of at Pungdongbam Chingmang in Imphal East District on January 14, 2021.



- For the first time in February 2021, in support of the War on Drugs, a village in Ukhrul, Peh (Paoyi) Village voluntarily destroyed poppy cultivation in their area, for which the village was rewarded with Rs. 10 lakh. The horticulture department had provided an arrangement for the plantation of alternative crops. The villagers have



already started alternative cropping and some plantation like ginger has already begun production.

- In a major boost to Government's 'War on Drugs' campaign, on February 13, 2021, Agape Museum, an apex body of 143 NGOs located in different hill districts of Manipur pledged to work as frontline workers in the destruction of poppy plantations in their respective areas. They also assured cooperation to Government officials in the field and take part in the campaign as frontliners to save the youth from the drug menace.
- Under the government's supervision, on February 25, 2021, representatives of 33 different communities residing in the State took a collective pledge to work together towards the complete destruction of illegal poppy cultivation and checking illicit drug businesses during an event 'All Communities Convention for a Pledge Against Illegal Poppy Plantation' at Bhagyachandra Open Air Theatre organised by Meitei Leepun in association with the apex bodies of these 33 communities.
- In March 2021, I had attended several public conventions and conferences in support of the War on Drugs and against poppy plantation including at Sora Karanchi Playground, Kakching organised by Anjuman Nasrul Islam, at Kwakta in Bishnupur District organised by Clean Kwakta and at



Lamka in Churachandpur District by Zomi Frontal Organisations. During the conventions, collective pledges were taken to refrain from drug-related activities and support to War on Drugs

WAR ON DRUGS 2.0

- In the second term of the BJP government, the War on Drugs campaign has gained more momentum with major communities of the State declaring drug-free zone and their stand against poppy cultivation in their areas.
- On May 6, 2022, Poumai Naga Union, the second largest Naga community in the State, declared a drug-free zone and stand against poppy plantations, submitting a declaration supporting War on Drug campaign.



- On May 9, 2022 Tangkhul Frontal Organisations, the largest Naga Community in Manipur, submitted a resolution extending full cooperation and support to the War on Drugs Campaign.
- On May 12, 2022, Inpui, Liangmai, Rongmei and Zeme tribes collectively declare drugs and poppy free zone supporting the State Government's War on Drugs Campaign by declaring 'Drug and Poppy Free Zone'.
- On May 14, 2022, village chiefs of Saikul Assembly Constituency (AC) submitted a resolution signed by 50 chiefs expressing their support for the Government's War on Drugs Campaign and to immediately stop poppy cultivation in Saikul AC.
- On May 14, 2022 Tengnoupal, Chandel chiefs declare support for War on drugs
- On 19th May, KPI Civil Orgs, Chiefs Declare Support For CM's War On Drug Campaign

On 26th May, Leaders of Mao Council, Mao Students' Association, Mao Naga Women's Welfare Organisation, village chiefs, Senapati District Contractors' Association showed support to CM's War on Drug Campaign

On 30th May, Maram Community of Senapati also pledged to support the War on Drug and destroy poppy plantations



CM INAUGURATES BLOCK HEALTH MELA & TELEMEDICINE



Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh inaugurated Block Health Mela & Telemedicine at Ayushman Bharat - HWC as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under the 100 Days Action Plan at N. Tomchou Public Ground Mayang Imphal, on 15th April, 2022, Imphal West district.

The Chief Minister lauded and congratulated the COVID Warriors of the Health department officials, doctors, nurses, ASHA Health Workers, etc. for their tireless and fearless dedication to their service.

The Chief Minister also expressed happiness that dialysis facilities are now available in almost all district hospitals and both the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences and the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences, which are the major hospitals of the State.

He further showed concern over increasing Kidney ailment and cancer patients in the State and stressed on the need for a proper study to probe whether our food habits is the main cause. He also expressed concern over tobacco consumption among the people of the State.

N. Biren Singh also spoke on the Chief Minister's Health for All Scheme and explained that under the scheme, door-to-door health screening is conducted for 10 non-communicable diseases, and free medicine provided across the State.

Highlighting that health is wealth and that the government is working towards upliftment of the poor and to provide health benefits to them, the Chief Minister pointed out to the concerned officials the need to re-verify the beneficiaries lists of the CMHT



and cancel names of beneficiaries who are found to be government employees during the re-verification process at the earliest.

Block Health Mela Held At Ningomthong In Thongju AC

Block Health Mela was organized by the District Health Society, Imphal East under the initiative of District Administration, Imphal East, as a part of the 100 Days Action Plan Programme of the Government .

Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh said that the BJP led Government under the initiative of the abled leadership of Shri N. Biren Singh ,Chief Minister of Manipur, has taken up various welfare schemes of the people of Manipur. He informed that *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas, Sabka Prayas* are necessary components for a making a new India according to the vision of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. Health Sector is also given due importance by the government, he added.

Block Health Mela Held At Saikul

Block Health Mela, an initiative under the State Government's 1st 100 days Action plan and as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was held at the Hoikhonei multi-purpose hall, Thangkanphai village, Saikul Block in Kangpokpi district on 18th April,2022. The mela was organised by the Block Health Society Sadar Hills East, Saikul.

Smt. Kimneo Haokip Hangshing, MLA of the Saikul Assembly Constituency said that

it is time to question ourselves that after 75 years of Independence are we able to avail and provide all the basic facilities to the people residing in every nook and corner of the State. She opined that it is time that we introspect ourselves of our responsibilities to realise where the problem and challenges actually lies.

Stating that Saikul CHC is one of the best CHCs which has been commended and recognised by the State Government in recent years, she pointed out that there is still room for improvement in terms of health sector in the constituency and there is need for awareness for the authorities concerned in order to fulfill the medical requirements.

Healthcare Services Provided At Block Health Mela In Kangpokpi

Under the initiative of the State Government's 1st 100 days Action Plan and as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Kangpokpi Block Health Society organised Block Health Mela on April 22, 2022 at the Mandap Hall, Kangpokpi Ward No. 11 in Kangpokpi district.

As part of the mela, free healthcare and other services were provided to the residences living in and around the area which included Paediatric OPD, Psychiatry OPD/ counselling for drug de-addiction, Obs. & Gynae OPD, Eye OPD, Dental OPD, NCD clinic including Chief Minister's Health for All scheme (CMHA) & health ID generation, Ayush OPD & RBSK (screening for congenital



anomalies for children under 0-6yrs), Adolescent/RKSK Clinic - distribution of free sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and PMJAY & CMHT scheme - enrolment including linkage of Aadhar with mobile number .

Free services were also provided including awareness and interaction on National Vector Borne Diseases Control Program, National TB Elimination Program, National

The Block Health Mela is being held under '100 Days Action Plan' as a part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' observation. Participated by various department the mela had around 30 stalls set up.

Medicines and sanitary pads were distributed free of cost at the Block Health Mela. Creation of Health ID cards for CMHA & NCD; CMHT & AB-PMJAY were one of the main highlights of the mela.



Leprosy Eradication Program, National Viral Hepatitis Control Program, ICTC, Covid-19 vaccination, routine immunisation & family planning services, lab diagnosis and ultrasound, distribution of essentials drugs, UDID - registration for disability certificate, awareness on nutrition under Poshan Abhiyaan and telemedicine consultation.

Block Health Mela Held At Bishnupur Hospital

The second Block Health Mela for Bishnupur district was held on April 20,2022 at Bishnupur District Hospital organized by District Health Society, Bishnupur.

The Block Health Mela also provided free vaccination facilities along with cataract screening, hearing impairment, Gynae OPD with USG, Dermatology, Lab. Diagnostic among others in the Clinical Stalls.

IEC and Awareness Generating Stalls of Poshan Abhiyan (ICDS & WCD); District Aids Control Programme; District Leprosy Eradication Programme; National TB Elimination Programme; Eat Right Movement India (Food Safety); AYUSH; School Health Programme (Education); and Family Planning Services among others were also set up in the mela.



KHONGJOM DAY OBSERVED WITH STATE HONOUR

Khongjom Day was observed with rich tribute to the valiant warriors of Khongjom War, 1881. The main event was held at Kheba Ching at Khongjom in Thoubal District, Manipur. The observation was started with guard of honour with gun salute at the Samadhi of Paona Brajabasi, who sacrificed his life during the final battle of Anglo-Manipur War fought in the year 1891. The State have been observing this day of 23rd April every year as a mark to commemorate the sacrifices of our brave heroes.

Floral tribute was also held with traditional rituals and tarpan at Khongjom River as a part of the observation. Governor of Manipur Shri La Ganesan, Chief Minister of Manipur Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh, Ministers, MLAs and other top officials of the government also attended the floral tribute.

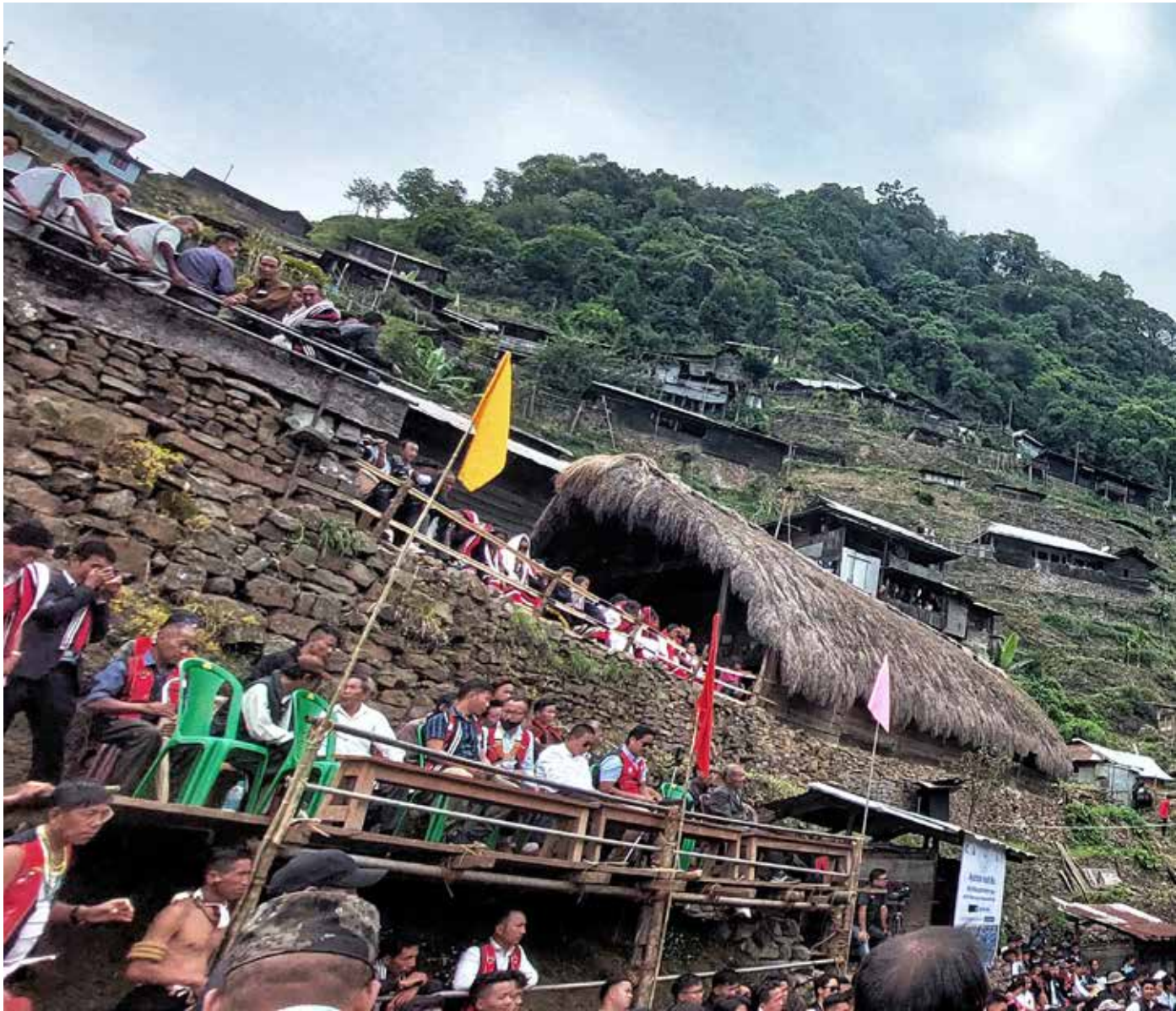
Speaking as Chief Guest, Governor of Manipur Shri La Ganesan maintained that Life is sacrifice, sacrifice is life. The sacrifices made by our forefathers should always be remembered and honoured. We should follow their footsteps and their dignity should remain protected. Conquering the heart of the people is also a unique character of our leaders which we should learn from them.

