

মহাশিলাইল স্মৃতি

MANIPUR TODAY

Khongjom Day Special



23rd April, 2023

Miss Anusuiya Uikey
Governor of Manipur



লক্ষ্মী অল্লুরে ঙ্গাঙ্গা
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Message

I am pleased to learn that the Department of Information & Public Relations, Government of Manipur is bringing out a special issue of "Manipur Today" on the occasion of Khongjom Day, 2023.

Khongjom Day is celebrated on 23rd April every year in Manipur remembering the supreme sacrifices made by our forefathers who died for the freedom of their motherland. Displaying tremendous courage and immense patriotism for their motherland they fought against the mightiest power of the world without even a thought of surrender.

On this occasion, while paying homage to the valiant heroes who fell at the battle of Khongjom and other fronts in the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891, we must renew our vow to preserve and defend the sovereignty of our country and prepare to face any challenge that might come our way. Let us forget any differences and re-dedicate ourselves to the task of nation building. Let us strive for bringing understanding, peace and harmony amongst ourselves so that every citizen is free from wants.

I, once again, convey my best wishes to the people of Manipur and also wish the Khongjom Day Celebration, 2023 all success.

(Ms. Anusuiya Uikey)

Shri N. Biren Singh
Chief Minister, Manipur



শ্রী এন বিরেন সিং
মহা মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, মণিপুর



Message

It is my pleasure to learn that the Directorate of Information and Public Relations is bringing out a special issue of "**Manipur Today**" on the occasion of Khongjom Day 2023.

Khongjom Day is observed every year with utmost reverence and patriotism, remembering our brave forefathers who stood against the imperial might of the British Army in 1891.

On this awe-inspiring day, let us once again remember and pay homage to our brave forefathers who made the supreme sacrifice in defence of the kingdom of Manipur. Challenges continue to rise against us even today in many forms: both from within and from outside. Corruption, drugs, nepotism, environmental degradation, agricultural ills, misinformation and misuse of social media - they are but a few.

Unless tackled successfully on time, these evils can take down entire societies. It therefore calls for a concerted effort from all of us in rising above these challenges. On this day, let us stand in unison for a united Manipur and resolve to work together in facing all evils that stand before us.

I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people of Manipur and wish the publication of Manipur Today a grand success.

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

(N. Biren Singh)

Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh
Minister,
Medical, Health & Family Welfare
Publicity & Information, Manipur



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Message

I greet the people of Manipur on the occasion of **Khongjom Day** which mark the remembrance and honouring the sacrifices made by our great heroes of this small state, Manipur.

I hope, it is time to pay tribute to the war heroes of Anglo-Manipur War 1891 who had sacrificed their lives fighting against the mighty British to protect freedom of Manipur. The heroic deeds of our forefathers for the love of the state, has made all of us proud of being their descendants.

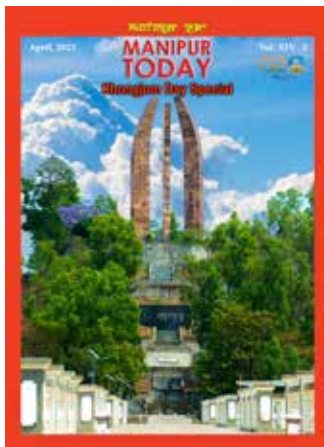
Let us re-dedicate ourselves to protect and preserve our land and join the task of nation building. Let us also strive for bringing understanding, peace and harmony amongst ourselves.

(Dr. S. Ranjan Singh)



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From the Editor-in-Chief



Khongjom Day reminds us of the valour, indomitable spirit and supreme sacrifices of the Manipuris in confronting the mightiest British force in safeguarding our motherland from the yoke of colonialism and securing the freedom and sovereignty. Remembering the valiant heroes of the Battle of Khongjom on April 23 every year also marks the renewal of our commitment towards building a Modern Manipur free from drugs, corruption, nepotism and environmental degradation and restoration of peace, tranquillity and harmony in the State.

March 2023 herald completion of one year in second innings of the present government under the able leadership of Shri N. Biren Singh as Chief Minister. The anniversary celebration was held on 13th April, 2023 at Senapati Public Ground with Chief Minister of Manipur as the Chief Guest in the august presence of his cabinet colleagues, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Senior Civil and Police officers, Civil Society Organisations, Church Leaders, and general public of Senapati District. The grand celebration witnessed inauguration of 95 projects worth Rs 22,450 lakhs and laying of foundation stone of 17 projects worth Rs. 7606lakhs.

Prior to the celebration, a cabinet meeting was convened in Senapati Mini Secretariat and vital decisions of the State were taken. The celebration concluded with a friendly soccer exhibition match between CM's XI and Senapati District XI where the Chief Minister scored two goals to secure a win.

The Grand Finale of Femina Miss India 2023, the most coveted beauty pageant of the sub-continent was co-hosted by Manipur Tourism at Imphal on April 15. Manipur exhibited the best hospitality when 30 beauty queens representing the diverse states / union territories of India and Bollywood celebrities descended to Manipur for the grand event. History was created when Thounaojam Strela Luwang of Manipur was adjudged as 2nd Runner-up of the said pageant. Kudos to our visionary and dynamic Chief Minister of Manipur for bringing such enthralling extravaganza, a once in a lifetime opportunity and for showcasing brand Manipur to the world in an unprecedented manner.

With the arrival of summer and monsoon season, the State Government has challenging tasks ahead to mitigate the spurt of Covid-19 pandemic, solving shortage of drinking water, prevention of sporadic outbreak of diseases inflicting both humans and animals, flood or drought control measures, streamlining PDS, disaster management, providing uninterrupted irrigation facilities, etc.

Good governance is like a perennial flow of water. The present government since the year 2017 had been relentlessly striving to bring an all-round cohesive and harmonious blend of socio-economic and infrastructural development in the State. Now, the public is absolutely reaping the rich dividends of matured and meticulous policies and programmes of the State Government in all spheres of life.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Balkrisna Singh".

(Heisnam Balkrisna Singh)

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANGLO-MANIPUR WAR OF 1891 AT KHONGJOM

Naoroibam Indramani

Manipur is a land that has a long, distinguished history and a distinct culture and tradition of its own. The saddest event in the history of Manipur that had defended her independence for years together with her own might is the Battle of Khongjom fought in 1891 between the mighty forces of the erstwhile world conqueror Britain and the scantily populated, tiny Kingdom of Manipur. In this battle to defend Manipur from the enemy, Paona Menjor Brajabashi, Chinglensana, Heirangkhongja Menjor, Khumbong Menjor and other brave warriors laid down their lives. The defeat of the Manipuri in the hands of the British in this Battle of Khongjom eclipsed the independence of Manipur forever and brought a new chapter in the history of Manipur. Let us review this historical event, which will ever remain unforgettable and heart-breaking for future generations.

Causes of Anglo-Manipur war:

To study the last independence war of Manipur, in which the last sun of Manipur's independence set, it warrants knowing the genesis of the war.

The ugliest chapter in the history of Manipur was the power struggle among the princes who were responsible for the governance of Manipur, internecine feuds among the princes for the throne, and frequent revolts by other princes against the reigning king by forming alliances and so on. Such a sorry state of affairs frequently occurred after king Garibaniwaj who reigned



from A.D. 1709 to A.D. 1748.

In continuation of this trend of the struggle for the throne among the princes, Marjit (A.D. 1812-1819), after several unsuccessful revolts against his elder brother King Chourjit, took help from the Ava King, Bodawpaya and usurped the throne of Manipur. But, as Marjit did not abide by the agreement between him and the Ava King, the Avas invaded Manipur and defeated the Manipuri as a consequence of which, the most unfortunate episode in Manipur's history, the Seven-Years-Devastation followed.

After this episode also, further rebellions to seize the throne continued to

take place. After King Chandrakirti's death, his eldest son Surchandra became King of Manipur. During his reign also, such a revolt took place. The dethronement of Surchandra was the cause of the Anglo-Manipur War and the dependency of Manipur on the British.

When King Chandrakirti alias Naojinglen Nongdrenkhomba left the world in 1886 A.D., his eldest son Surchandra alias Chinglen Lanthaba succeeded his father on the throne on Friday, the 20th May 1886. After a reign of four years on 21st September 1890, Surchandra abdicated the throne owing to a palace revolution and went into exile outside Manipur, in British India. The cause and detail of the palace revolution are described below:-

King Surchandra and his younger brothers were eight in all. Surchandra favoured Pakasana, born of the same mother, excessively. So his step-brothers including Tikendrajit were offended and displeased at his partiality. There arose two inimical blocs – King Surchandra, Pakasana, Pheijaosana and Gopalsana, born of the same mother on one side and Jubaraj Kullachandra, Tikendrajit, Angousana and Jilangamba, born of different mothers on the other side.

There was no love lost between Tikendrajit and Pakasana over petty quarrels between their servants. Moreover, Pakasana, attending to the person of his brother king, always spoke ill of Tikendrajit. As a result, King Surchandra did not look kindly on Tikendrajit. At this disposition of the King, the other brothers born of different mothers resented him. Sometimes there would be a sudden flare-up of ill-feeling between Tikendrajit and Pakasana over a trivial matter. However, the chief cause of their animosity was Maipakpi, the exquisitely beautiful daughter of a goldsmith near the Palace gate.

The pent-up spark of ill-will between the two rival blocs of brothers was bound to burst into flames one day suddenly in the form of the palace revolution of September 1890. Once, by order of the King to catch a tiger at Keirao, Jilangamba set out on the tiger hunt with a band. Hearing the sound of the drum bugle and trumpet, Pakasana sent out one of his servant to stop the band, informing that only the King had the absolute privilege to go out with a band. Jilangamba felt greatly humiliated in the presence of the nobles and officials who accompanied him and before the general public. And when the King took the side of Pakasana in this quarrel, Jilangamba was again inflamed with rage. He went to his powerful elder brother Tikendrajit and discussed with him the details of the incident and the future course of action to be taken. That very day, on 21st September at midnight, Jilangamba and Angousana entered the royal palace and scaling the wall of the King's sleeping chamber, fired into it. On hearing the gunshot, Tikendrajit came out to enquire about it and learnt that it was the rebellion of Jilangamba and Angousana. Tikendrajit had never believed his younger brothers would have risen so soon. Then he also joined the rebellion.

King Surchandra had an earlier inkling that his stepbrothers were going to rise against him. So he summoned Jubaraj Kullachandra to ask him about it. Kullachandra assured the King there that there was no plan for a revolt at all. He further promised that, if his younger brothers schemed a rebellion, he would dissuade them. Accordingly, he persuaded his brothers not to rebel against the King. Having failed to do so, he stayed away at Nambol that night of the rebellion, not desiring to involve himself in it.

When Angousana and Jilangamba entered the palace and fired gunshots as a

mark of rebellion, King Surchandra did not make any attempt to put it down. Instead, fearing losing his life, he accompanied by his three brothers and some officials and servants, fled from the palace and took refuge at the British Residency of the Political Agent by about 2:30 A.M.

Surchandra sought refuge at the residency of the Political Agent, hoping the Political Agent Mr Grimwood would help him suppress the rebellion and let him reign further. On the contrary, Mr Grimwood refused to help him. One reason was that there was a good relationship between Mr Grimwood and Tikendrajit. The other reason was that if there was a fight between the rebels and the small number of the British troops stationed at the Residency for its protection, it would be dangerous for the Political Agent himself and the British troops. When the Political Agent refused to help him, king Surchandra intended to abdicate the throne and go on pilgrimage to Brindavan. He expressed this intention to Mr Grimwood who complied with it.

When King Surchandra had taken shelter at the British Residency, Tikendrajit searched for Jubaraj Kullachandra to be appointed King but could not find him. At last, it was learnt that Kullachandra was in Nambol and so Tikendrajit sent messengers to Kullachandra requesting him to return to the palace to become the king of Manipur. But Kullachandra refused to come. Tikendrajit went in person to Nambol and requested his elder brother to accept the throne of Manipur. Kullachandra consented and became king on 23rd September 1890.

Surchandra wrote a letter to Tikendrajit stating that the royal robe, sword and royal articles would be returned and asking him to make arrangements for a safe passage for him to Brindavan. He, accompanied by

his three brothers born of the same mother, left Manipur for Brindavan on October 8 at 7.30 P.M. with an escort of 35 Gurkha troops provided by the Political Agent. Tikendrajit also, apropos the letter, made arrangements for Surchandra's safe journey to Brindavan.

After Surchandra's departure, according to tradition and custom, Kullachandra having become King, Senapati Tikendrajit became the Jubaraj. Angousana and Jilangamba became Senapati and Shamu Hanjaba (officer-in-charge of elephants) respectively. Now, with Surchandra gone and Kullachandra becoming king, all the internecine feuds and quarrels among the princes became a thing of the past.



Maharaj Kullachandra

Though Surchandra had abdicated the throne and left Manipur he never gave up the hope of being restored to the throne of Manipur. So, after reaching Calcutta, he lodged a written complaint with the Viceroy of India that he had been driven out by Tikendrajit. In the complaint, he requested the Viceroy to restore him to the throne of Manipur. However, the government of

India rejected Surchandra's appeal to be restored to the throne of Manipur. Instead, they wanted Kullachandra to be the king of Manipur. However, taking Tikendrajit to be the mastermind of the September Revolution, the British government of India took the final decision on 21st February 1891 that, should Kullachandra allow the Political Agent to keep 300 troops at the British Residency, govern the kingdom on the advice of the Political Agent, deport Tikendrajit outside Manipur and assist the British government to execute this scheme, he would be recognised as the king of Manipur. This decision was kept in deep secrecy till the Chief Commissioner of Assam arrived in Manipur to proclaim it.

To proclaim this decision of the government of India, Mr Quinton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam arrived in Manipur on 22nd March, 1891, with 400 Gurkha troops. Immediately on his arrival, Mr Quinton made preparations to hold a durbar that very day with the king and Tikendrajit, arrest Tikendrajit by force while the decision of the Government of India was being read out and deport him outside Manipur. With this end in view, he sent invitations to King Kullachandra to come to the durbar with his younger brothers. The task of translating the proclamation of the government into Manipuri was entrusted to Rashiklal Kundu, the Head Clerk of the Residency.

King Kullachandra and his younger brothers arrived at the Residency gate on time at the appointed hour of the durbar. But, there was no one at the Residency gate to receive the king, the Jubaraj, other princes, nobles and officials of Manipur. By the time, when King Kullachandra arrived at the Residency gate, Rashiklal Kundu had not finished translating the government of India's decision into Manipuri. As such, Mr Quinton did not let King Kullachandra and his party

enter the Durbar Hall of the Residency. The king was compelled to stand in the sun for a long time, waiting for the completion of the Manipuri translation.

Owing to standing for a long time in the sun at the Residency gate since 10 A.M. and from having observed 'Ekadashi' fast and gone to Sekmai to receive Mr Quinton the previous day, Tikendrajit was overwhelmed with exhaustion and became ill. He returned to the palace with his younger brother Angousana.

After the completion of the Manipuri translation of the Government of India's decision, when King Kullachandra was requested to come to the durbar, Jubaraj Tikendrajit was already gone. Since the durbar was meant only for the arrest of Tikendrajit, Mr Quinton announced that there would be no durbar without Tikendrajit. On Mr Quinton's persistent request, King Kullachandra asked Tikendrajit to come to the durbar. But, as Tikendrajit was really ill, he sent word that he would be in no position to attend the durbar.

The following day, 23rd March 1891, when Mr Quinton was busy preparing for the durbar, Tikendrajit the Jubaraj was seriously ill and as such, would not be able to go to the durbar. Thinking that it would be of no avail to go to the durbar without Tikendrajit, the king also sent word that he would not be coming to the durbar. When his plan to arrest Tikendrajit by holding a durbar failed, Mr Quinton, having no other alternative, sent the Political Agent Mr Grimwood with Mr Simpson to apprise the king of the Government of India's decision. Accordingly, Mr Grimwood apprised King Kullachandra of the decision of the Government of India which maintained that the king should allow the Political Agent to keep 300 troops at the Residency for its protection, that the king

should govern on the advice of the Political Agent that the king should assist the British Government in the deportation of Tikendrajit outside Manipur, and that, if the king would comply with these terms, he would be recognised as the king of Manipur.

Kullachandra thanked the British Government for recognising him as the king of Manipur. However, regarding the removal of Tikendrajit from Manipur, he told Mr Grimwood that he would consult the matter with the nobles and officials of his kingdom after Tikendrajit's recovery from illness and would inform him thereof later. Not satisfied with the king's proposition Grimwood went to see Tikendrajit and apprised him of the Government of India's decision. Tikendrajit told Mr Grimwood that he did not have any specific objection to the decision. Yet, he would prefer to consult the matter with the king and nobles of the land after his recovery from illness. Then, he would communicate to him all the details of the deliberation in that regard.

When the Political Agent returned without achieving the surrender of Tikendrajit, Mr Quinton having no other option, ordered Captain Butcher, Lieutenant Brackenbury and Lieutenant Lugard to attack the residence of Tikendrajit and capture him. Acting upon Mr Quinton's order, these officers descended on the residence of Tikendrajit, by 3 A.M. of 24th March 1891.

At daybreak, when the British troops occupied the Jubaraj's royal palace and searched for him, he was found nowhere. When the British troops failed in their mission to capture the Jubaraj, they killed the watchmen of the Jubaraj's palace and other servants and looted gold and silver by defiling the shrine of Brindabanchandra whom the Jubaraj worshipped. By order of Col. Skene, the commander of the British

troops, several houses of the neighbouring villages, viz., Saikhom Leikai, Yambem Leikai and Usham Leikai were burnt down. Several houses of a tribal colony to the west of the British Residency were also burnt down. During the attack on the residence of Tikendrajit the Jubaraj in an attempt to arrest him, both the British and Manipuri sides suffered several casualties.

Casualty on the Manipuri side - the British troops beheaded two innocent children, shot dead three children and killed two girls by throwing them into the fire with their hair tied together. When the British troops burnt down the residential houses in neighbouring localities of the Manipuri Palace and started firing, a woman rushed out in panic but they severed her hands and ear. One man was also done away with after his hands and feet were cut off. In the fray that ensued from the midnight of March 23 to March 24 in 1891 between the British troops and the Manipuri, many officers and soldiers like Khumbong Subedar, Leishang Jamadar and Athokpam Dewan were killed.

In that incident, the British side suffered more casualties than the Manipuri. Besides the five British officers including Mr Quinton, the Chief-Commissioner of Assam and one Gurkha bugler, Lieutenant Brackenbury, Subedar Hemchand, one Havildar and some troops of the 44th Gurkha Regiment were killed. Many British troops were also wounded.

In that fray, the Manipuri took 49 British troops prisoner, 13 troops of 42nd Gurkha Light Infantry, 15 troops of 43rd Gurkha Light Infantry and 21 troops of 44th Gurkha Light Infantry. However, 92 people -18 noncombatant helpers of the three Regiments, 21 employees of the British Political Agency, 21 employees of the Chief Commissioner's office, 32 employees of

the Post and Telegraph office and 9 house-grooms were released later by an order of King Kullachandra.

In the sequel to the March fray of 1891, Mr Melville and Mr O'Brien, Superintendent and Signaller respectively of the Post and Telegraph Office, who had fled Manipur for their lives, were killed at Mayangkhang on Kohima Road by the adherents of Chirai Thangal. Besides, many British troops, who had escorted Mr Quinton, were also killed midway on the road. In the edition of "The New York Times", 1st April 1891, published in Calcutta, there was a report that 470 troops of Gurkha Rifles had been killed on 31st March 1891 by the hill people of Manipur. Further, 200 troops of the Bengal Infantry and 80 Gurkha soldiers who had been sent to Manipur from Shillong to assist the British troops of the 42nd and 44th Gurkha Infantries who had escorted Mr Quinton were also killed to the last man by the hillmen of Manipur.

Now, Jubaraj Tikendrajit could no longer remain a silent spectator to the wild wanton activities of the British troop. To protect innocent people including women and children, he was compelled to raise arms against them. Surrounding the British troops from four sides, the Manipuri warriors and soldiers fired incessantly against them. Fearing that there would be no good relation between Manipur and the British any further and to prevent the exchange and communication of news about the prevailing situation, the telegraph lines between Kohima and Imphal were cut off.

Because of the incessant exchange of fire between the British side and the Manipuri side, the troops who came with Mr Quinton with a limited supply of ammunition and the Residency troops with a short supply of ammunition were soon short of ammunition.

Mr Quinton and the other British officers were in the utmost danger. So Mr Quinton ordered to sound the bugle for a ceasefire.

Although the Manipuri were confident of victory, they had no intention to wage war against the British troops. So, when the British sounded the bugle for ceasefire, the Manipuri also stopped firing. Mr Quinton wanted to have a direct talk with king Kullachandra and Jubaraj Tikendrajit. So he came to the palace with four officers, namely, Col. Skene, Mr Grimwood, Lt. Simpson and Mr Cossins and one Gurkha bugler.



Mr Quinton and the British officers held a long durbar with the Manipuri nobles to settle the present crisis. Yet, both sides could not find any solution. Jubaraj Tikendrajit told the Chief Commissioner of Assam that there could be a talk only after the arms of the British troops were surrendered to the Manipur government. But Mr Quinton persisted that, since the arms of the British troops were the property of the Queen of England, they could not be handed over to the Manipur government. As the negotiation failed, the Jubaraj asked Angousana, the Senapati to escort the British officers up to the

palace gate safe and sound. When the British officers escorted by Angousana came out of the palace gate, there was a large gathering of people whose houses had been burnt down and whose family members had been killed the previous night, waiting anxiously to hear the news about the ongoing negotiation. On seeing the Britishers come out, the enraged crowd, all of a sudden, rushed towards them with the cry 'kill, kill'.

The uncontrollable crowd attacked the Britishers with arms and weapons. In the melee one Pukhramba Kajao alias, Pukhramba Phingang speared the Political Agent Mr Grimwood to death. Lt. Simpson who was struck on the head with a sword was severely wounded and fell to the ground. While the surviving Britishers were running helter-skelter, crying in panic, Jatrasing came running to save them. He forced open the durbar gate and lodged them inside the Durbar Hall. On hearing the cries of the Britishers, Tikendrajit who had already returned to his residence came back and posted sentries around the Durbar Hall for their security.

Meanwhile, Thangal General, on his way to home, returned midway to the scene on hearing the cries of the Britishers. Thangal and Tikendrajit conferred together as to what to be done about the remaining British officers. Thangal opined that they were fit to be put to death for their crime of having killed innocent people and burnt residential houses. Though Thangal's stand was correct, the Jubaraj averred that the Britishers be given their due punishment after holding a durbar the next day with the king and the officials.

After this consultation, the Jubaraj became very tired because three days back he had observed 'Ekadashi' fast, had stood long in the sun at the Residency gate waiting

for a durbar with Chief Commissioner and had taken part in the fight against the British troops who had raided his residential palace. Sitting down, he closed his eyes to take a rest. Taking advantage of this moment, Thangal summoned Yengkhoiba and told him that the Jubaraj had given word to hand over the Britishers to the executioner. Accordingly, Yengkhoiba entrusted the four Britishmen and the Gurkha bugler to the executioner who decapitated them in front of the lion image of Kangla Utra gate. The severed heads were buried at Nungoibi by performing the rites of burying war captives and the headless bodies were buried at Khwairamband. This incident proved true the prediction in the Puya (ancient Manipuri text) that five white heads would roll before the beast.

While the Britishers at the Residency were apprehensive about the fate of Mr Quinton and his party, who had gone to the palace for the negotiation, and were waiting for their return, the Manipuri started firing guns and shells at Residency. At this juncture, the troops at the Residency had already exhausted their ammunition and therefore, had no means to oppose the Manipuri. To save their own lives, they fled from the Residency with Mrs Grimwood to Cachar via Tongjei Maril. The Manipuri then burnt down the Residency.