Shri La Ganesan further stated that India

is a land of difference which makes the country unique from other countries. Likewise, Manipur also has a different character of history amongst the Indian states. People should understand the reason why Khongjom Day is being celebrated, he added.

Giving presidential speech, Chief Minister, Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh said that the age-old history of Manipur and sacrifices made by our forefathers will always remain in our hearts. The present historical site of Khongjom particularly Tengol Lampak will be beautified and upgraded soon after a cabinet decision. The call of Nation First and United India which was advocated by our leaders should be respected. Being a federal country the respect to states by the centre is worth appreciation. The renaming of Mount Harriet in Andaman and Nicobar island as Mount Manipur by union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah is a living example of respect to Manipur by the union government, Shri Biren added.

Khongjom Lal, a play based on the battle of Khongjom, 1891 was showcased by the artists of Art & Culture Department as a part of the observation. Khongjom Parba, a traditional folk song depicting the Khongjom battle, was also presented to the gathering by renowned folk singer Smt. Sundari Devi and her team.



MESMERIZING YANGKHULLEN HANGING VILLAGE OF MANIPUR

Wangkheimayum Bhupendra Singh

It's almost six years since I joined the Directorate of Information and Public Relations as an Information Assistant. During these past six years, I have been fortunate enough to embark on vivid, whirlwind official journeys, transporting myself to the most interior part of the State. And in fact, it has been life-changing. I discovered how

different life can be for different people, different communities and different places.

From the very beginning, I have always been fascinated by nature and curious about life in the hills of the State. In my five or so years of working as a field staff at DIPR, I have had the privilege of being attached to the offices of two of the most prolific leaders of the State



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh and Hon'ble Minister Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh, which also means that I have had the opportunity to travel across the length and breadth of the State.

One of the many villages in the interior part of the State, I have had the opportunity to travel during the past few years, Yangkhullen was quite different from all others. The village, built on the steep rocky slopes of the mountain, has no roads, but stairs - small, steep, flat stone stairs, connecting one house to another. Some of the stairs have railings, but many didn't. The houses are built on

foundations of flat stones placed one above the other. The people seem friendly and hospitable enough to welcome everyone with open arms. The village also has several huge stones or megaliths sporadically erected along its range, similar to the ones found in Willong Khullen. A huge white Cross looks down upon the tin roofed houses of the village from atop the hill.

On the early morning of May 9, 2022, our team comprising of photographer Pukhrihongbam Romesh, Videographer Ibomacha Oinam, his assistant Nameirakpam Samananda, driver Thoidingjam Jotin and myself, started from

the Chief Minister's Office compound at 5:25 am in our office Bolero on official duty. Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh was attending a felicitation programme in the village. Villagers say this was the first time that a Chief Minister of the State was visiting the village. Our team reached Maram Bazar in Senapati district along National Highway 2 around 7:30 am. As this was our first trip to the village, we had to ask around Maram Bazar for directions.

A friendly looking, smiling Catholic nun, walking along the hillside near Maram Don Bosco with her students, directed us to take the NH 129 A (Maram-Peren) from Maram Bazar and prompted "It could take you upto 3-4 hours to reach Yangkhullen." That did dampen our spirits for a moment, for our official engagement was to begin at 10 am and it was already 7:10am.

At the nun's words we made haste. Nonetheless, we made quite a few stops along the way to enjoy the scenic landscape of the place. The road till Maram Bazar is as smooth as any other National Highway, but due to ongoing road widening work along the Maram to Yangkhullen stretch, which is



about 55-60 km, the ride was not as smooth as along NH 2, but it wasn't all bumpy and dusty either.

About an hour's ride along the road we passed by Willong Village, another gorgeous village, perched atop the hill and made famous by its huge megaliths. A few minutes after we passed Willong, we could see Yangkhullen and around 9am reached the foothills of the village.



Yangkhullen Village, home to the Zeme tribe, is located just about three and a half hours drive from capital Imphal, some 137 km from Imphal in Senapati District. After driving along National Highway 2, you have to take a detour from Maram Bazar along NH 129 A to reach Yangkhullen Village, or more appropriately the Hanging Village of Manipur, tucked snugly atop the mountains, surrounded by lush green jungle cover. Lush green forest cover, so pristine and natural, a kaleidoscope of butterflies swarming the village - the sight was so simple yet so beautiful. Nature seems to call you to take rest, leave all worries behind and enjoy its art at its best.

Rice cultivation is a major occupation of the village just like in most other parts of the North East. In fact such is its importance that one of the major highlights in their memorandum submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister was construction of a road from the village to their paddy fields.

Another thing I liked about the journey is that the entire route was filled with spectacular views, deep gorges and scenic landscapes. Indeed mesmerizing and one of the few places where you forgot that you are on official duty and like to just look around and get lost in nature's beauty.

In case you have missed Yangkhullen so far, do visit it once, if not many times, and see for yourself God's own artwork, it is that beautiful. Visit at least once to absorb the scenic beauty and bird calls of the hills, to be content in nature's lap and be yourself for once.



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

GARIB KALYAN SAMMELAN




Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

Imphal is the pioneer city among the NE states to take up the project for installation of Domestic Smart Water Meters on a 'Whole City' approach

- 383.40 km of distribution pipes laid in 27 wards if IMC
- 28 Ward Level parks under construction




AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE

Strengthening primary health care service, disease prevention and health promotion

- 326 HWC operational in the state
- 243 Sub centres, 78 PHCs and 5 UPHCs
- 12 service package provided at HWCs

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with AY-HWC beneficiaries on 31st May 2022



AYUSHMAN BHARAT:
Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- 49 Hospitals empanelled
- 4,15,424 cards created
- 59,433 beneficiaries treated
- Rs. 75.2 Cr disbursed

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with AB-PMJAY beneficiaries on 31st May 2022



JAL JEEVAN MISSION

Functional Household Tap Connection to all rural household by 2024

- 4,51,566 household targeted
- 68.50% target achieved (as on 26-05-2022)
- 2nd Position among NE states

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with JJM beneficiaries on 31st May 2022

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA **GRAMIN**

- Providing a pucca house with basic amenities in rural areas
- 9716 houses completed in phase I FY 2016-17 to 2018-19
- 5170 houses completed in phase II FY 2019-20
- 15842 houses targeted in phase II 2020-21
- 8368 houses targeted in phase II FY 2020-21 (Awaasplus)



PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with PMAY beneficiaries on 31st May 2022

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA **URBAN**

- Number of Beneficiaries approved by the Ministry 55804
- 32960 houses in Progress
- 4340 houses completed



PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with PMAY beneficiaries on 31st May 2022

PM-SVANidhi

Providing affordable working capital loan to street vendor

- **368** nos. of sanctions in Phase I
- **803** nos. of sanctions in Phase II
- **3015** nos. of sanction in Phase III

7425 street vendors digitally onboarded
8616 Street vendors benefitted

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with PM-SVANidhi beneficiaries on 31st May 2022



PRADHAN MANTRI MATRU VANDANA YOJANA (PMMVY)

- Cash incentive of Rs. 5000/- to be provided directly in the bank/post office account of Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.
- **56,982** mothers benefited from this scheme
- **Rs. 24,27.93** Lakh disbursed

*Data as on 25-05-2022

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with PMMVY beneficiaries on 31st May 2022



Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Providing LPG connections to poor women

- **1,59,555** LPG connections provided in PMUY 1.0
- **28,083** LPG connections installed to date in PMUY 2.0

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with PMUY beneficiaries on 31st May 2022



SAKSHAM ANGANWADI AND POSHAN 2.0

To contribute to human capital development of the country, and promote nutritional awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health & wellbeing.

- 11510 AWCs registered on POSHAN Tracker App
- Construction of 16 Model AWCs Buildings under Innovation Fund completed
- 11510 Growth Monitoring Devices (GMDs) procured and distributed to AWCs
- 11510 smartphones distributed to AWWs

*data as on 25-05-2022

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with PMAY beneficiaries on 31st May 2022

PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI

Supplementing financial needs of farmers

- Rs 6,000/- provided to small and marginal farmers under DBT mode
- 6,19,208 farmers benefitted to date

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with PM-KISAN beneficiaries on 31st May 2022

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMEEN)

Providing safety, security, and convenience while eliminating the shameful habit of open defecation.

- 2,42,96 Individual Household Latrines built
- 852 Community Sanitary Complexes built
- 148 Solid Waste Management Assets Procured

*Data as on 25th May 2022

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with SBM beneficiaries on 31st May 2022



Swachh Bharat Mission Urban

- Eliminate open defecation
- Eradicate Manual Scavenging
- Promote healthy sanitation practices

38,245 Individual household latrines constructed

515 Community toilets constructed



PRADHAN MANTRI Garib Kalyan Yojana

Helping people mitigate the hardships of COVID pandemic

- 26,43,783 Qtls rice allocated
- 47,174 Qtls masoor Dal allocated
- 6 phases successfully implemented
PHASE VI active

PM Shri Narendra Modi to interact with PMGKY beneficiaries on 31st May 2022



THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY & MANIPUR

Kshetrimayum Santa
Secretary,
Construction Workers' Federation Of India

This year, the working class of the entire world have celebrated the 138th year of May Day. The epoch-making uprising occurred in the United States of America on 1st May 1886 through a massive labour movement launched by workers demanding an eight-hour workday. This day is known as historic May Day. Since 1890, May Day has been recognized as "International May Day". In the last more than a hundred years, hundreds and thousands of memorable struggles launched for the emancipation of the working class people throughout the world are entwined with May Day. By the struggles of the working class through their revolutionary upsurges, anti-fascist, anti-war and national liberation movements the militant workers have been creating a historic tradition. May Day is intensely linked with this tradition. As a result, this day is a never-ending source of inspiration in the liberation movements of the proletariat.

In the founding meeting of the National Labour Union held on 20th August 1866 in Baltimore, the famous resolution, written underneath, was taken and the extent for eight-hour workday was resolved.

It said that - "The first and great necessity of the present to free labour of this country from capitalist slavery is the passing of a law by which 8 hours shall be the normal working day in all States in the American Union. We are resolved to put forth all our strength until this glorious result is attained."

From thereon, the demand for eight hours work which started in America, got momentum and speed. The historic May Day

was the result of this movement. And at last came the first day of May 1886 - the Historic May Day. Keeping Chicago at its centre, waves of strikes were unleashed throughout the USA. Five lakh workers took part in this movement. Frightened bourgeoisie suddenly realized the strength of united workers. They felt in their favour without a moment's delay. A bloody police-torture came down on the striking workers of "McCormic Harvester" workshop on 3rd May. Six workers died instantly and many were injured. Protesting against this barbarous police attack, workers called a sally at Hay Market Square on the next day. Again, police savagery was unleashed. A bomb was thrown in the middle of the crowd resulting to the death of a Sergeant. The fact that the incident was engineered by the agents of the ruling class was beyond doubt. A pitched battle broke out between the police and the strikers. In a flash, seven policemen and four workers died, and injuries were uncountable. Immediately after the blood bath at Chicago, the leaders of the proletariat were arrested and they faced severe police torture. A fabricated police case was started against them.

After two and half years of the historic movements from the month of December 1888, American Federation of Labour once again affirmed that from 1890, 1st May of every year would be observed by the workers of the USA as a day of agitational rallies and gatherings. Within a few months, the socialists of various countries gathered in Paris, the capital of France, on 14th July 1889 for forming an International, commonly known as 2nd International.

The Paris Meet resolved, "Since a similar demonstration has already been decided upon for May 1, 1890 by the American Federation of Labour at its convention at St. Louis, December 1888, this day is accepted for the International Demonstration. Workers of various countries must organize this demonstration according to the condition prevailing in each country."

Since then, the one and only International May Day of the working class came into being. This day, which was confined only within the boundary of the USA, spread and established itself throughout every corner of the world. So, until now, crossing its all communal, linguistic and geographical barriers, working class people have been observing May Day and resolutely marching forward to establish a society which will be free from exploitation and class distinctions. Since then, May Day has gradually brought a revolutionary implication to the thoughts of the working class of different countries. In Russia, under the great leadership of Lenin, May Day became a mighty weapon for the working class's revolutionary upsurge. The strikes and agitational rallies held, pamphlets published on May Days thereafter, were used by Lenin for developing the revolutionary impetus and its organization with an uncanny efficacy. Many pamphlets written by him on these occasions still radiate our hearts. His tireless efforts attained its glorious height on the successful completion of the proletarian October Revolution in 1917 in Russia.

In India, the day was first observed at the sea shore of Madras, present day Chennai, under the chairmanship of the labour leader Singaravelu Chettiar, in the year 1923. The gathering at Madras requested the Government to declare this glorious day of international workers as an official holiday. Apart from this, Singaravelu Chettiar hoisted the red flag on his residence by using his daughter's crimson coloured Sari as he had no flag in his possession. Chettiar was one of the convicts of the Kanpur conspiracy case.

Since then, May Day is observed throughout the country.

It is very interesting to note that Jananeta Hijam Irawat's image as an emerging hero of Manipuris was widespread in and outside Manipur after he met a young Manipuri trade union leader from Assam. His name was N. Kunjo Singh, a follower of M.N. Roy, the founder of Communist Party of India in Tashkent in 1920. Kunjo came to Manipur in the early second half of 1938 for financial help and support to workers strike in Assam Oil Company, Digboi. During his sojourn in Manipur he had lots of discussion with Irawat on many interesting developments around the world and Indian political situation and the role of trade union leaders on the eve of World War II. In his association with Kunjo during that short period, Irawat gained vast political understandings and a new era of movement was in the offing. Irawat's view was widened and he was apprehensive of Churachand Maharaj and his administration's vigil on his reformative moves.

The swiftly changing political developments around the world influenced him and decided to do something to suit the developing scenario with the Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha. The fourth session of the Mahasabha was held on 29th and 30th December, 1938 at Chinga Lampak, Imphal. The two days session popularly known as Chinga Session was instrumental in Irawat's firm determination and Manipuris political history. The Chinga Session deleted the word "Hindu" from the name of the organization, 'Nikhil Hindu Manipuri Mahasabha' that it became Nikhil Manipuri Mahasabha. After the change of the name, the Mahasabha became a political party and the session elected Irawat as the President and the first political platform was established in the princely State under the British rule.

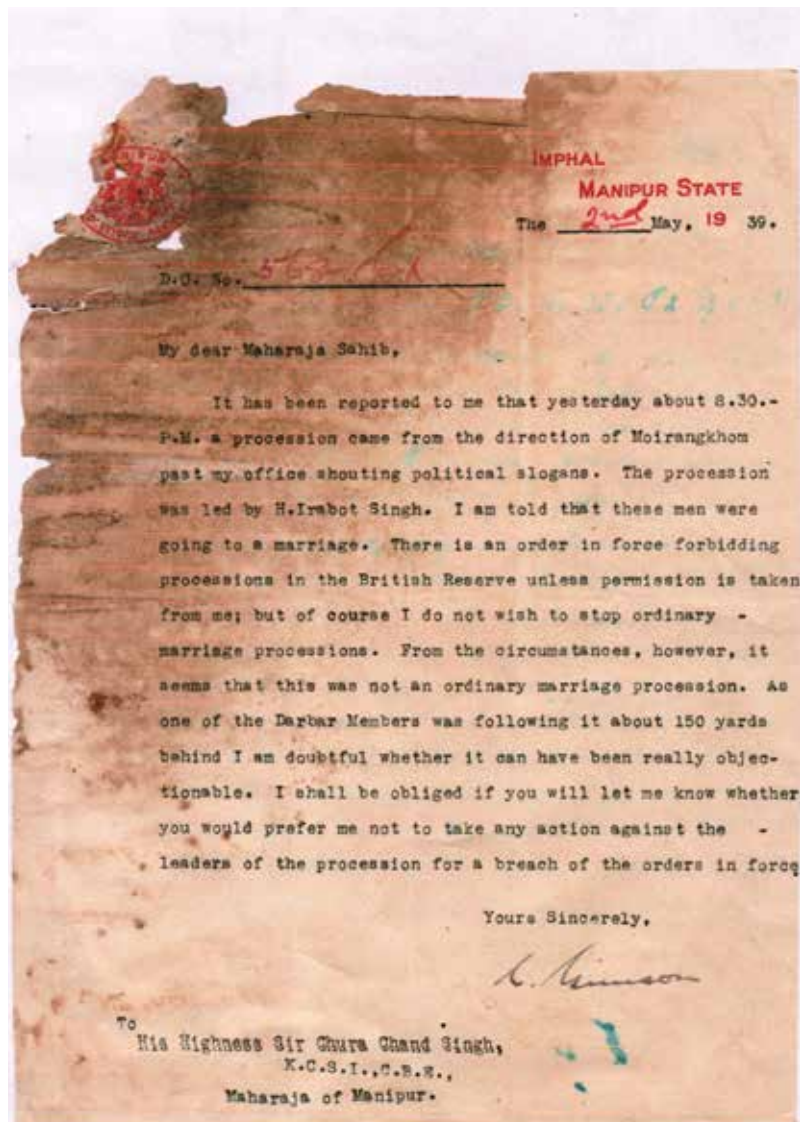
Then, Irawat launched movements according to the resolution adopted by the Chinga Session. He was entrusted to select

the members of the new working committee. Other leading members of the Mahasabha resigned from the Mahasabha as it became a political platform, but Irawat and Elangbam Tompok decided to work for the Mahasabha. Irawat did not want to be confined in the old culture of people's movement. So, he, along with young cadres of the Mahasabha, wanted to launch new movements in accordance with the development of the working class movement of the period on the eve of World War II. He embarked on the spadework for uplifting the real life situation of workers and peasants. The slogan was "Land to the tillers". The new course of his reformative measures coincided with the preparation for World War II.

During this Period, Christopher Gimson, the then political Agent of Manipur wrote a D.O. NO. 568 P.A. on the 2nd May, 1939 to His Highness Sir Churachand Singh K.C.S.I., C.B.E., the Maharaja of Manipur. The D.O. was as follows:

"Now, it is an established fact that Irawat organized the first International Labour Day on 1st May, 1938 in Imphal with his young comrade-in-arms. What is most urgent in our country, particularly in Manipur, today is to forge greater unity among the working class, employees and labourer. The present situation calls for fundamental socio-economic changes and with a view to bringing in those much desired changes, a determined struggle is necessary under the leadership of the working class. For this struggle, the unity of the workers and peasants and the participation of the middle class employees along with the other deprived sections of the people are essential."

There has been a continuous move on the part of the vested interests and other self seeking quarters to create doubts and confusions among the working class. The workers should not fall prey to such designs and they should try their best to uphold the banner of unity of the working class. They should always bear in mind the historical role that they are destined to fulfill in order to search for the ultimate objective of social changes. On the occasion of the May Day, the working class should take up new challenges and renew its pledge to work untiringly for realization of their cherished dreams.



GOVERNOR LA. GANESAN TOURS DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF MANIPUR



Governor of Manipur Shri La. Ganesan has reiterated that Governments at the Centre and the State are fully committed for all round development and welfare of the people. Addressing the people gathered at Sadbhavna Mandap in Chakpikarong Sub-divisional Headquarters in Chandel district on 27TH April, 2022 Governor said all governments are meant for the people and are also working for the people.

Shri La. Ganesan further said, a lot of progress has been seen in the last few years and many welfare schemes have also been introduced by the Centre. He said, benefits of such schemes have been directly reached to the people through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Assuring the people a clean all weather road, he said almost all the roads in the State will be cleaned within a year. To

give safe drinking water to every household, steps have been taken up under nationwide Jal Yojna, he added.

Stating that cleanliness would be the best way to fight against any form of diseases, the Governor said, we should always try to keep ourselves and our environment neat and clean. He said, next to cleanliness, vaccination should be our priority to fight the Covid pandemic. All should get at least two doses of Covid Vaccine so that we can fight it.

Appealing to the people in the district, mainly to those living in the border areas to give co-operation to the government, Shri La. Ganesan said all citizens should enroll for Aadhar for our identification. We should co-operate Government to stop any intruder coming in to our State. He also expressed

confidence that proper fencing work would be started soon in the border line with Myanmar.

Earlier, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Village chiefs submitted memoranda to the Governor urging him to look into the grievances of the villagers. Governor assured that all possible help would be extended at the earliest. Governor also attended a tree plantation programme during his visit.

The Governor of Manipur Shri La. Ganesan stated that any infiltration or illegal immigration to the State should be checked and sent them back. On the second day of his two days visit to Ukhrul and Kamjong districts, Governor interacted with the villagers at a programme held at Town Hall of Kamjong District Headquarters, on 20th April, 2022 .