British Expedition against Manipur :

On hearing the news of Mr Quinton and other British officers having been killed by the Manipuri, Jamadar Birbal Nagarkati immediately went to Tummu (Tamu) and informed Lt. C.J.W. Grant of the 12th Madras Infantry of the matter. After informing the Government of India of the matter by telegram, Lt. Grant left Tamu for Manipur with 50 troops of Madras Infantry and the Gurkha troops of Jamadar Birbal Nagarkati.

On hearing Grant's march into Manipur, the Manipur Palace sent Yengkhoiba, the Menjor with 100 troops to counter Grant. Grant's advance was held at Thoubal. The Manipur Palace again sent Sanakhwa Yaiskullakpa and his son Sengoisana with 100 troops to re-inforce Yengkhoiba Menjor. In the battle of Thoubal both the Yaiskullakpa and his son Sengoisana died in action. In this battle of Thoubal both Lt. Grant and Jamadar Birbal Nagarkati were also seriously wounded. There were heavy casualties on both sides. Unable to bear the brunt of the Manipuri attack, the British troops retreated to Pallel and waited there for further reinforcement.

After receiving the news of the Manipur-British conflict from Mr. Grant, the Government of India declared war against Manipur on 31st March, 1891 and sent three columns of troops from the north, west and east with General Collett as the supreme commander of the combined force. The three columns, i.e., Silchar, Kohima, and Tamu moved from their respective bases at Silchar, Kohima, and Tamu on the 5th, 20th, and 23rd April 1891.

From Kohima in the north, the troops of 8th Bengal Mountain Battery with four 7-Pounder guns and the troops of 13th and 36th Bengal Infantry marched towards Manipur under the command of Major General Collett. To resist this column from Kohima, Sanakhwa Khurailakpa, Laishram Jambhuban Menjor, Maibya Tamra Singh Subedar, Heigrujamba Poila went north with 1000 troops.

The column that marched from Silchar in the west via Tongjei Maril was led by Lt. Col. Rennick. The British column from the west consisted of two 7-pounder guns of 8th Bengal Mountain Battery, troops from Calcutta Volunteer Rifles Corps, 3rd

Bengal Infantry, 13th Bengal Infantry and 1st Battalion of Gurkha Regiment. Sanakhwa Kalasana along with Nganba Lourungpurel, Yengkhoiba Poila, Longjam Poila and 1000 troops tried to resist this British column from the west on the Laimaton ridge.

The Tamu column from the east was led by General T. Graham. The troops in this column were from 2nd Mountain Battery with 7-pounder guns of Royal Artillery, 4th Battalion King's Royal Rifles Corps; 2nd Battalion, Gurkha Regiment; and 12th Regiment of Madras Infantry. This column from Tamu was resisted by Yengkhoiba Menjor with 700 troops near Pallel. After a stiff with the Manipuri troops encamped at Mayangkhang, the British troops from Kohima suffered defeat and therefore, retreated. However, after another encounter, the British troops defeated the Manipuri troops and routed the Manipuri camp. While the Manipuri troops were fighting hard to resist the British advance, the British troops attacked them from four sides through a secret route. Unable to hold out any further, the Manipuri troops retreated up to Bishnupur and tried to prevent British troops from further advance. But as the enemy forces reinforced further and further, the Manipuri forces were put in an unfavourable position. So, Sanakhwa Kalasana sent messages to the palace for reinforcement and guns. But, since the battle on the Pallel front had become very critical, almost the entire available forces had been despatched to that front. As such, there was no reinforcement available for the Tongjei Maril front. Hence the Manipuri camp of the Tongjei Maril front broke up.

War preparation of Manipur in the southern front:

In the second Anglo-Burmese War, in 1885 Burma suffered defeat and became a British dependency. After the occupation of

Burma, the British got a very advantageous means of movement from the then capital of British India, Calcutta to Rangoon, Mandalay, the Chindwin River and Tamu. In the 1891 Anglo-Manipur War, General Graham's troops arrived very easily through this route at Tamu and from thence marched on Manipur.

When the news of the British force advancing in the east reached the palace, the palace sent Maipaksana alias Lokendra Birjit Singh Wangkheirakpa and Rudrasingh Yengkhoiba Menjor with 700 troops to oppose the advancing British forces in the east. They set up an encampment at Pallel. But owing to the endless onrushing of the British troops, the Manipuri troops were beset with danger. Therefore, they retreated to Thoubal and set up an encampment there.

In the front line of Sir Charles Leslie marching ahead of the Tamu column was Capt. Rundal, Capt. Drury, Carnegie with 400 troops of the 2-4th Gurkha Rifles; Lieut, Grant, Ducat, Peterson and Dr Clerkson with 100 troops of 12th Burma Regiment under Capt. Presgrave and Lt. Grant; 40 cavalrymen of 12th Burma Regiment under Lt. Cox and 2 guns of the 2nd Mountain Battery under Lt. Persse.

The cavalrymen of Lieutenant Cox rode up to Thoubal and reconnoitred the movement of the Manipuri soldiers in the area where Lt. Grant had been encamping his troops before. Meanwhile, Major Leslie marched from Pallel and diverted to Kakching village. On the order of Paona Menjor and Chongtha Mia Menjor, Wangkhei Meiraba Poila went up to Pallel to observe the military disposition of the British troops there with 30 troops.

The following morning when Wangkhei Poila was scouring for British

troops at Kakching, the 150 Gurkha troops of Major Leslie ambushed him. There followed a terrible hand-to-hand fight. Wangkhei Meiraba and 20 Manipuri soldiers died in action. The remaining 10 Manipuri soldiers escaped.

According to the British record regarding the Kakching skirmish in which Wangkhei Meiraba died in action, 17 Manipuri soldiers were killed and two were taken, prisoner. Of the 9 rifles captured 7 were taken possession of by the Cavalrymen of Lieutenant Cox. Also, a decorative sword of a Meitei officer was acquired. This sword came into the custody of the British cavalry. About the calibre of the Manipuri soldiers in this battle, the British Record mentions that, while fleeing from the battlefield, the Manipuri soldiers never abandoned their weapons like the Burmese, however much inconvenience they might cause. A proof of this fact was that Lieutenant Cox himself encountered such a dangerous situation. During the Khongjom battle, a Manipuri soldier tried to escape by running up a hill. Running after him Lt. Cox shot at him with his pistol repeatedly but missed. Taking advantage of this situation, the Manipuri soldier, who was escaping with his weapon, turned around and shot back at Lt. Cox. Lt. Cox was hit in the shoulder very seriously. But the British troop who followed Lt. Cox shot the Manipuri soldier who died on the spot.

After the fall of Wangkhei Meiraba at Kakching since the British troops had occupied Pallel, Kakching and Langathel, Paona Menjor and Chongtha Menjor who had set out for Pallel with 400 troops could not advance any further. So they constructed a fort at Khongjom to hold back the further advance of the British troops.

From the Military Proceeding Report

by Capt. F.M. Rundall of the 4th Gurkha Regiment, we can have a rough idea of the shape, size and manner of construction of the Manipuri fort at Khongjom.

The earthwork of the Manipuri was 200 yards to the west of the Burma Road and the low range of Langathel hill stretching north and south was 500 yards to the east of Burma Road. The earthwork which was almost oval in shape was about 50 yards long and about 40 yards wide. In the east, south, west and east of that earthwork was a big, steep trench 12 ft. deep, 12 to 15 ft. wide, with water in it 3 ft. to 4 ft. deep and concealed under the cover of long grasses.

All around the earthwork a parapet was raised. Loopholes were created by piercing the wall of the parapet with large, long bamboos so that shells could be fired through them. Then on the north side of the earthwork, several bamboo spikes were planted so that enemies could not enter it easily. Inside the earthwork, a ditch 4 ft. deep and 4 ft. wide was dug all around. In the centre, besides the shelter ditches of the soldiers, there were thatch and bamboo sheds for the soldiers.

The Battle of Khongjom:

The main body of the column was concentrated at Tamu. The column advanced without opposition and arrived at Pallel, while the main body was at Tengnoupal, information was received from Pallel that the enemy had entrenched themselves in a position about six miles north of Pallel. Captain Drury reported that he had hemmed in about five miles north of Pallel at Sapam and asked permission to attack. When Chongtha Mia Menjor and Paona Menjor had taken a military position at Khongjom, Capt. Drury marched from Pallel towards Thoubal on the morning of the first day of the Khongjom

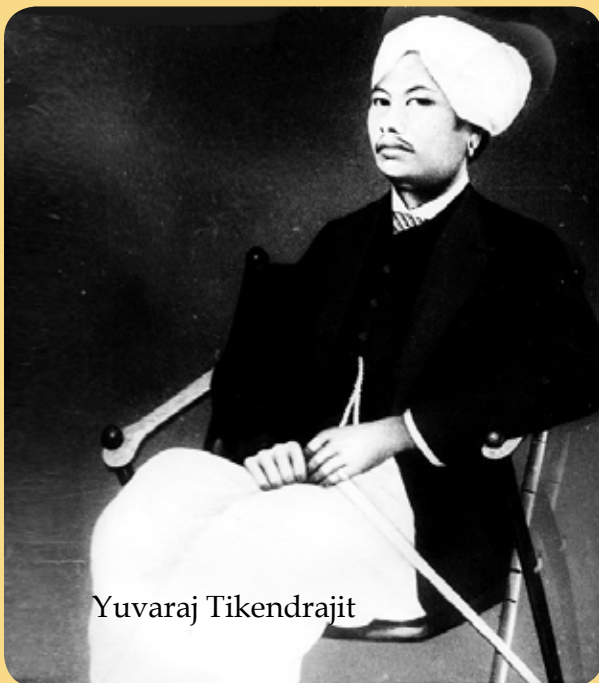
battle with 50 troops of the 2-4th Gurkha Regiment, and 50 troops of the 12th (Burma) Madras Infantry under Lt. Grant and 35 cavalymen of 12th Burma Madras Infantry under Lt. Cox. The British cavalymen surrounded the Manipuri encampment on the west side and the infantrymen on the east. When the Manipuri encampment was finally surrounded, Capt. Drury who led the front line of the British troops sent word to Gen. Graham who led the Tamu Column that the Manipuri encampment had been surrounded and further asked for reinforcement and guns. Calculating that the combined force of Capt. Drury would not be able to match the Manipuri force, Graham sent 200 troops of the 2-4th Gurkha Regiment under Capt. Rundall and Capt. Carnegie.

The overall commander of the British force in the Battle of Khongjom was Capt. Rundall. He ordered the mounted troops of Lieutenant Cox to prevent the Manipuri troops from escaping from their earthwork in the southwest direction. Then, asking Carnegie to stay put in the south direction of the Manipuri' earthwork, Rundall marched on with Lieutenant Persse to have a clear understanding of the battle site and find the location of gun-fixing. Then they carried two guns with 50 troops up on Langathel hill, 400 ft. high and 1000 yards to the east of the earthwork.

When the British fired guns from the Langathel hill into the earthwork of the Manipuri, there were many casualties among the Manipuri ranks. So, Paona Menjor and Chongtha Menjor sent word three times to Sanakhwa the Wangkheirakpa and Yengkhoiba Menjor to send reinforcement and guns. But Yengkhoiba and the Wangkheirakpa sent neither reinforcement nor guns. At this critical situation for the Manipuri, helpless Paona addressed his

countrymen that the enemy shells could hit them, but it was dishonourable to die running and elder brother-in-law Yengkhoiba was suspicious. Drawing his sword, he went round in the middle of the camp and said all the Manipuri would die and won't turn face.

While Captain Carnegie and Lt. Grant were standing watch on the road, Captain Drury was taking the position with the Gurkha Regiment and the 12th Burma Infantry very near the east side of the Manipuri earthwork. The British mounted troops took the position in the west direction. At this juncture, the British infantrymen surrounded the earthwork in two lines in a V-shape, and standing in opposite directions, fired shots upon the Manipuri. The Manipuri also returned fire heavily. But the shots fired by the Manipuri went over the heads of the British troops and, therefore, could not cause deaths and injuries.