Governor said, infiltrators are deliberately trying to sneak into our territory from the Myanmar side mostly in the border areas. He said, as we are sharing a long border line with Myanmar, all should be vigilant enough to check such act and should inform authorities if such a case arises. Being a border state, the Government alone cannot stop such illegal activities without the people's co-operation. The Governor appealed to the people to cooperate with the Government in this regard.

Reiterating that the Centre and the State Governments are fully committed for all round development and to give maximum benefits to the people, Shri La. Ganesan said, most of the development works are in the planning map. He said roads are being built and basic infrastructures will also be developed in Kamjong district. Any issues pertaining to development will be taken care of by the State Government and also will apprise to the Centre if necessary, he added. Governor urged the people to implement ABCD which means A for Aadhar enrolment, B for opening Bank Account, C for COVID-19 Vaccination and D for taking



part in developmental activities.

Governor of Manipur Shri La. Ganesan has said that there will be no development on any front if people do not cooperate with the Government. Speaking to the people at an interaction programme held on 6th May, 2022, at Machi High School in Machi Sub-divisional Headquarters in Tengnoupal district, Governor said, we as concerned citizens of this country, are responsible to contribute and co-operate to societal development.

Shri La. Ganesan further said that a number of developmental programmes have been implemented by the centre and the state government is also working in line with the centre. He said, many hardships have been faced by the people in many parts of the state and it should be addressed as early as possible. Insisting that every sub-division should at least have a hospital for proper health care, the Governor asked the concerned district authorities to look into the issue. He also assured the people to take action to give all weather roads for easy access.

Expressing concern over the increasing number of drugs hauled in the state, Shri La. Ganesan warned those who are involved in the act and asked people involved in poppy cultivation to stop immediately. He said, the drug menace has become a great challenge now-a-days.

Governor also appealed the people to get



Covid-19 Vaccination and enrolled for Aadhar for identification.

Governor of Manipur Shri La. Ganesan has said that he will urge the Centre to withdraw the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA) if there is overall improvement in law and order situation where complete peace, calm and tranquility persists in the State.

On the first day of his two days visit to Ukhrul and Kamjong districts, Governor was speaking to the people at a community interaction programme held at Nungbi Khullen Public Ground, under Chingai Sub-division of Ukhrul District. He said, with the improvement of law and order situation in some areas of the state, disturb area status have been withdrawn from the state. If there is complete peace and tranquility in rest of the state in the coming days, then he will urge the Centre to completely withdraw the same. Shri La. Ganesan further said that there are certain issues which are to be addressed immediately. Some issues are local which is in the concern of the State Government. In

such issues, he assured the people that he will ask the Chief Minister to take prompt action.

Insisting people to co-operate the Government especially in four different aspects, Governor said, firstly, all citizens should at least get enrolled for the Aadhaar Card. All need to open bank account to get the benefits of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). He continued that all have to be vaccinated with COVID-19 Vaccines as it will help us to fight the pandemic if there comes a possibility of a fourth wave.

Stating that the cross-border smuggling activities including drugs is becoming a tough challenge these days, Shri La. Ganesan urged the people to co-operate the Government in fencing works in the border line once the works begins.

Earlier interacting with the Governor, Tangkhul Civil Society Organizations urged to remove AFSPA completely from the State. Four (4) memorandums were also submitted to the Governor. They also urged to exempt North-east from the imposition of Hindi language.

MANIPUR COMES TO SINGLE DIGIT COVID STATUS

Manipur Today Desk

After Manipur battled the global pandemic COVID-19 for more than two years, the State recorded no active case for three consecutive days till 23rd May, 2022 but unfortunately the positive case climb to 1 on 24th May, 2022 which reached to 6 till the filing of this report on 30th May, 2022. All the remaining active cases had recovered from the disease and discharged from home isolation treatment on May 20, 2022. It may be mentioned that the first positive case was confirmed in the State on March 24, 2020. However, after briefly remaining COVID-free till mid-April, the number of active cases started climbing up from mid-May of the same year. The State Government, however, left no stone unturned in fighting the pandemic with all possible efforts putting in to save its people from the virus.

Screening of passengers at Bir Tikendrajit International Airport, Imphal commenced as early as January 18, 2020. Here, it is pertinent to mention that the first case of COVID-19 was reported in India only on January 30, 2020. Screenings at State's key entry points like Mao, Jiribam, Moreh, Tusom, Nambisha, Behiang, Sinzawl, Jessami, etc. were also activated. Nobody was allowed to enter Manipur, whether by air or by road, without showing 'COVID-19 Negative Report' taken within 72 hours prior to arrival. Advisory was also issued to Ministers, MLAs and Government functionaries to refrain from organising/participating/promoting any function which would attract public gathering.

Ima Keithels and Temporary Market of Imphal city and other women markets in different districts were closed from March 21, 2020, prior to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for Janata Curfew which was observed all over the country on March 22, 2020. Activation of helpline numbers, announcement of Containment Zones, effective contact tracing, introduction of Home Isolation, manpower enhancement and management, opening of COVID Care

Centres, arrangements for disposal of bodies, permit for gathering, introduction of e-Sanjeevani OPD, providing Psychological supports, maintaining law and order, proper hospital/CCC admissions, home delivery services, etc. were all put in place well in time to tackle the pandemic.

When there was huge requirement of medical oxygen as Delta variant wreaked havoc during the second wave across the country, the State Government acted swiftly to increase the number of oxygen cylinders, oxygen plants, ventilators, hospital beds and ICU beds to record numbers within a very short span of time. It could save hundreds of precious lives from the dreaded virus. Moreover, vaccination was expedited across the State by opening adequate number of vaccination centres and introducing COVID Vaccination Express. As adequate measures were taken up during the Second Wave, the rates of hospitalisation and casualty were dramatically low during the third wave although Omicron variant was more contagious than the Delta variant.

It goes without saying that Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh led from the front in State's fight against COVID-19. He not only monitored and supervised all the matters relating to the pandemic round the clock but also reached out to different sections of the society to gather suggestion and information to chalk out effective measures to defeat the virus. Shri N. Biren Singh also regularly communicated with the Central Government and different relevant agencies so that there was no loophole. He not only often interacted with doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and other frontline workers but also encouraged COVID-19 patients through video conference. In fact, the State Government under his able leadership had effectively responded to the global health crisis at multiple levels leading to coming down of number of active case in the State to zero today.

A SURVEY OF DISEASES NEEDED



Health and IPR Minister Shri Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh has said that a survey of different diseases is needed and its updated data need to be maintained.

The Minister was speaking as Chief Guest at the Inaugural Programme of the “One Day Orientation Programme” for nurses on the theme of “Prevention, Early Identification and Early Intervention of Developmental Disabilities” held at mini auditorium RIMS, Imphal on 19th May, 2022 . He said that most of the public do not know their health status. Regular testing of our health and updating health status will help to reduce life risk and expenditure. Minister informed that preventive measures will help to bring a good healthcare system.

Shri Dr. Ranjan maintained that the department of health, social welfare and education need to be tied up and work

together in mutual coordination. There have been instances of joint ventures of the three, earlier. Necessary measures will be taken up to bring global health, he added.

Minister Ranjan informed that nurses play a very important role in the health care system. He advised that nurses should render their services sincerely and with dedication. They may acknowledge that they play a motivational role. Trainee nurses also should get ideas and share knowledge with others after every training or seminars, he added.

Speaking as president of the occasion Director RIMS, Prof. Dr. A. Shanta said that disability of an individual may be because of the negligence during the pregnancy period of a mother. We need to be aware about the possible outcomes when we are careless during this stage, he maintained

EFFICIENT INDUSTRIAL & INVESTMENT POLICY MUST FOR STATE'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



Textiles, Commerce and Industry Minister, Smt Nemcha Kipgen stressed that an efficient industrial and investment policy is the need of the hour to attract investment and to spur robust economic activity for industrial development in Manipur. This was stated by the Minister while gracing as Chief Guest at the “One Day Workshop on Framing of Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (IIPPM)-2022” held on 19th May, 2022 at the conference hall of Institute of Cooperative Management (ICM), Lamphelpat, Imphal.

Industry Minister Smt Nemcha also expressed her gratitude to the Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N. Biren Singh for entrusting her with the responsibility to make Manipur, a hub for India’s future trade and commerce with neighbouring states and neighbouring countries, South-East Asia as Manipur is India’s Gateway to South-East Asia.

Smt. Nemcha Kipgen further informed that at present, there are 34, 293 units in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) which was 1,085 units in the year 2015. This

clearly shows that Manipur is marching ahead in the field of Industrialization, she asserted.

It may be mentioned that Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (IIPPM)-2022 is formulated to strengthen the State Government’s mission to act as facilitator to accelerate industrial development and its allied sectors in Manipur through development of infrastructure, enhancement of human resource, provision of incentives, garnering of more investments amongst others for the inclusive socio-economic development of the people of the State.

Textiles, Commerce and Industry Minister, Smt Nemcha Kipgen sought cooperation, valuable suggestions and ideas from the concerned stakeholders for successful Framing of Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (IIPPM)-2022 to further accelerate economic growth in Manipur through proper linkages of infrastructure, human resource and administrative support mechanism.

UNION MINISTER VISITS ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT CHANDEL



Union Minister of State for Steel & Rural Development, Government of India Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste visited Aspirational District Chandel on 18th May and interacted with officials of various departments, Local Community delegates, Self Help Groups and Tribal delegates of the district at Mini-Conference Hall, DC Complex, Chandel. The interaction programme was organized by the District Administration, Chandel.

During the interaction programme the Minister took part in a series of discussion that witnessed participants from various communities of the district who shared their success and failure stories of their efforts in their respective fields and also projected their demands. The delegates expressed their gratitude to the Minister for initiating such an extensive outreach programme for the welfare of the people. The Minister also interacted with key district level officers and inquired about the initiatives and projects

taken up under the Central and State sponsored schemes.

During the occasion, the Minister said that several measures and initiatives are being taken up to make Chandel a prosperous and developed place and for the welfare of the people of the district. He also assured that he will look into the demands raised by all the delegates.

The Hon'ble Minister Faggan also inspected Maha Area Producers Co-operative Society Limited (MAPS) at Liwa Khullen village, which is supported and promoted by CDCRMS in collaboration with NERCORMP, Chandel. The minister inspected the different varieties of food products available at the centre and lauded the role and the efforts of the farmers in the development of the district and State. He also handed over Short Term Training Certificates to students during the programme.

MANIPUR BECOMES FIRST STATE TO GRANT ALL ROW PERMISSIONS

At a time when all the telecom operators are looking for help with the RoW permissions, it is a commendable thing that Manipur has granted all of them. In doing so, Manipur has become the first state in the country to clear all the RoW permissions that were pending.

TR Dua, Director General, Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA), said that representatives of DIPA were making enormous efforts with the Manipur government for the alignment and the implementation of the RoW Rules in November 2016 through the joint meeting and more.

Today, there are zero pending RoW applications in the state which is a good sign for the telecom infrastructure development in the country.

Much recently, the telecom minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, had inaugurated the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal for speeding up the RoW approvals in the country.

The industry bodies and the telecom operators have largely been affected due to not getting RoW permissions in time in several states. The government of India has introduced a central RoW policy, but there are a few states which still don't follow it.

However, to ensure that the 5G rollout is a success, the RoW applications need to be approved fast by the state governments across the country. Thus, the new Gati Shakti Sanchar portal will act as a medium to bring transparency into play and oversee which states are lagging behind with the approval of RoW applications.



Because of forming their own RoW policies and not following the one released by the central government, the state governments were charging exorbitant amounts of money from the telcos for approving RoW applications. But in the last year, many states have adopted the RoW policies of the central government.

But India still has a long way to go when it comes to telecom infrastructure, and the online RoW applications portal will definitely make a positive impact on the business journeys of the telcos. (Courtesy: Telecom Talk)

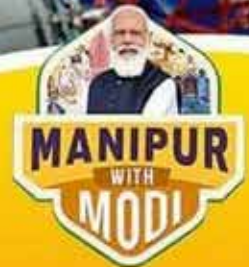
MANIPUR BECOMES THE FIRST STATE TO GRANT ALL RoW APPROVALS

The RoW applications need to be approved fast by states to ensure the 5G rollout

Department of Telecommunication introduced the Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal for speeding up the RoW approvals



5G



A BIG STEP TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE STATE!

MINISTER AWANGBOW NEWMAI INSPECTS LOKTAK LIFT IRRIGATION



Water Resource Minister Shri Awangbow Newmai inspected the machineries and canals under the Loktak Lift Irrigation in Bishnupur district on 27th April, 2022. Moirang MLA Shri Thongam Shanti and officials from the Water Resource Department accompanied the minister during the inspection.

During the inspection of Pump House-I located at Ningthoukhong, department officials apprised the minister that installation of the newly procured water pumps will be completed by the department within two months.

The inspecting team led by Minister Awangbow also inspected the canal stretch from Ningthoukhong to Okshongbung in Moirang. Few encroachers along the canals were directed to shift immediately for smooth operation of the project.

Farmers apprised the Minister that several waterways were jammed by mud

accumulating in the pipelines buried under the bridges. Officials assured the farmers that all the water blockages will be cleared at the earliest possible. Farmers were further assured during the inspection that adequate cow-passing bridges will be built across the canal to ensure convenient passage for farm cattles.

Speaking to media persons on the sideline of the inspection, Minister Awangbow exuded confidence that water woes of farmers within the area will be drastically reduced once the new water pumps are operational. Taking strong exceptions to the encroachment on canals and a rivulet in Moirang, Minister Awangbow appealed for cooperation from the people to tackle flood and irrigation problems in the State.

Chief Engineer Shri G. Robindro Sharma, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineer and other officials from Water Resource Department also accompanied the minister during the inspection.

UKRAINE CRISIS AND THE LESSON IN DIPLOMACY IT HAS FOR ALL NATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES

Pradip Phanjoubam



Nearly three months after Russian President Vladimir Putin's atrocious decision to invade Ukraine, there are no signs the tragedy is drawing to a close. The despair of the ordinary Ukrainian is imaginable, heroic though their resistance is. The extreme power asymmetry being what it is, and the likelihood of any direct major intervention from other powers fading, although indirectly NATO countries have begun escalating their aid in military equipment to Ukraine, it is still doubtful Ukraine can defeat Russia. At this moment,

it does seem what the world will be left to witness is a protracted guerrilla war.

Thanks to the internet, since the time this tragic war began, there has been a profusion of news, images and videos both fake and real, so much so that it has become almost impossible to distinguish propaganda from fact. Thankfully, amidst all the information chaos, there has also been no shortage of known rational voices debating the matter for all to see and make their own assessments

of the different layers of the tragedy, and what might all of it lead to. If at one layer, one party appears to be the aggressor and therefore wrong, at another the verdict could be completely reversed. For those of us in the Northeast, how divisive these underlying frictions can become should not be difficult to fathom. We also know from very immediate histories in the larger Asian region, that empires by their very structures, contain many different nationalities within them and are yoked together by the sinews of centralised authority of the emperor's administration.

It is also known that empires have never lasted forever. They wax and wane, and sometime disintegrate completely and the different nationalities bound within them emerge as independent entities. The story of the Russian Empire is no different. At one point, its expanse reached the magnitude of a separate continent, constituting a large chunk of Asia as well as Europe. In the wake of the Bolshevik Revolution, the last Emperor Tsar Nicholas II, abdicated his throne and by 1922, the former empire disintegrated and the many nations within it were beginning to go their different ways, but the Bolshevik Communists, reunited them with each of them forming a Soviet Socialist Republic, and together forming the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, USSR. During WWII, USSR was an uneasy ally of the US and Britain led Allied force, but after the war, it came on confrontational path with the Capitalist West bitterly, setting off a Cold War, marked by an ever present threats of open war between them, each trying to be one up in an every escalating arms race, so much so that in total, the two adversaries together possessed more than 40,000 nuclear warheads.

The East and West blocs, as they came to be known, also formed their own military alliances. The Warsaw Pact of the East Bloc led by Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, NATO, of the West Bloc led by the USA. An imaginary line referred to as the Iron Curtain, running along Trieste-Vienna-Stettin, came to separate the two Blocs, even spitting up in the process, the WWII vanquished nation, Germany, between them. It will be recalled that it was amidst this tension that India, Egypt and erstwhile Yugoslavia, under their leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru, Gamal Abdel Nasser and Josip Broz Tito, together with Sukarno of Indonesia and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana launched a third alliance of nations unaffiliated to either the East or West Bloc, which came to be the Non Aligned Movement, NAM.

The standoff between the West and East Blocs, ultimately came to an end in 1991 thankfully without a nuclear holocaust, with the West Bloc victorious. A retreating USSR, who suffered deterioration in morale and economy beginning with its miscalculated invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, where it had hoped it would be able to help its Communist allies in the country gain and retain power, misfired badly, ultimately agreed to the reunification of Germany in 1989, when Mikhail Gorbachev was the USSR president, on the agreement that NATO would not expand eastwards. On December 26, 1991, the USSR was dissolved, and Russia under Boris Yeltsin's presidency was among those eager to have this happen. As commentators point out, Yeltsin among others also had a vested interest. He was the president of Russia which was one among 15 republics under the USSR, and therefore one below the President of the USSR, who was Gorbachev. Dissolving the USSR hence meant he would be alleviated to the top of the leadership hierarchy by default.

However, going against agreement at the time of the fall of the Berlin wall, NATO started expanding eastwards by 1999 absorbing former republics under the USSR one after the other. When Russia raised complaints, they were told the agreement was with the USSR and since the USSR does not anymore exist, the agreement was no longer binding. In 2000, after becoming President of Russia, Putin reportedly wanted to be part of the European security architecture and asked when Russia was going to be invited to join NATO. He was told that Russia had to apply to be considered for membership and was also indicated the unlikelihood of Russia being admitted as Russia was too large and not entirely in the western hemisphere. For a country with the grand memory of Imperial greatness and one which still considered itself as a great power, observers note, this came as a humiliation, and perhaps was meant to be so. Such rebuffs continued, and soon it became clear to Russia that NATO's continuing expansion was meant to isolate and encircle Russia and also to make it feel like a dispensable minor player in world politics.

Putin's Munich speech on February 10, 2007 at the Munich Security Conference, where he said enough is enough, and that Russia would not tolerate this isolation policy anymore is said to be the turning point, and the start of a new hostility between Russia and NATO. In 2008, Russia invaded its neighbour Georgia to tame it for wanting to break free of the Russian orbit and join NATO taking on an anti-Russia posture. In 2014 when anti-Russia section in Ukraine toppled their elected government led by pro-Russia Viktor Yanukovich, allegedly under sponsorship of the West, to install their pro-West current President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Russia again reacted violently

and entered Ukraine to annex the Crimean peninsula, a region with a dominant Russian and Tatar population, and emotionally close to Russia, and a part of Russia till it was transferred to Ukraine in 1954 when Russia and Ukraine were in the same country, USSR, by their common president Nikita Khrushchev. By contrast, as commentators have pointed out, when a regime change revolution broke out in Armenia in 2018, another immediate neighbour of Russia, to ultimately lead to the resignation of President Serzh Sargsyan and his replacement by the revolution's leader Nikol Pashinyan, because Armenia chose to remain unaligned and showed no inclination of joining NATO, Russia made no response. The fact is, though Russia's extreme action of invading another sovereign country is unacceptable, it must be acknowledged that the response was to what the country sees as an aggression and threat by NATO and therefore the US, and to the insensitivity of Ukraine in ignoring this security concern.

Not all of us are (or were) very familiar with the social, political and economic dynamics that determine the aspirations and behaviour of central Europe. In the wake of the Ukraine crisis, we are now much better educated on the subject. It does seem Ukraine-Russia enmity is almost like a bitter conflict between siblings, and sibling conflict can be extremely bitter, given that non-conformity to expectations by either are prone to be seen not just as a rebuff, but betrayal. The two people have almost the same history, speak almost the same language, lived under the same political systems for centuries, first under the Tsarist Empire and then the USSR, so any break would have to be painful. The fact that the first names of presidents of the two countries are Vladimir and Volodymyr should testify

to this. It is quite obvious that Ukraine always saw Russia as a domineering big brother, and the bile and divide this caused could be like an amplified version of the hill-valley divide in Manipur, marked as we all know, by mutual suspicion and distrust. So when Hitler invaded Russia, a section of the Ukrainian population sided with the Nazis. After Germany lost WWII, USSR's supreme leader then, Joseph Stalin took it out on this section of Ukrainian population he felt was hostile to the USSR and committed untold atrocities, introducing artificial famines etc., which some even describe amounted to a genocidal campaign. Khrushchev's transfer of Crimea to Ukraine in 1954, some commentators see as a reconciliatory gesture to Ukraine for Stalin's atrocities. The truth is also Ukraine's demography is far from monolithic. Ukrainian speakers are the majority making for 77.5 percent and are concentrated towards the west of the country. There are also Russian speakers constituting 17.2 percent, and smaller numbers of Romanians, Belarus and Tatars, concentrated towards the east of the country. As an immediate echo of the larger friction at the geo-strategic level, ethnic rift within has also grown and Ukraine's attitude towards its minorities hardened, leading to open armed conflicts, leaving Russia the excuse for intervention. This in short is the tragedy of Ukraine.

While our hearts go out to Ukraine and its brave people, our condemnation is not confined to Putin and Russia alone. There is a deeper and sinister politics reminiscent of the Cold War that foretold this tragedy, and in this, NATO and the West have certainly not been innocent bystanders. Ukraine cannot be absolved of all guilt either. It was foolish on its part to not be sensitive to the security concerns of its much larger and powerful neighbour Russia, probably in the belief that

NATO, therefore the US, will come to its aid if Russia does anything to it. What it chose to ignore in the process is the wisdom that diplomacy and statesmanship is about being aware of possible impacts of any major decision each takes on all neighbours. No nation exists in a vacuum, and as the saying goes, you can change enemies and friends, but you cannot change neighbours.