Yuvaraj Tikendrajit

While there was heavy fighting between the two sides a Manipuri soldier stood up raising a white flag tied to the tip of a long pole. Thinking that the Manipuri

were surrendering, the British troops ceased fire. Taking advantage of this situation, another Manipuri soldier stood up from inside the ditch and bursting into laughter, shot at Captain Drury who was wounded very seriously. Enraged at this, the British opened fire at once and, pouring shots inside the earthwork began to attack it. But, as the Manipuri soldiers were behind the parapet, the British could not achieve anything. The British troops were ordered to cross the trench surrounding the earthwork and climb up the parapet for undertaking direct combat. But it was not an easy task to cross the trench in which sharp bamboo spikes were implanted underwater. The British troops encountered tremendous dangers and difficulties in attacking the earthwork by crossing the large trench after jumping into it. But, after hard labour, many British troops succeeded in crossing the trench and climbing over the parapet. There ensued a terrible fight with a heavy exchange of fire on both sides. In the direct, fierce fight both sides suffered heavy casualties.

In the direct hand-to-hand fight, after forcing their way into the earthwork of the Manipuri, the numerically superior British force began killing most of the Manipuri soldiers. After a relentless, valiant fight, many Manipuri warriors laid down their lives. Among the brave Manipuri heroes who died in the battle of Khongjom, mention may be made of Paona Menjor, Chinglensana Phunganai Shanglakpa Potshangba, Khumbong Menjor, Loitongba Jamadar, Keisha Jamadar, etc. Among the Manipuri fighters who escaped from this battle, it is worthwhile to mention the name of Chongtha Mia Menjor. When the wounded Chongtha Mia escaped from the battlefield of Khongjom and arrived at Manipur encampment of Thoubal under Sanakhwa Wangkheirakpa and Yengkhoiba Menjor, there were none

there. As he could not proceed any further on account of being wounded, the British gained on him and captured him.

After Khongjom battle:

On hearing the news of Manipur's defeat at the hands of the British, the Wangkheirakpa, Yengkhoiba Menjor and all the troops who were encamping at Thoubal to resist the further advance of the British troops ran up to the Manipuri palace and reported the defeat of the Manipuri at Khongjom. As there was no hope of success in resisting the British any further, King Kullachandra, his younger brothers, including the Jubaraj and the Senapati, and the courtiers held a durbar and decided to leave Manipur for China. In pursuance of this decision, Subedar Moirang Tonjao was appointed their guide to China and given a cloth of honour (Lamthang Khulat) and Rs. 3,000/-. He was first sent on an errand to find the route to China.

After entrusting the idols of all the deities including that of Lord Shri Govinda to the Royal Priest Thakurdas of Khongman with an offering of Rs. 1,000/- as the divine mortgage, king Kullachandra set out for Chasad with Jubaraj Tikendrajit, Senapati Angousana, Shamu Hanjaba Jilangamba, Chingakhamba Nongthonba, Maisna Luwang Ningthou, Chongtha Ayapurel Menjor and 200 men. On the eve of leaving Kangla, king Kullachandra and his retinue set fire to 22 guns, 2 bombs, and several boxes of gun powder. In the explosion of the king's residential palace, Govinda's Beithop, boathouse, and 10 other houses caught fire.

Since there was no further resistance from the Manipuri side, all the three columns of British troops from three directions entered the palace at Kangla on 27th April, 1891. Of the three columns, the Silchar column from the west was the first to enter Kangla.

They pulled down the flag of Independent Manipur and hoisted the Union Jack. Thus the last sun of Manipur's independence set and Manipur became a British dependency.

After entering Kangla, the British became the master of Manipur. They broke and destroyed all the firearms and guns that remained in the palace. All the firearms and other weapons were also recovered from Manipuri soldiers and were beaten down to render them useless. Kangla Men Surung, the cave where the coronations of the kings of Manipur were ritually performed was covered up. The stone of Khangjeng deity was removed. The simul cotton tree that grew at Nungoibi, a place of ritual worship, was blown down by exploding gun powder. The huge outer mudwall and the inner brick wall of the Fort were razed to the ground. The two lion images made of brick, that stood in front of the Kangla Ultra gate, were blown over by exploding gun powder in their mouths. Nungjeng Apishak, a pond was covered up. The sacred place of Wanggon Lairemma, the sacred place of Ahallup Sanglen, the sacred cave of Konloileima, and the sacred place of Laiyingthou Pangganba, all were destroyed in the course of levelling the uneven grounds of Kangla.

When King Kullachandra and his party reached Chasad, they could not find Moirang Tonjao who was tasked with the errand to find the route to China. So, they returned one after another and surrendered to the British. Kangaba Thangal Menjor surrendered first on 6th May 1891. Jubaraj Tikendrajit was arrested by Subedar Khelendra from the house of Thokchom Dewan of upper Singjamei.

For the trial on the killing of Mr Quinton and the other four British officers a special tribunal consisting of two military officers

and one civil officer was set up under the presidentship of Lt Col Saint John Mitchell. This tribunal tried on (1) Chongtha Mia Menjor, (2) Shamu Singh Luwangningthou, (3) Nilamani Singh Aya Pural, (4) Lokendrajit Singh Wangkheirakpa, (5) Uru Singh Usarba, (6) Abungjao Yengkhoiba, (7) Khamba Singh Laishangba, (8) Dhana Singh Khongdra, (9) Chaobi Haidar Machahal, (10) Noni Singh Nepra Machahal, (11) Dhojo Singh Mayengba, (12) Trilok Singh Nongthonba, Satwal, (13) Dhono Singh, Shagolsemba, (14) General Thangal, (15) Pukhramba Kajao, (16) Nirajan Subedar, (17) Charai Thangal, (18) King Kullachandra (19) Jubaraj Tikendrajit, (20) Prince Jilangamba, and (21) Prince Angousana.

After a trial by this Tribunal of India Government; Jubaraj Tikendrajit and General Thangal were public hanged on the gallows at Pheidapung on 13th August 1891. Pukhramba Kajao was hanged on 25th May 1891 for stabbing to death the Political Agent Mr Grimwood with a spear. Subedar Nirajan was hanged on 8th June 1891 for taking side with the Manipuri. Charai Thangal was hanged on 13th October 1891 as he was the prime accused in the killing of Melville and O'Brien, superintendent and signaller respectively of the Post and Telegraph Department.

Maharaj Kullachandra, Angousana (Senapati), Lokendrajit Birjit Singh (Wangkheirakpa), Maisnam Shamu Singh (Luwang Ningthou), Chongtham Nilamani Singh (Ayapural), Chongtha Mia (Menjor), Heikrujam Chaobaton Singh (Subedar), Mangshatabam Tonjao Singh (Jamandar), Ingudam Ghana Singh (Jamandar), Chingsubam Ningthouba Singh (Jamandar), Phanjoubam Thouba Singh (Jamandar), Ashangbam Phurahongba,

Kut, Nongthonbam Trilok Singh (Satwal), Sagolsem Dhana Singh (Shanglingba), Yengkhom Abungjao Singh, (Lalupchingba), Khomdram Guna Singh (Lalupchingba), Usham Aru Singh (Ushurba), Lalupchingba, Hidam Chaobi Singh (Machahal), Mayengbam Dhojo Singh (Machahal), Nepram Noni Singh, (Machahal), Laishram Khamba Singh (Machahal), Ghoukami Naga, Gouho Naga were deported to the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

In the process of seeking a new king, the British government thought that the scions of Manipur king Gambhir Singh lacked loyalty to the British government. So they, looked out for the descendants of King Narsingh who were more loyal to the British. At last, having learnt there were existing the sons of Chaobiyaima, scion of Narshingh, son of Bhagindra Singh alias Bhuban Jubaraj, they sent for Bhuban's widowed daughter-in-law, Lalita Manjuri Devi Moirangthem and asked her to bring the horoscopes of her four sons. After examining the four horoscopes, the British Government appointed Churachand Singh, the youngest son of Chaobiyaima, only 6 years old, on September 18, 1891, under a Sanad signed by S.H. Durand, Secretary to Government of India, giving the title of Raja and 11 gun salute.

Thus, Manipur which had a long history as an independent kingdom for almost two thousand years since the first century of the Christian era except for the three Burmese invasions of Manipur during the reign of King Bhagyachandra and the seven-year-devastation on account of the Burmese invasion during the reign of Marjit became a British dependency after being defeated by the British in 1891 in the battle of Khongjom, which was the last battle for Manipur's freedom.



MANIPURIS IN OLYMPICS

Sl.	Name	Event	Place	Year
1	P. Nilakamal Singh	Hockey	Los Angeles, U.S.A.	1984
2	Ksh. Thoiba Singh	Hockey	Seoul, South Korea	1988
3	(L) Ng. Dingku Singh (54 kg)	Boxing	Sydney, Australia	2000
4	S. Suresh Singh (48 kg)	Boxing	Sydney, Australia	2000
5	(L) L. Brajeshwori Devi (-48)	Judo	Sydney, Australia	2000
6	Th. Sanamacha Devi (52 kg)	Weightlifting	Sydney, Australia Athens, Greece	2000 2004
7	N. Kunjarani Devi (48 kg)	Weightlifting	Athens, Greece	2004
8	L. Bombayla Devi	Archery	Beijing, China London Rio, Brazil	2008 2012 2016
9	Kh. Tombi Devi (-48 kg)	Judo	Beijing, China	2008
10	M.C. Mary Kom (51 kg)	Boxing	London, Bronze Medalist Tokyo	2012 2020
11	L. Devendra Singh (52 Kg)	Boxing	London	2012
12	Ng. Soniya Chanu (48 kg)	Weightlifting	London	2012
13	Kh. Kothajit Singh	Hockey	London Rio, Brazil	2012 2016
14	K. Chinglensana Singh	Hockey	Rio, Brazil	2016
15	Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam	Hockey	Rio, Brazil Tokyo	2016 2020
16	Th. Anuradha Devi	Hockey	Rio, Brazil	2016
17	S. Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Rio, Brazil Tokyo, Silver Medalist	2016 2020
18	S. Nilakanta Sharma	Hockey	Tokyo	2020
19	Sushila Likmabam	Judo	Tokyo	2020

ACHIEVEMENTS / NATIONAL AWARDEES OF MANIPUR

DRONACHARYA AWARDEE



Name:
L. Ibomcha Singh, Coach

Event:
Boxing

Year:
2010

DHYANCHAND AWARDEE



Name:
L. Anita Chanu

Event:
Weightlifting

Year:
2010

PADMA SHRI AWARDEES



Sl.	Name	Event	Year
1	M.C. Mary Kom	Boxing	2006
2	G. Anita	Adventure, Mountaineering	2009
3	N. Kunjarani Devi	Weightlifting	2011
4	Ng. Dingku Singh	Boxing	2013
5	S. Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	2018
6	O. Bembem Devi	Football	2021

PADMA BHUSAN AWARDEE



Name:
M.C. Mary Kom

Event:
Boxing

Year:
2013

PADMA VIBHUSAN AWARDEE



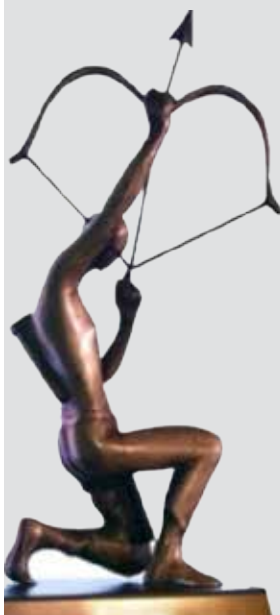
Name:
M.C. Mary Kom

Event:
Boxing

Year:
2021

ACHIEVEMENTS / NATIONAL AWARDEES OF MANIPUR

ARJUNA AWARDEES



Sl.	Name	Event	Year
1	N. Kunjarani Devi	Weightlifting	1990
2	Ng. Dingku Singh	Boxing	1998
3	Ksh. Tingongleima	Hockey	2000
4	Th. Sanamacha Chanu	Weightlifting	2000
5	M.C. Mary Kom	Boxing	2003
6	W. Surjalata Devi	Hockey	2003
7	A. Anita Chanu	Judo	2007
8	Kh. Tombi Devi	Judo	2008
9	L. Sarita Devi	Boxing	2011
10	M. Suranjoy Singh (52 kg)	Boxing	2011
11	W. Sandhyarani Devi (Sanshou 60 kg)	Wushu	2011
12	L. Bombayla Devi	Archery	2012
13	Ng. Sonia Chanu	Weightlifting	2012
14	M. Bimoljit Singh	Wushu	2012
15	Y. Renubala Chanu	Weightlifting	2014
16	Y. Sanathoi Devi	Wushu	2015
17	L. Devendro Singh (49 kg)	Boxing	2017
18	O. Bembem Devi	Football (W)	2017
19	Kangujam Chinglensana Singh	Hockey	2019
20	Sh. Nilakanta Sharma	Hockey	2021
21	Sushila Devi Likmabam	Judo	2022

RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARDEES



Sl.	Name	Event	Year
1	N. Kunjarani Devi	Weightlifting	1997
2	M.C. Mary Kom	Boxing	2009
3	S. Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	2018

GOVERNMENT CELEBRATES ITS 1ST ANNIVERSARY



The 1st Anniversary of Shri N. Biren Singh led 2.0 Government was celebrated on 13th April, 2023 at Senapati Public Ground with Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh as the Chief Guest of the celebration.