Imagine a family in which a brother is hot tempered, a sister is emotional and prone to depression and another sibling is in ill-health and cannot tolerate loud sounds. If peace in the family is important, should not it be paramount that each member respects the other's sensitivities and seek to evolve and adjust to an optimum balance. This would be in line with the Game Theory, applicable in practically every social situation, whereby the aggregate of sacrifices each makes towards a consensual common good, becomes the guarantee of each's welfare and freedom. Not just in Ukraine, but also in situations more immediate to those of us in Manipur, an enlightened self-interest should be about striking such a social equilibrium, without any party seeking to have the cake and eat it too at the cost of any other. Ukraine seemed to have forgotten this unwritten principle of good neighbourliness. In the words of Prof. John Joseph Mearsheimer, what Ukraine did was to underestimate the danger a bear can pose, and throwing caution to the winds, went ahead and poked the Russian bear in the eye with a stick. His suggestion, as also those of Noam Chomsky and Henry Kissinger, is for Ukraine to pledge to remain neutral and be the bridge between the East and West rather than offer to be the bulwark of either. Hopefully things have gone too far by now, and whatever has happened can be reversed to the extent retrievable so that peace and normalcy can return in the region.

ONE DAY OUTREACH PROGRAM ON INCOME TAX HELD AT THOUBAL

As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahatsav "One day Outreach program on income tax" was held today at the Counting Hall of Deputy Commissioner Thoubal. The program was organised by the Income Tax department North Eastern Region. Shri M. Joychandra Singh IRS, Deputy Commissioner of Income tax Imphal circle, Shri Ksh. Umananda Singh ADM, Thoubal and Shri Shanker Deva Singh, Addl.SP Thoubal were the dais members.

Speaking at the function, Shri M. Joychandra Singh laid stress on the importance of filing income tax returns (ITRs) and payment of taxes which are utilised for developing healthcare, education and infrastructure. Taxpayers were enlightened about the importance of paying taxes on time. New provisions regarding penalties on late filing were also stressed upon. Socio-economic development of a country is largely dependent on its taxation structure, he added.

Shri Ksh. Umananda in his speech said that the payment of tax is important as it raises resources for development and welfare programmes. The services provided by the government in infrastructure development, various schemes and programmes under health and education and other sectors are funded from the taxes paid by the taxpayers of this country. He said the income tax return file should be filed by the concerned Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) on time. He also urged the Income Tax department to organise similar programmes annually to give awareness to the general public.

Shri Sanker Deva in his speech said payment of tax and filling of income tax return is a must for every taxpayer. He said that most people take lightly the process for filing of income tax return file. It is an important



document for a person whenever one sets up a project or business.

As part of the program Shri S.Sachidananda Singh, Income Tax Officer (Intelligence & Criminal Investigation) Unit 3 Imphal, Manipur and Nagaland presented a power point presentation. Due to robust Digital India movement the process of filing of Income Tax Return (ITR) and other taxation matters is simpler now. One can visit the website www.incometax.gov.in for all taxation related matters.

As part of the program the Income Tax department facilitate various eminent personality. They include M. Romita Devi, Padmashree Awardee 2021; Shri Ch Iboyai Singh noted artist who is famous for "Tangkhul Saba"; Shri M. Tombimacha Singh, 2017 state Teacher and 2019 National Teacher Awardee; M.Eteen Singh National award winner for social service during Covid 19 Pandemics; Shri E.Parshuram noted artist for "Sankritan Pung". Other persons who were felicitate today include noted agriculturist Ak. Deben Singh, Ph. Thoiba Singh and W. Bimola Devi. Shri A. Anilkumar Singh MES, ZEO Thoubal was also facilitated for his outstanding performance in the field of Education.

The program was attended by AC to DC Shri A. Ruhinikumar MCS, T. Sangeeta DIO Thoubal, DLOs of various departments, entrepreneurs and small business owners.

CABINET APPROVES MANIPUR PLASTIC POLICY 2022



The State Cabinet approved the Manipur Plastic Policy 2022 in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's objective to phase out single use plastic by 2022 on 18th May. The policy seeks to tackle the multi-faceted plastic pollution by regulating use of plastics.

It may be mentioned that Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh chaired a State Cabinet meeting with all 11 Ministers in attendance this evening.

The policy also includes that any person found dealing in or using plastic items in contravention of the direction stipulated in the policy will face imprisonment upto five years term, with a fine extendable upto One lakh Rupees.

Further, the Cabinet also reviewed the progress of the 100 Days programme.

As part of the 100-Action Points for the First-100 days of the new government, the Cabinet has also resolved to take up immediate steps to double the width of 79

roads consisting of 57 roads in Greater Imphal area, 10 in other district Headquarters in the valley areas and another 12 roads in the hill district headquarters.

The Cabinet further approved the Manipur Tourism Policy 2022 considering the changing scenario of the tourism industry in the world. The policy seeks to harness the tourism potential of the State and to create employment and livelihood opportunities, to encourage investment and increase revenue generation.

Extending the Hills Leaders Day and Meeyamgi Numit held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, the Cabinet has decided to launch District Hill Leaders' Day and Meeyamgi Numit to bring the government services at the doorstep of the general public.

Meanwhile, regarding the Start-up idea Covid Scheme, the Cabinet has approved to provide 100 percent subsidy of Rs. 30,000/- as first installment seed money to support certain categories of applicants.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY: JOURNALISM UNDER DIGITAL SIEGE

Yumnam Rupachandra
Secy General EGM
Editor in Chief . Impact TV

3rd of May 2022 came and went and in Manipur we the journalists continued our work as usual even though nothing in the news landscape was as usual in Manipur or the entire India. India had just slipped to 154th position in the world press freedom index. In Manipur an economically besieged media houses had just called a cease work strike

demanding clearance of government advertisement bills pending with the Manipur government. But the day went by without much fanfare or seriousness it deserved.

Let's go back to the series of themes of the World Press Day of the past few years to understand what problems beset the media globally and also in Manipur.

In 2016 it was "Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms – This Is Your Right!".

In 2017 it was "Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies".

In 2018 it was "Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law".

In 2019 it was "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation".

In 2020 it was "Journalism without Fear or Favour"

And in 2021 it was "Information as a Public Good".

This year 2022 it is "Journalism under Digital Siege".

The themes that the world body chooses each year is an indication of the state of media globally. It also underlines the importance of media and freedom of media, in the global context.

If in 2018, we were reminded of our duty - "Keeping the power in Check" by 2022, we are reminded of the challenges from Power to keep the media in check. Even as there is global observance of the day going on, litigation and inquiries and controversy over the infamous saga of "Pegasus", the Israeli military spyware which have been allegedly used to target journalists is proceeding parallel.

Surveillance of the journalists by the State to check them has become the new norm for governments across the globe.

This is what was on the plate of the 4 Day World Press Freedom Day Global Conference from 2nd to 5th May 2022 at Punta Del Este, Uruguay. UNESCO Assistant Director General for communication and information Sector, Tawfik Jelassi, in his address ahead of the Conference underlined the importance of this year's theme- "Journalism under Digital Siege." He said, while the digital era has opened a rise of new technologies that allow us to access news more than ever before, they expose us to disinformation and hate speeches. He also said it has raised new challenges for our privacy and data protection with digital surveillance techniques used by different actors in violation of the right to privacy and freedom of expression. The digital sphere has provided new tools to those who wish to silence free expression, he added.

The figures as they stand today as per UNESCO- over the last 5 years, 85% of the world's population has experienced decline in press freedom in their countries; 400 journalists have been killed while doing their job; global revenue in advertisement have dropped by half.

Nearer home in Manipur, what is happening globally has touched the local media to a great extent and some more. Manipur stands out as the State where the first case of use of newly enacted regulation to curb digital media, although erroneously applied, speaks volumes of State's tolerance of free speech.

There is a strong indication that there is a rise in the number and power of people who wish to silence free expression in the media through all means available. While journalists in Manipur, because of its long standing conflict situation, have always suspected of being snooped by law and order agencies, ostensibly to curb insurgency, journalists today fear if they are being snooped for political purposes though there is no way of verifying it. But more journalists relying on encrypted calls through social media platforms like Whatsapp to discuss sensitive issues including politics is indeed an indicator. Politicians themselves prefer speaking on Whatsapp for fear of their conversation being recorded or spied on. Of late, many are jumping on Telegram, perceived as more secure than Whatsapp. Increase in the number of security cameras with targeted intention of maintaining law and order, because of its lack of transparency on its check and balances of misuses have heightened suspicion, if these have been used for other purposes other than law and order. Going by the number of CCTV cameras that abound the city of Imphal, it would seem that the government knows who is moving where, except those planting bombs and stealing vehicles of all manner. There are cases of CCTV footage, either of public or private, having been used to trace crimes but those seemed to be by far too little and too less. There is a curious case

of a number of non local persons breaking into a shop or private office, somewhere on RIMS road in an early morning some years back. The footage of the crime went viral on social media. However, we are yet to understand what really happened and if any one responsible has been arrested. Police have not been able to nab the person who "gifted" a bomb to the office of Poknapham Daily and People's Chronicle despite the crime having been captured on CCTV. So, what are our CCTV cameras surveying, who are they watching, what are they watching? We can only speculate.

There is another digital seizure of different kinds in Manipur. The explosion of social media handlers dealing with sensitive areas like news and current affairs have come as a challenge to the mainstream media in more ways than one. The mainstream media in India functions under a strict regulation and all its practitioners are required to be registered and in case of Manipur their antecedents verified by the State Police. The PRESS sticker, recognized and respected by the law enforcers, are an easy tool by miscreants, drug dealers and anti socials to move about and carry out their nefarious activities. The Press logo is also an easy pass to secured areas and functions attended by high profile VIPs. Unverified social media handlers with PRESS pass have today become a security threat that not only endangers VIPs but also has potential to drag the names of mainstream media practitioners.

These unregulated social media are another source of headache to the mainstream media as many of them pick up news from mainstream media without any permission. Poor gatekeeping and lack of responsibility means fake news and hate speeches finding their ways into the community via these platforms. And in sensitive multi ethnic states like Manipur, there is a need to control the free run of these platforms through a proper channel without compromising the freedom of expression of the individuals.

1ST DM UNIFEST 2022 DON'T WASTE TIME: CHIEF MINISTER



Our academic period is limited to just 6-7 years, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh asserted before students of Dhanamanjuri University, and advised against wasting their time in unproductive things which can disturb the academic atmosphere and session.

The Chief Minister was speaking as the Chief Guest of the inaugural function of the 1st DM Unifest 2022 on 16th May 2022, a youth festival of DM University and its constituent colleges of DM College of Science, DM College of Commerce, DM College of Arts, Ghanapriya Women's College and LMS Law College at the Central Hall, DM College of Science, Dhanamanjuri University, Manipur, today.

Shri N. Biren Singh appealed to the young students against joining agitations and taking

part in strikes and bandhs and said if they need anything or are facing issues, they can first approach their university authorities or department concerned to discuss the issue.

He said the students can also meet him, stating that there are no issues that cannot be settled or solved.

Stating that we cannot succeed without showing respect to our elders, he asked the students to be respectful to their teachers and elders.

The Chief Minister said politics should be based on reality and be realistic, it should not be just words, but these words should be followed by actions. He further asserted that the BJP led government in its first term was focused mainly on bringing peace and building a peaceful co-existence among communities without bandhs, blockades,

strikes, etc, to create an atmosphere where each one of us can perform our responsibilities and duties.

He stated that nepotism in promotion and employment at institutions and offices will not be tolerated and will be streamlined on merit/seniority basis according to the Recruitment Rules.

Shri N. Biren Singh further spoke on the issue of war on drug campaign and said the teachers should also spread awareness among the students on the ills of the drug menace. It is time to think of our future generation, he said.