Shri N. Biren Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur for the Second Term on 21st March, 2022 after winning majority seats in the General Election to the Manipur Legislative Assembly which was held on March, 2022.

The Chief Minister and other dignitaries were accorded a rousing welcome by the leaders of Civil Society Organisations, Students Organisations, Church leaders and

the public on their arrival to the function venue.

Inauguration of 95 projects worth Rs 22,450 Lakhs and laying of foundation stone of 17 projects worth Rs. 7605 lakhs marked the celebration of the 1st Anniversary of the Government.

Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Senior Civil and Police officers, Civil Society Organisations, Church Leaders, and general public of Senapati District also attended the function among others.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh expressed that

he was overwhelmed by the warm welcome accorded to him and his cabinet colleagues by the people of Senapati. He also appreciated the Planning Department and the District Administration, Senapati for organising the Anniversary celebration in a grand way.

The Chief Minister continued that Cabinet meetings were held at different hill district headquarters in the first term of the Government, adding that interactions with various CSOs were also held to know the grievances of the people.

Stating that the Government had chosen Senapati District to celebrate the 1st Anniversary of the Government, he added Senapati District is on its path to become the 2nd capital of Manipur in terms of Sports with certain infrastructure development in the field of Sports. He further stated that Senapati is the first hill district to have an artificial football turf. He expressed that the district would see a considerable change in the sports infrastructure development once the indigenous wrestling stadium, football field at Karong are completed, adding that Thangal Memorial Football Stadium would also be constructed soon at Thangal Village.

Shri N. Biren further informed that a Critical Care Block with 10 ICU beds will be constructed at Senapati District Hospital with an estimated cost of Rs. 28 Crore. Specialist Doctors will also be stationed at the block to check seriously ill patients, he added. He also spoke on various development works taken up during the last one year of his government.

The Chief Minister appreciated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his concern on development of North East States specially Manipur, informing that Central leaders are very happy to see people of Manipur living together happily and peacefully.



Speaking on the decision taken at the cabinet meeting held today at Deputy Commissioner's Office today, prior to the 1st Anniversary celebration, he informed that the cabinet had approved to implement the "One family One Livelihood" initiative. The Government had earlier announced to give livelihood to each and every household. He further informed that anyone from a family with no source of livelihood can apply for a loan of Rs. 10 Lakh with 30 percent grant. An amount of Rs. 100 Crore had been allocated in the budget for the same, he added, asking the public to take advantage of this.

During the programme, the Chief Minister handed over the appointment order to Smt. Pangambam Romita Devi, wife of deceased VDF (L) N. Premananda, as cook in the Police Department. (L) N. Premananda went missing while attending duty to destroy illegal poppy plantations and later found dead in an area under Chakpikarong Police Station in Chandel district.

As a part of the programme, the Chief Minister also felicitated Government Department and officials for their contribution in certain fields.



HIGHLIGHT OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR (2022-2023)



The people of Manipur put all their faith and trust to the BJP led Government. Shri N Biren Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the State for the second term on 21st March, 2022. The outcome was overwhelming as the Bharatiya Janata Party retained power in Manipur with a full majority by securing 32 out of 60 seats.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi repeated the need for a 'double engine government' for better development of the States and as such, the State Government under his guidance has been successful in ushering peace, stability and prosperity of Manipur.

Under the able leadership of Shri N Biren Singh, the Government of Manipur continues to develop Manipur into a "Model State".

In this article, we are highlighting various initiatives and achievements made by the government during the past one year after the arrival of BJP 2.0.

LAW AND ORDER

Law and order situation and security environment in Manipur has considerably improved in the recent years under the able leadership of Shri N Biren Singh.



During 2022, 75 insurgents surrendered, 309 extremists were arrested and various arms, ammunitions etc. were recovered.

Giving a further boost to the peace process in the State, the Government of India and the State Government have entered into a cessation of operation agreement with the Zeliangrong United Front which had been active for more than a decade.

With improved security scenario, 15 police station areas in 6 districts of the State has been excluded from the Disturbed Area Notification with effect from 1st April 2022. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act has been revoked from these areas.

Government of India approved construction of 34 Police Outposts along Indo-Myanmar International Border and 6 Police Outposts along National Highway-37 (Imphal-Jiribam) with cost of Rs. 80.40 crore under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States. Out of these, construction of 12 (twelve) Border Police Outposts and 3 (three) Police Outposts along NH-37 are in progress.

SECURITY & POLICING



The Government has worked tirelessly to bring about a peaceful atmosphere in the State. Cadres from different banned organisations have returned, ready to join the mainstream. This sense of security and improvement of law & order is important for the State's economy. Setting up of Highway Patrol along the National Highways in the State,

launching of Tourist Police, launching of Mounted or Sagol Police, use of Women Commandos for special duties etc. are some of the security related initiatives taken up by the Government.



WAR ON DRUGS

Since the start of the Government's second term, the State Government have intensified the fight against illegal drugs. The seizures of illegal drugs, destruction of poppy plantations, arrest of perpetrators and drug



traders etc. continues unabated. People from all places and different communities have come out in support of the Government's fight against drugs.

This 'War on Drugs' is not only about arrest and punishment. The Government had started a scheme for 'Alternative Livelihoods' for farmers of affected areas. The State Government is working with the Ministry of DoNER to expand this project to



all affected areas in the State. So far, drugs worth Rs. 1228 crore in international market have been seized since January 2022.

560 kg of Opium and Heroin, 500 kg of brown sugar were seized and 1780 acres of poppy plantation were destroyed.

The poppy cultivated area in 2021 crop season was 6742 acres and has come down to 1118 acres in 2022.

HEALTH



The Government's role is important for the development of the health sector. The 'Chief Minister's Hakshelgi Tengbang' scheme has reduced the out-of-pocket expenses, specially by the poorer sections of the society. Till date about 6.83 lakh beneficiaries have enrolled under CMHT. For those enrolled, the State Government has spent more than Rs. 153 crores on their medical treatment. This Government had increased the limit of assistance from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh in the last year.

The 'Chief Minister's Health for All (CMHFA) Scheme' was launched in October, 2021 with an aim to provide door-to-door healthcare services and complete primary health checkup for all the people in Manipur. Under this scheme, 14 diseases are now screened. Till date 1207 villages have been covered and more than 3.3 lakh people have been screened.

The State Government had initiated works to start the first session of the Churachandpur Medical College in 2020. In just a span of 2 years, on 15th November,

2022, the first session of the MBBS course was started. This is a major achievement of the Government and is proof of the State Government's desire to bring all round development across the State and to build up the health sector. The number of MBBS seats in JNIMS has also been increased from 100 to 150.



The 'CM's Menstrual Hygiene Scheme' was launched to provide school going adolescent girls with sanitary napkins. This scheme aims to increase awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene, build their self-esteem and empower them. Safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environment friendly manner will also be ensured. In the first phase, 38 Government and Government Aided schools developed under the School Fagathansi Mission, with high girl students enrolment, will be covered. The Government inaugurated first State owned De-addiction Centre at Sinusiphai in Bishnupur district.

EDUCATION

The Education Department has distributed 1900 Smartphones under CMs College Maheiroi e-Support Scheme. The Government is providing Scholarship to children of small, marginal or landless farmers pursuing technical education.

The Government has introduced STAR EDUCATION for effective teaching by using technology. Infrastructure development under RUSA at Dhanamanjuri University was inaugurated and 4750 tablets has been distributed to Government School students.

The Government is also strengthening 50 schools under School Fagathansi Mission/ Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

POWER

The Government has been providing 24x7 power supply to town areas and around 23 hours per day power supply to other areas. For lighting up important areas, 74 High Mast have been installed across the state. 929 numbers of LED Street Light has been commissioned.

Prepaid energy meter for 4.41 lakh consumers have been installed till date. The AT&C loss for FY 2022-23 is 20% with a target to reduce it to 15% by FY 2024-25 by augmenting to AB Cable and saturation of pre-paid meters.

To improve the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply, REC Limited has sanctioned for implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, Manipur amounting to Rs. 520.61 crores, with Gross Budgetary Support of Rs. 398.67 crore.

In the past year, five 33/11 kV sub-stations at Ibudhou Marjing, Leimapokpam, Hiyangthang, Khangabok Moirangpalli and Heirok were operationalized. Various existing 132/33 and 33/11 kV sub-stations were augmented with additional capacity. At present, 21 new 33/11 kV sub-stations and 2 new 132/33 kV Sub-Stations are under construction. For safe & secure grid operation and real time power supply management, a wide network of Fiber Optics cable of

about 2000 km is being laid across the State. State Load Dispatch Centre, Manipur was conferred the first ever “LDC Excellence Award” under the category of Emerging State Load Dispatch Centres at the 9th International Conference on Power Systems - 2021.

To achieve self-reliance in power generation, preparation of DPR is under process for 29 hydro projects with capacities of about 306 MW.

28 sets of Standalone solar water pumping systems have been installed under ‘Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhivan’ Scheme Phase I.

SPORTS

Manipur is recognised as the ‘Powerhouse of Sports’ in the country. The Government recognises the need for investments in our sports infrastructure so that we continue to remain a powerhouse in sports.

Our State is known for its contribution to various sports, specially football. The State had hosted the qualifying rounds of the Durand Cup and the response of the people has been tremendous. In recognition of the love for football by the people of Manipur, the All-India Football Federation is hosting the ‘FIFA Tri Nation Friendly Tournament’ in Manipur in March, 2023. This will be the first time that the Indian Senior Men’s Team will be playing in the State.

The State Government had



started the construction of the ‘Manipur Olympian Park’ to honour our sportspersons who have participated in the Olympic Games and brought laurels to our State. The Hon’ble



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated it on 6th January, 2023 exactly one year after the foundation stone was laid.





This park will surely be a source of inspiration and encouragement to our sports persons. A 'Sports Digital Experience Centre' is being set up in this park which will provide a unique experience to the visitors. The Olympian Park's 'Centre of Excellence' will aim to achieve success in the field of sports, with special emphasis on excellence in Olympics.

In the recently concluded Sangai Festival, 2022 the State Government had launched the first edition of the 'Chief Minister's Sagol Kangjei Championship' to promote our traditional game. District Khelo India Centre was opened at 16 districts of Manipur. Setting up of additional District Khelo India Centre for each district is being taken up. Manipur ranked 4th position at the 4th Khello India Youth Games with 19 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze medals.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND START-UPS

In the previous term the State Government had started the 'Manipur Start Up Scheme', which has provided tremendous support to the Start Ups in the State. Financial support has been provided to about 5800 Start Ups with project costs of about Rs. 110 crores. To give a boost to the 'Start Up' environment the Government had allocated Rs. 100 crores in the previous budget. These efforts have been recognized by the Central Government and DPIIT in its States' StartUp Ranking 2021 had recognized Manipur as an "Aspiring Leader" in developing a strong Start Up Ecosystem in the State.

The Government had launched a 'Venture Fund' on 12th November, 2022 with NEDFi to increase the availability of funding avenues for Start Ups in the State. The State Government will provide a corpus of Rs. 15 crores with NEDFi raising another Rs. 15 crores. This Venture Fund will identify Start Ups with long term growth potential and provide necessary support.

The State Government in collaboration with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) have launched the 'Manipur Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS)' which became effective from 1st January, 2023. This scheme will increase the guaranteed coverage of loans given to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and Start Ups. A corpus fund of Rs. 10 crores will be provided initially by the State Government. With this corpus, CGTMSE targets to create a portfolio size of Rs. 700 crores to provide support to about 14,000 MSEs and StartUps.

The 'Chief Ministers' Entrepreneurship Support Scheme (CMESS)' was launched to support small enterprises with the objective of 'one family one livelihood' with



investments upto Rs. 10 lakhs per beneficiary with 30% subsidy by the State Government and 65% collateral-free loan by partner bank.

The 'Manipur Start Up 2.0 Policy' was revised to strengthen the existing environment and eco-system for further growth of Start Ups in the State.

TOURISM

Tourism is the sector with the highest potential to boost the State's economy. It can provide massive employment, bring investment and also contribute to the economic growth of the State.

The Heritage site at the INA Headquarters, Moirang has the tallest National Flag within the North East. The Femina Miss India 2023 Finale is being held in Manipur in April, 2023. It is a matter of pride for the State that we are given an opportunity to host such a major event.

This year the State Government had inaugurated the Marjing Polo Statue at Marjing Hill on 6th January, 2023, which is considered to be the abode of Lord Marjing, a deity closely associated with 'Sagol Kangjei'. The Statue is the largest Polo Statue in the world, with its height at 122 feet.

The Sangai Festival is one of the most important tourism festivals of the State. In the last edition in 2022 the State had hosted the inaugural function in the Sangai Ethnic Park at Moirang Khunou, which is close to the abode of the Sangai deer. For the first time the festival was celebrated across the length and breadth of the State at multiple locations including Mao, Makhel, Behiang, Geljang, Marjing etc. bringing life to the theme of the festival – "Festival of Oneness".



CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity is an important prime moving force in the development of the State. In November, 2022 the Union Minister for MoRTH, Shri Nitin Gadkari had announced projects under National Highways for Manipur amounting to Rs. 15,499 crores. Some of the projects included in the announcement are (i) Elevated Corridor throughout Imphal City (ii) Road from Shangshak to Tengnoupal (iii) Road from Ukhrul to Tadubi through

Best Poster
by State
Government
Award 2022
at 37th IATO
Annual
Convention

Manipur
Tourism
Policy 2022
approved by
State Cabinet

Total Tourist
Footfall -
138,143
Domestic -
134,039
Foreign - 4,104

Toloi (iv) 4-lane Imphal to Moirang etc. These projects will drastically improve the road sector within the State.

The Imphal - Kangchup - Tamenglong road taken up with funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with a cost of Rs. 1437 crore is progressing well and has reached 78% physical progress. The revised target date for completion is December, 2023 and once completed this road will reduce the travel time from Imphal to Tamenglong from 6 hours to 3 hours. This project upon completion will benefit 32 villages out of which 19 are interior villages.



DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

Two major projects have been taken up by the State Government for provision of piped water supply within the State, the Jal Jeevan Mission, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and New Development Bank funded 'Manipur Water Supply Project'. Despite various challenges, the implementation of these projects are underway in full swing.

Sanitation is another important area. The Swachh Bharat Mission aims to

provide individual household toilets and interventions for safe management of solid and liquid waste in both urban and rural areas. The Imphal Sewerage Project Phase-I has been taken up to provide sewerage service to areas within Imphal City.

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Manipur is rightly called a 'Mini-India' with a multitude of varied communities, dialects and cultures. In the Sangai Ethnic Park at Moirang Khunou, each community has been provided with a 'hut' to showcase their unique culture. The construction of 'Tribal Museums' for the different tribes in the State has also started in 2020-21. It is necessary to protect and preserve the identity and culture of the smaller tribes in our State whose populations are small.

The State Government continues to prioritise development in the minority concentrated areas of the State, specially the hill districts. Since the inception of Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), 17,441 number of projects have been completed amounting to Rs. 552 crore and another 358 number of projects amounting to Rs. 631 crores are underway. Some of the major infrastructure projects taken up in the hill districts under this scheme include (i) Infrastructure Development of Tamenglong College amounting to Rs. 15 crore (ii) Infrastructure Development of Pettigrew College amounting to Rs. 39 crore (iii) Model Residential Schools at Kamjong, Kangpokpi, Senapati, Tamenglong, Ukhrul, Chandel, Churachandpur and Tengnoupal with a cost of Rs. 202 crores. Recently, some of these projects were inaugurated.

The State Government had taken up the construction of Ima Markets in various District Headquarters in the previous term.

APRIL 23, KHONGJOM DAY

Longjam Somorendro(Arun)

The sense of oneness between 23rd April and Khongjom Day has been in the minds of the Manipuris for many years. The main purpose for celebrating this function i.e. Khongjom Day every year as a state function in Manipur is to pay reverence to the departed souls in the Khongjom Battle who laid down their lives in the defence of their mother-land, Manipur from the hands of their enemies i.e. the British. In this great battle the Manipuri hero Paona Brajabashi with his associates fought against the much bigger British army and stopped them from the morning till evening from entering Imphal, the capital of Manipur. In the closing stages of the battle, Paona fell and left this world with a heroic death. The courage of the Manipuri army under Paona Brajabashi gave a good impression to the British officers. Prior events in the Battle of Thoubal proved that the British Commanders were very cautious and careful about the movements of the Manipuris as was evidenced by this Battle which took place on the 6th April, 1891 before the Battle at Khongjom. Lt. Grant made a camp at Thoubal Athokpam after he failed to cross the Thoubal river earlier with an intention to advance to Imphal. The Manipuri forces stopped him and his army from crossing the river. He retreated to Athokpam and encamped there in wait for the Burma column to rescue him. At this time some skirmishes took place between the patrol parties. The Manipuri forces attacked the British position which was bombarded by 7-pounder guns on 6th, April in the early

morning. But Grant's position was well entrenched and so the Manipuris made an open attack and fighting continued upto 3 p.m. There was casualties on the British side. According to local accounts three British soldiers were killed. On the Manipuri side one great hero Yaishkul Lakpa and his minor son was killed. Even after the leader of the Manipuri army was dead and Manipuri army was much weakened and the Britishers got the upper hand, Lt. Grant was suspicious that any unpredictable thing might happen from the side of the very skilful and shrewd Manipuri army and so he retreated to Pallel on 8th April in a dark and rainy night. This is an example of their lurking fear for the Manipuri army.

Now coming to the Khongjom front, some British officers highly wrote about the bravery of the Manipuri forces led by Paona. The Manipuris who were heavily outnumbered fought to the last. Even if the British won the battle and killed Paona they were very cautious about the next course of action that the Manipuris might take up. This was ample proof of their serious regard for the Manipuri backlash.

Now a very sinful act is committed to the departed heroic soul of Paona Brajabashi by a few section of this generation. Paona is made to die twice on two different dates. This is very unfortunate. Our revered hero should die only once. Really, he died on a particular date.

According to local accounts, the mighty Paona fought tirelessly from early morning to dusk without any food. He killed numberless enemies with his sword and the bloods froze and fastened his palm with the handle of the sword. To loosen it he washed the blood at the Khongjom stream. After that he gave floral offerings with prayers to those departed souls of the brave Manipuri warriors who sacrificed their lives for Manipur. Subsequently, it is said that he called a Manipuri from outside Manipur who fought the battle on the British side and asked him to cut off his head because he did not like to turn his head towards Imphal and so Paona gave his neck voluntarily and died at Khongjom.

Another version is that Paona who was sitting alone was surrounded by the enemies. He was persuaded to surrender to the British but he refused. On his refusal he was shot dead.

This writer, being born and brought up at Keishamthong where the descendents of Paona Brajabashi reside has a thorough knowledge about the life of Paona Brajabashi – how he grew up and reached adult hood as a master in martial art and how much he loved his mother country, Manipur and how he died at the battle field, how his dead body was located by his next of kin and family and brought it and cremated at Arapti with rites and rituals. Family sources speak volumes about all these things.

Yet another story mentioned in the local chronicle is that when Paona was sitting alone completely exhausted when sunset was nearing, one Lakshman Singh belonging to the British army came with a khukri in his hands and challenged Paona to a fight. But Paona did not pay attention to that. His sad gaze was on the dead bodies of his followers, associates and men that lay

strewn on the field. But the discourteous and impolite remarks of Lakshman Singh asking Paona to accept his challenge and not to flee from him in fear, prompted Paona to accept the challenge. When Lakshman rushed in with the khukri in hand to behead Paona, things happened otherwise. Paona very easily beheaded Lakshman Singh. This is supported by an eye witness's account.

Now, some questions arise in connection with the defeat of the three different battles fought in Manipur in 1891. The first one is about the non-mentioning of the King, Yubraj and Senapati of Manipur in these battles. However, regarding the Khongjom battle documents say that the Yubraj volunteered to rush to Khongjom after the news of Paona's death reached the Palace. It is said that Maharaja Kulachandra refused to send the Yubraj to Khongjom on the ground that his service was needed and required to protect the palace at Kangla. It is more surprising that the most important personage in times of war i.e. the Senapati or General is not found to be active in any one of the three battles of the north (Kohima side), the western side (Silcher side) and lastly the eastern side i.e, Tammu side.

From all accounts it can be found out that the Khongjom battle which was the most important one was fought mostly by the common people of Manipur who loved their motherland. They sacrificed their lives for us even though many high-ups and noblemen of the time did not fight in the battle.

Another question is why were mountain guns demanded by Paona by sending an urgent message to Wangkhei Lakpa who was stationed at Thoubal camp not given? It is also said that there were enough arms and ammunition at the Palace. 22 guns and 26 boxes of dynamite and gun powder were stored at the Palace. They were not used at



Khongjom Battle even if Paona demanded it. Why? Another unfortunate part of the story was that even though the news of the death of Paona was heard at the Manipuri camp at Tomjing hill at Thoubal, the army there did not continue the fight.

Another thing is why Paona Brajabashi consented to go to Khongjom and fight the numerous and very powerful British army. The answer is: Sheer Patriotism. Perhaps he might have known that he would not come out alive and victorious. He knew his impending fate to be met at Khongjom. He was not charmed by the title Major but was charmed by the sacrifice of his life for the independence of Manipur.

The opinion of the writer is that nothing harmful will be done to the land by people, however ordinary they may be, who observe the traditions, morals and ideals of the Manipuri society. Therefore those precious warriors of Manipur who laid down their

lives at Khongjom for the independence of Manipur were true sons of the soil. Their next of kin and family had been offering prayers, oblations and devotional services on the dates of their martyrdom according to the Manipuri calendar which tally with the English calendar, every year. But in course of time controversies cropped up regarding the date of Khongjom battle which is not a good sign. Two different dates came which confused the people.