Further stating that the State is fortunate to get a university of the stature of DM University, the Chief Minister also expressed his happiness over witnessing the discipline and respect highlighted by the young students of the university during the march past parade.

He said it is quite pleasing and gratifying to witness the young and fit students dressed in traditional customs, promoting and preserving our tradition and culture.

Further expressing the need to promote and preserve our history and showcase our identity before the world, the Chief Minister said there are some few outsiders who are trying to manipulate and wrongly represent Manipur's history. He further stressed on the need to include Manipur's history in the educational syllabus.

The Chief Minister also recounted historical events like the Seven Years' Devastation and reminded the students of the forefathers in surviving such events and in driving off enemies. He further elucidated contributions of kings like Maharaj Kullachandra, Maharaj Gambhir Singh in nation building and said we should inculcate their nationalism.

The Chief Minister further said that the Anglo Manipur was fought on several fronts, and that the government is trying to observe the Anglo-Manipur War memorial





attending the function as a Guest of Honour said today's festival has a strong implication for the future of our society because the youth is the foundation of our society and how we grow as a state and nation is dependent on the youth.

He further called on the students to participate in the events of the festival stating that it should not be only about winning. The idea should be about sharing ideas, interaction among the youths, he said.



at Tengnoupal and MayangKhang also, starting from next year.

Further highlighting some developmental works in connection with DM University, the Chief Minister said that as part of the 100-days programme of the government, new infrastructures to be inaugurated before June 30 include Academic Block for Arts, Science and Commerce, Main Library, library block for GP College. He said DPRs are being prepared for additional hostel, examination block, laboratories, he said adding that bifurcation of Teaching and Non-teaching staff from Directorate of Higher Education is a major demand and will be decided upon at the earliest by the cabinet.

Assuring to develop infrastructure of the university at the earliest, the Chief Minister also expressed belief that the youth festival will encourage the idea of a united society and understanding among the different communities.

Education Minister Shri Th. Basanta Singh



Vice Chancellor Prof. N. Rajmuhon said that it will indeed provide a platform for showing the multidimensional talents of the youths of the State in various extracurricular activities. This four day festival will provide opportunities to the students of the five colleges to compete in various events and a healthy competition among the students, he added.

The festival will showcase the idea of promoting art and culture, foster the idea of brotherhood and bring about emotional integration among the students from different communities through cultural events, he said.

The inaugural function was also attended by Thangmeiband MLA Kh. Joykishan and Commissioner Higher & technical Education Shri M. Harekrishna, principals of constituent colleges, faculty members, students, among others.

A march past parade was also conducted as part of the inaugural function.

CM KICKS OFF 12TH HOCKEY INDIA SUB JUNIOR WOMEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2022



Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh today kicked off the 12th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2022 at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal on 11th May, 2022.

The championship is organised by Manipur Hockey under the aegis of Hockey India and will continue till 22nd of this month. Altogether 25 teams from different States and Union Territories will be participating in the national event.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri N. Biren Singh expressed his thankfulness to Hockey India for giving the opportunity to organize such a national event in the State. He also appreciated President, Hockey India Shri Gyanendro Ningombam for his initiatives to further develop hockey in the State. He continued that the championship would be a beginning for all participating young players to go forward to higher level and added that the event would also encourage and motivate young players of the State to practice with much dedication.

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam stated that Manipur

had become one of the leading states in the field of games and sports and added that the state had produced many Olympians. He continued that the State Government was planning to promote hockey, with better infrastructure, in all 16 districts of the State. He also informed that infrastructure development of Khuman Lampak Sports Complex would be carried out by consulting experts of the field.

Stating that around 300 hockey players are currently working in different parts of the country, he advised the participating players to play well with much dedication to win the championship and also to achieve success in their lives.

The Chief Minister also took salute of all the participating teams while marching inside the stadium. An eye-catching performance of Thang Ta was also showcased during the programme.

President, Hockey India Shri Gyanendro Ningombam, Principal Secretary (YAS), Shri SS Chhabra, President, Manipur Hockey Shri Basudev Singh and other officials attended the programme among others.

MINISTER BISWAJIT FLAGS OFF ROYAL RIDERS MANIPUR RALLY



Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh, flagged off a Motor Cycle Rally on 6th May, 2022, from the campus of Wal United Youth Club, Wangkhei Angom Leikai, Imphal. The Motor Cycle Rally was organized by Royal Riders Manipur to commemorate the “12th Mahousa Ima Ningsing Tha” in connection with World Environment Day 2022 under the UN theme “Only one Earth”. The environment campaign will be held for a month covering three districts of the state for tree plantation.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest before the flag-off event, Minister Th. Biswajit Singh, encouraged the people to think and sustainably preserve the natural resources for the future generation. He also emphasized that for the last twenty years, society has only focused on the cure of the affects of climate change without taking up the preventive measures to sustain nature. He added that nature has given us many resources and we should try to safeguard those limited resources as our primary

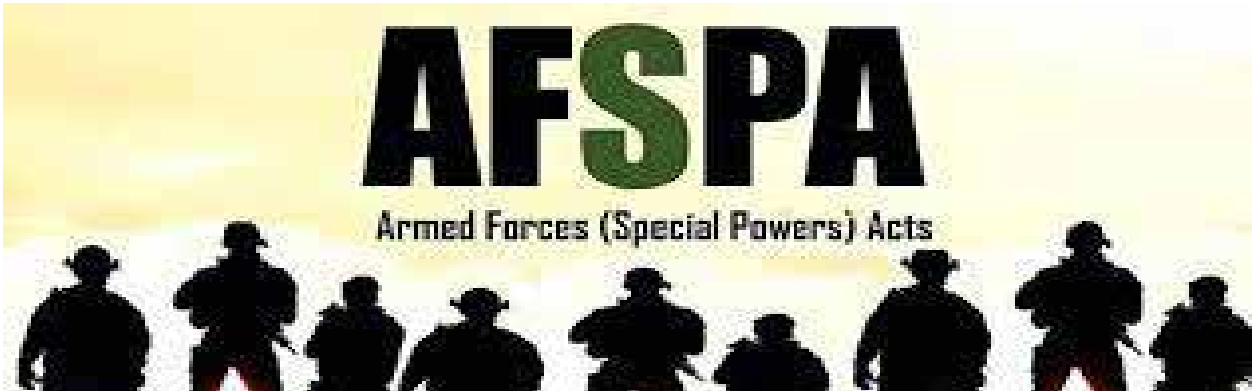
duty. Further, Minister Biswajit appealed to the youths to make preservation and conservation of nature as their priority and take part in plantation of trees and to spread awareness to the local people to prevent the fast degrading natural environment.

The Minister gave assurance to provide assistance in any initiatives taken up in safeguarding the environment by Royal Riders Manipur. He firmly said that he himself will also participate in all the activities which involve in sustaining the nature.

Later, the Minister flagged off the teams of Royal Riders Manipur that will cover Bishnupur District, Imphal East District and Kangpokpi District for the tree plantation campaign.

Shri R.K. Tombisana, President, Royal Riders Manipur along with 150 Royal Riders from different clubs of Manipur with the motto “Serving with adventure” participated in the opening ceremony function.

CM AND CABINET MINISTERS EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO PM



Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh accompanied by his cabinet ministers has expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for reportedly announcing that the Centre working towards lifting of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from the Northeast region as law and order situation has improved.

Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh has expressed that he along with the State cabinet ministers have discussed the comment of the Hon'ble PM and sincerely appreciate the comment and conviction of the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is trying relentlessly to revoke the AFSPA from the Northeastern part of the country. It is the common desire of the people to revoke, remove the act from the NE particularly from Manipur, he said.

Highlighting that the Union Home Minister had recently removed the Act from the jurisdiction of some police stations, however some areas were left out, the Chief Minister said that his government as a team is urging the Prime Minister to materialise the issue as per the desire of the people of the State and the people of the NE.

He said we will be very grateful to the Hon'ble PM if the AFSPA can be lifted from the entire North East particularly from Manipur. Once again from our side we would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime

Minister for his deep concern for the people of the Northeast, he said.

The Chief Minister also acknowledged the presence of various insurgent groups and said some are in Suspension of Operation with the government, and some are not and that the State government is initiating to bring them all to the negotiating table so that a political solution, an amicable solution can be reached.

Stressing that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has rightly said that 75 percent of insurgency has been reduced in the entire NE region, he said it is because of the Hon'ble PM's tireless and visionary action plan since 2014 when he became the Prime Minister of the country.

He continued that people of the Northeast once had the feeling of alienation from mainland India, but now the region has become an integral part of the country and the people of the region don't have the feeling of alienation now and have become a part of united India.

The Chief Minister said all this is because of the Hon'ble PM's effort, developmental works, humanity service, schemes, benefits. The Hon'ble Prime Minister is doing whatever he can for the NE people, he said adding that he along with his team would like to appreciate the Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi for his work also.

GOVT CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL OCCUPANTS OF QUARTERS

The State Government continues to crack down on illegal/unauthorised occupants of Government quarters. Actions have been initiated against many Government employees, who have been found subletting quarters to unauthorised persons. This step has been taken up to streamline proper allotment of Government quarters both at the district headquarters and Imphal. The initiative comes after the State Government receives information about sub-letting and occupying of Government quarters by unauthorised/illegal occupants in Imphal and other districts. Such unauthorised and illegal occupations have adversely affected and deprived those genuine Government employees from getting Government quarters/accommodation.

The State Government has constituted various verification teams at the State level as well as at the district headquarters level for verification/checking of Government accommodation/quarters, guest houses, buildings, etc. Verification teams at the State capital comprise of Executive Engineer, BD-II, PWD as the team leader and one representative each from Deputy Commissioner and SP's office of Imphal West district as members. On the other hand, verification teams at district headquarters consist of Deputy Commissioner of the district concerned as the chairman, Superintendent of Police of the district concerned and Sub-Divisional Officer concerned as Members and Executive Engineer, PWD of the district concerned as the Member Secretary.

The State Government has cautioned that strict disciplinary actions like suspension of the concerned Government employees as deemed fit under the appropriate sections of the CCS (CCA) Rules will be initiated if Government employees or other private

parties/persons are found either occupying Government quarters unauthorisedly or subletting to someone else. If the unauthorised occupants are found to be private parties/individuals, they will be booked under the appropriate law in force and even FIRs will be lodged against them and prompt punitive action will be taken up.

On verification of Government quarters at Langol Housing Complex at Sectors A, B & C, 28 un-authorised illegal occupations of quarters have been identified so far. Necessary legal action has been initiated against them.

Earlier, Commissioner (Works) had written to all the Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Department concerned requesting them to take up immediate disciplinary proceedings such as suspension etc., against the Government employees (allottees), who have sub-let the Government quarters to unauthorised persons as deemed fit under the relevant provisions CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 and Allotment of Government Residences (General Pool in Imphal) Rules, 1989 or any other appropriate rules/standing instructions of the State Government.

At district headquarters, DCs concerned are to ensure the District Verification team visits the district headquarters and immediately check the Government quarter allotment lists which is to be followed immediately by field inspection of where the maximum Government quarters are located and checking allotment orders directly for the persons found in the Government quarters. Based on the findings, the District Verification Team shall carry out eviction drives for all kinds of illegal or unauthorised occupants immediately and appropriate disciplinary action and penal rent under the laid down rules shall be initiated immediately.