In the local papers and even in the AIR different opinions were expressed. Subsequently the Government of the period issued an order to settle the Controversy under order No. 23/7/81-DIPR(3). A committee was also formed consisting of the following persons. They are Sarvashri ; R.K. Sanahal, Manipur Sahitya Parisad, Ph. Nandalal Sharma, N. Khelchandra Singh, R.K. Madhurjait Singh, S. Gourhari Singh, A. Minaketan Singh, P. Jugindra Singh, E. Nilakanta Singh and S.B.K. Dev Verman and Shri Yumnam Yaima Singh as Chairman. The committee was enlarged with the co-option of two Government representatives Dr. L. Chandramani Singh, MLA and Shri R.K. Jhalajit Singh, Manipur Law Collage. Over and above this, in May 1982 the Public opinion on Khongjom Day, and in April, 1982 Report of the Committee to look into the controversy over the observance of Khongjom Day, were published by the Assembly Secretariat. In the book "Manipur Prahelika" published by Shri Jankinath Basak, Tikendrajit's counsel, the detailed story of Khongjom battle and the death of Paona is carefully written. Instead some others fix the date of Khongjom battle and observe it on the day of their choice. But in the opinion of the writer it is like performing it on personal basis but not of the state. But a caution is that it would bring no good to meddle in the funeral and death affairs and services of the family.

BLOOD SAFETY AND AVAILABILITY

*Dr. Laikangbam Dayalaxmi
State Nodal Officer,
State Blood Cell, NHM, Manipur*



Blood Transfusion Services are one of the major elements in health care delivery system. It is a life saving intervention and therefore, blood & blood components must be safe and of consistent quality for clinical effectiveness. Blood Transfusion saves lives and improves health, but many patients requiring transfusion do not have timely access to safe blood. Providing safe and adequate blood should be an integral part of every country's national health care policy and infrastructure.

An adequate and reliable supply of safe blood can be assured by a stable base of regular, voluntary, non- remunerated blood

donors. These donors are also the safest group of donors as the prevalence of blood borne infections is lowest among this group.

As per WHO estimation 1% of the population needed blood transfusion from any cause every year. Our State having a population of 30 Lakhs needed at least 30,000 units of blood annually. However, in Manipur total annual blood collection is approximately 24,000 units of blood, out of which around 30% are voluntary collections and approximately 70% of the blood supply still dependent on family/ replacement blood donors. The risk of transmission of serious infections, including HIV & Hepatitis,

through unsafe blood and blood shortages brought attention to the importance of blood safety and availability.

Donating blood helps save lives and has positive benefits for donors, such as improving their emotional and physical health. A person can potentially save three lives through a single blood donation. Someone in the states / anywhere will need blood every 2 seconds, and a single blood donation has the potential to save three lives. Blood donation is not hazardous and it proves to be a healthy habit that helps blood renewal. Blood donors will have greater sense of belonging and connection by performing the good deed, thereby positive effect on their emotional well being. Blood donors get a free medical examination including medical history, haemoglobin estimation and blood group determination when they donate blood. These checks may highlight any underlying conditions people are not aware of and help them seek treatment sooner.

As a part of activities to encourage the voluntary blood collection in our State, Voluntary Blood Donation Awareness Campaign cum Donation Camp has been organised by Association of Voluntary Blood Donor (AVBD), Thoubal, Branch, Manipur at Khongjom War Memorial Complex since the year 2012 in connection with Khongjom Day, 23rd April under the Theme ' Give Blood to our Martyrs' supported by State Blood Cell, NHM, Manipur in collaboration with different voluntary Non-Government organisation and Government departments. Total Blood Units collected on Voluntary Blood Donation Camps organised on

Khongjom Day 23rd April from the year 2012 to 2022 respectively are 47 units, 97 units, 84 units, 98 units, 34 units, 118 units, 127 units , 105 units, 78 units, 77 units and 113 units .

State Blood Cell, NHM, Manipur would like to appeal to the youths of Manipur in the age of 18 years and above who are healthy and fit to voluntarily donate blood to express their altruism and to save the lives of many people. Blood donation has no ill effect on the body. The amount of blood donated is a small part of your surplus blood and is recouped by the body in twenty one days. One can donate blood every 3 months or 4 times a year.

**By donating blood,
you can save lives!**

Everyone should have access to safe blood transfusions, when and where they need them.

Safe Blood For All

World Blood Donor Day World Health Organization

“HYDROPONICS”

AN ABSOLUTE TOOL TO SAVE PRECIOUS AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF MANIPUR

*Dr. Senjam Jinus
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Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute of
Agricultural Sciences, Manipur*



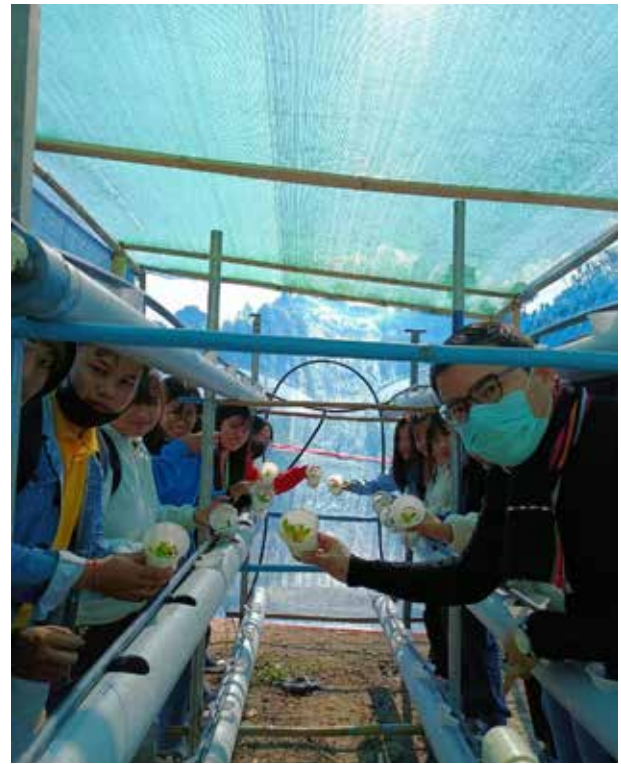
Our earth’s population reaches 8 billion. As populations incline at jaw-dropping figure, more water is needed to sustain agriculture and to feeding the poor and hungry. Whether it's meat or vegetables and what we eat, demands water. It is reported that half of the world’s population will live in water-stressed areas by 2025 as stated by the various leading

organization; UN-Water, FAO and World Wildlife Fund. When waters run dry, people can’t get enough to drink, wash, or irrigate crops, and even may spur a time of economic crisis. To prevent the worst situations such as drought, scarcity of water for irrigation which will make the cultivation of crops less profitable, it is crucial to conserve water. In irrigating plants, only about 0.1 percent of the

water is taken in the root system of a crop as per the Colorado State University. Some are then released into the air through evaporate-transpiration and the rest wasted down deep into the surface. Research from the Water Footprint Network has highlighted that it takes about 322 liters of water to produce a kg of vegetable through traditional methods and 1 kg of fruit required 962 liters of water to produce. According to Niraj Bhatt, which was published in Citizen Consumer and Civic action Group, 2020, for every 1 kg of potato we consume, 136 liters of water is required in the growing process.

The good side of hydroponics farming is that the water is re-circulated and allows plants to absorb what they require, then the remaining water go back to the system. Hydroponic system can be easily accommodated within a greenhouse or other structure or roof top and thus they can have their own micro-climates, protecting from many of the stresses that traditional growers mostly have to address. In dynamic balanced of micro-climates with controlled structures, crops can be grown for year-round with faster crop cycles, regardless of the climate or weather outside, thus, creating ideal conditions and ensuring hydroponics' plants to receive the balanced amount of nutrients at the proper schedule.

Water conservation is very crucial in this climate crisis era and Manipur being the most impacted by climate change, hydroponics is an absolute tool and an agricultural solution to mitigate the consequences of climate change. Although many think that such smart soilless farming tools are costly and difficult to adopt, making it impractical in economically backward states mostly in North Eastern region of India, however, research reports at various regions have proved that with the use of hydroponics



incorporated with smartly monitoring computerized tools has enabled to save grower's resources. This results in reducing the costs of irrigation, seeds, application of insecticides, reduction in excess fertilizer pollution of surface and ground water and thus simultaneously leading to reduction of soil and environment pollution and furthermore have better yields, and more net income per unit area by adjusting crop inputs in the hydroponics system over the traditional agriculture.

When all is said and done, the reduction of toxic insecticides as mentioned here puts production grown in this manner as good as with organic farming that could invite better produce and prices along with good health and environment friendly. From an economic point of view, the capability to manage the environment out-turns in a secure supply chain, price constancy, and durable commitment with merchandiser and retail markets, and high income per square meter. Hydroponics systems, if built righty,



can lower labor liability and possible to build closer to urban areas. Such a win-win agricultural farming can be a resilience to climate crisis viz., heat, flooding, droughts, pest epidemic and erratic rainfall. Moreover, one of the most frequently touted benefits of this farming is the sustainably use of water resources. For example, many vertical manner of hydroponics allows a 90%-95% reduction of water usage in comparison to open-field farming. According to Hoekstra (2015), it was found that lettuce grown in an open-field setting required a global average of 130 L of freshwater per kilogram. In another findings, Barbosa et al(2015) published a report in International Journal of Environmental Research Public Health and said that conventional lettuce grown in southwestern Arizona required 250 ± 25 L/kg vs 20 ± 3.8 L/kg for hydroponically grown lettuce.

Taking all these panacea mentioned here, for initial demonstration purposes in every districts of Manipur, a low-cost soilless farming system should be introduced and encouraged the minds of younger generation and modern growers. With the objective to design, develop, adopt and analyze such a cost effective, scientific and climate friendly soilless farming system suitable for agro-ecological zones of North Eastern Regions, the soil, water, air and energy should be conserved for the future generation and

ecosystem of the people.

The purpose of my article is to address the concepts and worth of soilless farming in its copious ways to ignite the mind of youth and farmers of Manipur to make our state resilient in the era of climate change. As analysis by the Council of Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Manipur ranks sixth and becomes the most vulnerable state to climate change; overall vulnerability index score is 0.424, in India. Being a drought affected zone, introduction of such holistic approach is an effective way to save the most precious resource of agricultural water and this “hydroponics” practices in every districts will helps lakhs of weaker section communities to mitigate climate change. Therefore, with the advent of climate crisis, supply chain upsets, skyrocketing in transportation levy, and the appetite to build sustainable agriculture in Manipur, soilless farming is becoming an essential part of food production. Vertical way of hydroponics farms also allow growing on multiple levels by utilizing the crowded space of Imphal city in Manipur with high levels of control systems. Such farming system reduces the point-source production of GHG emissions viz., methane, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide as reported by Robert Newell (2021) in FACETS journal, an official Journal of the Royal Society of Canada’s Academy of Science.





To meet this goal, I have initiated this system of farming in our state and hitherto, training on soilless farming of tomato (which is shown in the picture below); marigold; brinjal; have been given to students and farmers at free of costs. In 2011, the idea of hydroponics was conceived by one event

which was happened by chance in a project of soilless strawberry farming which was investigated by our one research scholar when I was doing my PhD in Haryana Agricultural University during. This event marked a turning point for me and thus decided to bring this farming in our state. Now, the system is successfully installed in a very low budget in our institute which is located in Kameng Campus of Lamlai village, at the School of Horticulture.



The evidence is clear. This farming can mitigate the negative impacts of nutrients pollution, soil erosion and toxic pesticide use. Furthermore, this system of farming can stop the overly metamorphic destruction of existing land and forest for agriculture expansion or other human intervention in any case. This also allows more lands to transform back to forest and promotes carbon sinking in the event of climate change.