HORTICULTURE & SOIL CONSERVATION OFFICIALS INSPECT PEH VILLAGE FOR ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD ARRANGEMENTS

Ibomacha Oinam (Ibom Oinam)

As part of War on Drugs under the initiative of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, several government agencies and departments have been cohesively working together to control the drug menace and fully destroy poppy plantations from the State.

The Horticulture & Soil Conservation Department, Government of Manipur along with the Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) has been immensely involved in the campaign by providing alternative means of livelihood against poppy cultivation to villages from where poppy plantation has been destroyed.

Peh Village in Ukhrul District is one village where the department has initiated implementation of the alternative means of livelihood against poppy plantation. A team of officials from the Horticulture

& Soil Conservation department and MOMA visited the village to inspect for implementation of alternative livelihood in the village.

Peh Village Chairman Shri Moon Shimray said, considering the ill-effects of poppy plantation to the society, future generations, and youth, the Peh Village Council had destroyed poppy plantations conducted by some local youths in their area some years back.

Satisfied with the action of the villagers, Chief Minister of the State, Shri N. Biren Singh had awarded the village with an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs. He further said that a market shed was also constructed under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

Further lauding the present government under Shri N. Biren Singh, Shri Shimray



said that under the guidance of the Chief Minister, apple saplings are also provided to the village and plantation will begin before June, if possible. He also thanked MOMA for identifying and providing funds to around 100 beneficiaries (10 groups). These beneficiaries will begin Kiwi plantations at the earliest, he added.

With these actions, the Chief Minister has shown that the brotherhood between the hills and the valley is not just in words but also in action, he said commending the Chief Minister.

Further stating that the village is fortunate to receive all the attention, he said the villagers are working very hard to ensure success with the alternative means of livelihood provided by the government and further sought cooperation from the department. The village chairman also thanked the department for their support.

District Officer, Horticulture & Soil Conservation Ukhrul and Kamjong, Shri Yeite Khupsorel Koireng said today officials of the department are in the village to inspect the village for implementation of the alternative means of livelihood against poppy cultivation in the village.

He said that around February last year,

leaders and villagers of Peh Village highlighted to the Chief Minister the presence of poppy plantations in their village and the subsequent destruction of the cultivation. Following this, the Chief Minister expressed the desire to take up some alternative plantations as means of livelihood in the area, he added.

He explained that the villagers have already started planting vegetables like maize instead of poppy plantations in their area and that they are also producing ginger abundantly. He further assured to provide a means to market the ginger at the earliest.

He continued that during an inspection with the village leaders, the official team became aware of the preparations for long-term plantation of fruit-bearing trees like apple and kiwi has been made by the villagers.

The District Officer also said that the department will launch a scheme in the village with a cost of Rs. 50 lakh and also sought support and cooperation from the villagers in the successful implementation of the scheme. He further appealed to the village against poppy plantations in the future also and assured all other assistance including the provision of seasonal seeds and fruit saplings.

MINISTER BISWAJIT LAUNCHES SAVE SINGDA MOVEMENT, URGES ALL TO ENCOURAGE TREE PLANTATION

Manipur Today Desk



Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh on May 16, had launched the “Save Singda Movement,” organized by the Forest Department at Singda catchment area under Kangpokpi Forest Division. To mark the launching of the movement, a tree plantation drive was also held at the location.

Addressing media persons on the sideline of the programme, the Minister had said that the main objective of the programme is to fight climate change. He stressed that today we are facing a grave environmental challenge in the form of global warming.

We have to understand that when climatic change is affecting Manipur it is also affecting the entire world, the Minister observed.

Highlighting the need for all sections of the society in all corners of the State to unitedly launch activities to maintain ecological balance, the Minister also highlighted that the department has been working towards achieving this goal for the last many years.

Any ecological imbalance will adversely affect all of us, and as such not just politicians or public leaders but every section of the society should consider it their responsibility to plant more trees, the Minister further observed.

Further highlighting that deforestation in the catchment areas is also one reason for the shortage of water that we are witnessing today, the Minister asserted that catchment areas have been identified to launch green movement by planting more trees. He further said that similar movements will also be launched at Thangjing and Koubru hills among others.

Further ensuring possible assistance and safeguards to the local populace, the Minister also sought their cooperation and said that the department's initiative to conserve nature cannot be successful without the support and cooperation of the public.

He said that to show before the world that we are united in trying to safeguard our environment, people from different walks of life including media persons, locals, officials of Forest department are all planting trees today.

The minister further lauded the forest officials, staff for their dedication and expressed satisfaction with the activities of the officials. In an earnest appeal to the officers and staff of the department, he said that we have a vast forest cover and without considering of our individual status, we should work unitedly to strengthen the movement to conserve nature.

Shri Biswajit also said that the department will regularly monitor the forest areas and newly planted trees using drones and other technology.

The department will also take up certain source of livelihood including Agro-forestry for sustainable livelihood of the locals, he said adding that the department is targeting to plant one crore tree saplings in the state.

He further urged against the poppy plantation and sought support for the government's War on Drugs.

The mass tree plantation drive was attended by additional chief secretary (Forest & Environment) Shri M H Khan, principal

chief conservator of Forest Shri Ak Joshi, officials of Forest department, forest guards, village authority leaders and villagers of the nearby villages namely Ireng Naga, Bethel, KharamThadoi, KharamVaiphei, youth clubs, student unions among others.



NORTH EAST REGIONAL SPORTS WEEK CONCLUDES



The 6-day long North East Regional Sports Week concluded on 3rd May, 2022, at Main Stadium of Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal. The closing function was graced by the Governor of Manipur Shri La. Ganesanas Chief Guest. The Sports Week was held in connection with the celebration of the 75 years of Indian Independence, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". The Regional Sports Week is being organised by the Youth Affairs and Sports Department, Government of Manipur with the funding of the North Eastern Council (NEC).

The Sports Week started from 28th April to 3rd May, 2022, has witnessed players and athletes from seven North East States including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and the host state Manipur competing in select disciplines of Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football and Table-Tennis.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor La Ganesan expressed his appreciation to the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports for successfully conducting the North East Regional Sports Week. He said, "A consistent practice of a person can achieve anything, but continuous practice is a must, opportunity will come to get medal in sports". He encouraged the sportspersons to have discipline to become great and popular sportsperson for the sake of the country. He added that the Sports Week would celebrate the sporting spirit across all the North-eastern States and would also showcase the sportsmanship of our talented players.

In the Sports Week, Manipur won overall Team Champion title, Assam bagged the First Runner-up while Nagaland got the Second Runner-up title. Manipur got a total of 49 medals with 32 Gold, 11 Silver and 7 Bronze. Assam got a total of 43 medals with 09 Gold,

12 Silver and 21 Bronze. Nagaland with a total medal of 20, which includes 4 Gold medals, 4 Silver and 12 Bronze. Arunachal Pradesh got a total of 27 medals with 3 Gold, 12 Silver and 12 Bronze. Mizoram won a total of 15 medals which include 1 Gold medal, 8 Silver and 6 Bronze. Sikkim got a total of 10 medals with 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 8 Bronze and Tripura with a total of 1 Silver and 2 Bronze respectively.

Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh, who presided the closing function, extended his gratitude to the Governor of Manipur Shri La Ganesan for visiting of hills and valley areas of the state and addressing the concerns of the people.

“With the celebration of the 75 years of India’s Independence in different parts of the northeast states, the whole of the North East became united under one roof. India has now become more advance and powerful nation under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modiji. And we all should live and die for a united India,” the Chief Minister added.

Addressing the gathering, Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS) Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam stated that it was moment of pride for having such sport event in which the people of Manipur witnessed joy, happiness and disappointment. He said, “North East Regional Sports Week is a testimony of our capability to move mountain in the field of sports”. He thanked the players and officials who had participated in the select discipline of Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Football and Table Tennis for showing of their sports talent and spirit. He thanked all the participants and players from the seven North East State in the 6-day long sports event.

Union Minister of State Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra, who attended the function as Guest of Honour, also addressed the closing event.

ALL DEPARTMENTS/ OFFICES OBSERVE ANTI- TERRORISM DAY

As per the notification issued by Under Secretary (Home) Government of Manipur, Anti-Terrorism Day was observed by all the departments/offices under Government of Manipur on Saturday, the 21st May, 2022.

All departments /offices Observed the Anti-Terrorism Day at their respective Departments/ Offices by administering the pledge.

PLEDGE

“We, the people of India, having abiding faith in our country’s tradition of non-violence and tolerance, hereby solemnly affirm to oppose with our strength, all forms of terrorism and violence. We pledge to uphold and promote peace, social harmony, and understanding among all fellow human beings and fight the forces of disruption threatening human lives and values.”

DAVIS CUP JUNIOR ASIA-OCEANIA CHAMPION BUSHAN HAOBAM



Bushan Haobam, a budding tennis player of Manipur who is a member of Indian tennis squad which won the Davis Cup Junior Asia - Oceania Zone, 2022 in New Delhi recently has been accorded a grand reception in Imphal on 23rd April, 2022. The reception ceremony organised by the Imphal District Tennis Association in its complex at Lamphelpat was attended by Shri Govindas Konthoujam, Minister of YAS & PWD, Manipur, Shri Khumukcham Joykisan Singh, MLA of Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency and Shri T. Phullen Meitei, Director of YAS, Manipur among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Govindas Konthoujam, Minister of YAS praised the achievements of Bushan Haobam at the international circuit in such a tender age and promised to reward him a cash incentive of Rupees five lakhs by the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of Manipur. He also encouraged the youths of the State to emulate the feat of Bushan Haobam. In his presidential address, Shri Khumukcham Joykisan Singh, MLA also appreciated the indomitable spirit of Bushan in achieving excellence in international tennis

arena which no Manipuri have achieved so far while recalling his earlier involvement in promoting sports in Manipur particularly soccer.

An ecstatic and overjoyed Bushan narrated about his struggle, hard work and maiden international success during the reception function. He credited his achievements to Yambem Leelenje and Toijam Brojendro Meitei, who have been his mentors. Yambem Leelenje, who groomed up Bushan in his initial years as coach, also pointed out the unique talent and great potential the local lad has in store.

On his arrival at Imphal Airport, Bushan Haobam was given a rousing welcome with garlands by his family members, fans and hundreds of local tennis players. Earlier, the Tennis Association of India has selected Bushan Haobam as member of Indian Junior Team for the Asia Oceania Qualifying Zone Junior Davis Cup 2022 and Junior Billie Jean King Cup by BNP Paribas Competition. With the recent success, Bushan and his Indian teammates have qualified for World Group Junior Davis Cup under 16 boys' tennis tournament.

Shri M. Asnikumar Singh, Chairman, Loktak Development Authority (LDA), Manipur at the National Workshop for Conservation and WISE-USE of Wetlands at Anna University Campus, Chennai on 21st May, 2022



Shri Bhupender Yadav



Chief Minister, Shri N. Biren Singh at the Rancing Programme for Rejuvenation of Pengba, State Fish of Manipur in Loktak Lake & Distribution of Inputs (Cage Net and Fish Feed) at Sendra on 11th May, 2022