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কালেন থাদা মণিপুরগী মীয়ামদা খংহনজবা হকশেলগী চৎন - কাঙলোল

তৌগদবশিং:

- য়ারিবমথে ঙ্গশিং মরাং কাইনা থকপিয়ু : খৌরাংবা ইফাও ফাওদ্রবসু।
- য়ুমদগী চৎথোকপা মতমদা থক্কাবা ঙ্গশিং পুদুনা চৎপিয়ু।
- Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) নত্রগা য়ুমদা শেয়া চম্প্রা, হৈ মহিগুয়া থকপীয়ু।
- মতম মতমগী ইরমদমদা ফংবা মনা - মশিং উহৈ - রাহৈ চাবিয়ু।
- য়ারিবমথে অকোয়া ফি - রোল লঙ্জমগী ওইবা মচু অরাওবা শিজিমবীয়ু।
- ছাটিন নত্রগা তুপিনচিংবা শিজিমবীয়ু।
- নুমিদাংদা য়ুমগী থোং - থোংনাওশিং হাংদোকপিয়ু।

খুদোংথিবা নজনবা মীওইশিং:

- চহি ৫ গী মখাদা লৈবা অঙাংশিং।
- মীরোয়ী নুপীশিং।
- য়ুমগী মপান্দা নুংশাদা থবক শুবশিং।
- রাখল চোইরবশিং।
- থম্মোইগী লায়না নত্রগা BP রাংবা মীওইশিং।
- অহল ওইরবা মীওইশিং।

তৌরোইদবশিং:

- নুংশা কা হেমা শাবা মতমদা তঙাইফদনা য়ুমদগী মপান থোকপিয়ু।
- নুংশা মরজা কা হেমা রাবা থবক শুবিগনু।
- য়ু - চা কোফি অমসুং সোফট ড্রিংনচিংবা নত্রগা চিনিগী শরুক হেমা যাওবা মহি থকপিরোইদবনি।
- কুইনা থোংদোক্কা থহা চিঞ্জাক চাবিরোইদবনি।
- খামদুনা থহা গাডিদা পিক্কা অঙাংশিং নত্রগা য়ুমদা য়োকপা জিবশিং থহিরোইদবনি।





National Programme
on Climate Change
and Human Health

Public Health Advisory for Summer Season in Manipur

Do's

Stay hydrated:

- Drink sufficient water whenever possible, even if you are not thirsty.
- Carry drinking water when traveling
- Use Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), and consume homemade drinks like lemon water, butter milk/lassi, fruit juices with some added salt.
- Eat seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Stay covered:

- Wear thin loose, cotton garments preferably light coloured
- Cover your head: use umbrella, hat etc.
- Wear shoes or chappals while going out in sun

Stay indoors as much as possible:

- Keep your home cool, use curtains, shutters or sunshade and open windows at night.
- Use fan, damp cloths to cool down body

Vulnerable population: Some people are at greater risk than others and need special attention.

These include:

Infants and young children

Pregnant women

People working outdoors

People who have a mental illness

People who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure

Elderly or sick people living alone

Don'ts

- Avoid getting out in the sun, especially between 12:00 noon and 03:00 pm
- Avoid strenuous activities when outside in the afternoon
- Do not go out barefoot
- Avoid cooking during peak summer hours. Open doors and windows to ventilate cooking area adequately
- Avoid alcohol, tea, coffee and carbonated soft drinks or drinks with large amount of sugar- as these actually, lead to loss of more body fluid or may cause stomach cramps
- Avoid high-protein food and do not eat stale food
- Do not leave children or pets in parked vehicle.

STAR EDUCATION EMPOWERS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Nongthombam Biren Singh, Education Minister, Thounaojam Basantakumar & Commissioner H. Gyanprakash at graduation ceremony of Teachers' Induction Training on 6th July 2022

System Transformation and Rejuvenation of Education (STAR) Education is a part of CM's School Fagathansi Mission under the Government of Manipur. The program deploys an innovative technology and data-driven platform, coupled with high-quality materials, effective training, and ongoing coaching for teachers, school leaders and technology-enabled support teams. It

uses high-quality, frequent data collection to measure school performance, including learning outcomes, student and teacher attendance, adherence to curriculum, school management, and instructional practices, among others.

Phase 1 of the program was implemented in 253 schools training 1,172 teachers and

impacting 24,290 students across 16 districts of the State.

In its first year of operation, STAR Education has made remarkable strides in transforming the government schools in Manipur. The program, which aims to improve literacy and numeracy skills among public school students, has empowered teachers with cutting-edge technology and training, resulting in significant improvements in learning outcomes.

One of the core tenets of STAR Education is its commitment to teacher development. Through rigorous training and ongoing support, the program has

empowered teachers to deliver high-quality lessons that engage students and promote active learning. Teachers are equipped with the latest teaching methods and resources, enabling them to create dynamic and effective lesson plans that cater to the individual needs of each student.

In addition, STAR Education leverages technology to enable real-time data tracking, providing teachers with valuable insights into student performance and learning gaps. By harnessing this data, teachers are able to adjust their teaching strategies to better meet the needs of their students, resulting in significant improvements in learning outcomes



*Education Minister, Thounaojam Basantakumar,
Commissioner H. Gyanprakash and SPD Laishram
Nandakumar at Teachers' Induction Ceremony on
16th July 2022*

DISTURBED AREA STATUS WITHDRAWN FROM ANOTHER FOUR POLICE STATIONS



Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh informed that “Disturbed Area” status under Section 3 of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 had been withdrawn from areas under the jurisdiction of 4 (four) more Police Stations of the State including Leimakhong, Nambol, Moirang and Wangoi.

Briefing the media personnel at the Chief Minister’s Secretariat on 25th March, 2023, Chief Minister continued that with the 15 Police Stations which had been lifted earlier, disturbed areas status had been withdrawn from a total of 19 Police Stations falling under 7 (seven) Districts viz Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Kangpokpi, Kakching and Jiribam for a period of six months w.e.f. 1st April, 2023.

Shri N. Biren Singh recalled the hardship faced by the people of the State earlier, due to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958. Acknowledging such hardship, the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had started

lifting of the disturbed areas from different police stations, he added.

He expressed his gratitude to the Central leaders on behalf of the State Government and its people, adding that lifting of disturbed area status from another 4 police stations, not waiting for any protest and demand from people’s side, showed their concern for the Northeastern States, particularly Manipur.

The Chief Minister further maintained that the Central Government under the Prime Minister not only aims to bring development in the State, but also keeps high respect for the people of Northeast. He also expressed the Prime Minister’s concern for the State in different fields, mentioning the implementation of Inner Line Permit System to protect the indigenous people and its culture, renaming Mount Harriet in Andaman as Mount Manipur and others.

Concluding his briefing, he expressed his thankfulness to the central leaders for their love and respect for the people of the State.

MANIPUR HOSTS FIRST TRI-NATION INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MATCH



Manipur has hosted the first International Football Match, Hero Tri Nation International Football Tournament which is indeed very fortunate for the State to host the Tri-Nation International Football Tournament. It is also a moment of pride that the National team has around 5-6 players from the small State. The inaugural function of the tournament was held at the Main Stadium, Khuman Lampak Sports Complex on 22nd March, 2023.

Expressing gratitude to the All-India Football Federation, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh said that the AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey and his team is indeed appreciable for acknowledging the potential of Manipuri players and the State's love of football and giving the State an opportunity to host this Tri-Nation Football Tournament.

The Youth Affairs and Sports department along with AMFA and other stakeholders is also working towards promoting football and other sports in the State.

During the visit of the AIFF president at the closing match of the ongoing tournament, the State signed an MoU with the AIFF for logistics and other support in setting up of a Football academy to develop and promote the sports in the State.

The people of the State attended the matches and showed discipline and decency during the tournament.

The opening session of the tournament was highlighted by a performance from drummers of Rhythm of Manipur and other cultural performances.

The Indian National team faced Myanmar in the opener of the Hero Tri Nation International Football Tournament. The Blue Tigers faced Kyrgyzstan at the same venue on March 28.

Despite an overshadowed sky, the KhumanLampak Main Stadium looked full with official attendance recorded to be 29,341. The historic match ended with the host nation winning by a solitary goal. Anirudh Thapa scored the winner in the 45+1 minute.

MANIPUR HOSTED THREE DAYS EVENT OF B20 MEET SUCCESSFULLY



As part of the India's one-year G20 Presidency and G20 Leaders' Summit, Manipur hosted the first of the four B20 sessions, scheduled in the North East from 17th February, 2023 to 19th February, 2023. It is the official G20 dialogue forum for the global business community. Delegates from 23 nations representing Australia, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Chad, Canada, China, France, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Nepal, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, United States and United Kingdom, 24 diplomats including ambassadors of these country and India as well attended the meet.

Taking the advantage of the presence of a large contingent of international delegates, the Manipur government had made elaborate arrangements to showcase the state's potential on health and Family Welfare, Skill Development, Sports, Urban Development, Textiles, Finance and Taxation, Tourism, Industries and Commerce, IT, Agriculture and Fisheries during the session for investment, collaboration and tie-ups and also provide a unique experience to the visiting delegates by exposing to state's rich culture, cuisine, art, festivities, scenic beauty etc.

Delegates visited various historical and tourist spots like Shree Shree Govindajee Temple, Polo statue installed at Marjing Hill, Loktak Lake, INA, Sangai Ethnic Park, Kangla Fort and Ima Keithel.

On 17th February, a Conference on Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnerships in ICT, Tourism, Healthcare and Handloom was held at the City Convention Centre, Imphal East following the assumption of G20 Presidency by India from 1st December, 2022.

The Inaugural Session of the Conference was attended by Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh, Union Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. R.K. Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Som Parkash, Chief Secretary, Manipur Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (Summits) G20 Secretariat, Government of India Shri L. Ramesh Babu, Commissioner, Textiles & Commerce, Industries, Government of Manipur Shri Pradeep K Jha and Member, Confederation of Indian Industry Shri Gopi K More.

Addressing the congregation of G20 delegates including foreign delegates, government officials and entrepreneurs, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh expressed the honour of the State to host this B20 Conference. The conference would be a great platform for the State to showcase its strength and opportunities for multilateral business partnerships in various sectors in the backdrop of the rich cultural heritage. He continued that the B20 Conference would shape policies towards sustainable growth and development while ushering in peace and progress in line with the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

Chief Minister informed that Manipur,





with a population of 2.72 million and an area of over 22,300 sq. km. is the Land Gateway of India to South East Asia, adding that the State has the perfect setting for implementing India's Act East Policy and the State is the bridge between South East Asia and India. He stated that, once the stretch of Asian Highway within Myanmar gets completed, road travel from Manipur to Bangkok within 16-18 hours will be possible. Plans are afoot to start international flights from Imphal to Mandalay in Myanmar and Bangkok in Thailand, he said, adding that Imphal International Airport would soon have a new integrated terminal and an air cargo terminal. Train services would also reach Imphal City by next year. He further highlighted that Manipur has been recognized as the Most Improved Small State in Overall Category for three years in a row in the State of the States survey. This has been facilitated by an improved security scenario.

Shri N. Biren Singh further informed that new Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy of Manipur has been adopted to promote investment in the State. To promote 'Ease of Doing Business', the Manipur Industrial Single Window Clearance Act, 2021 was enacted. Given the importance of logistics, the Manipur Integrated Logistics Policy, 2022 was notified, he said.

The Chief Minister continued that Manipur has a strong base of qualified healthcare professionals and specialists and that nurses from Manipur are in high demand across India. Health institutes in the State not only cater to patients from neighbouring States but also from the neighbouring Myanmar, presenting attractive investment opportunities in the area of medical tourism. Manipur has huge tourism potential in the form of our rich natural, historical and cultural heritage and the State gave polo to the world, he added. Manipur also has a

strong sporting culture and offers scope for investment. Despite a small population, my State has produced numerous successful sports persons including 19 Olympians. The Government had been promoting the State as a preferred tourism destination and had come up with an investor friendly Tourism Policy.

Shri N. Biren informed the congregation that Manipur has huge untapped potential in medicinal plants, horticultural products, aromatic plants and spices. Local produce like aromatic black rice, pineapple, oranges, ginger, etc. are famous for their unique taste. He continued that Manipur is blessed with young and dynamic populations. 50% of business registrations for MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in Manipur are for businesses owned by women, compared to about 20% for the rest of the country.

He expressed the biggest strengths of the State is its English-speaking youth, adding that they have done extremely well in the services sector, including hospitality, nursing, customer care, computer skills, health & wellness, etc. He was confident that the platform provided by the conference would go a long way to help explore investment and partnership opportunities and shape policies toward decisive action.

The inaugural session was followed by a plenary session, where topics including Investment Opportunities & Support Ecosystem for doing Business in Manipur, Opportunities in Core Sector, Healthcare & Medical Tourism, Tourism & Hospitality, ICT, Handlooms & Textiles would be deliberated. Representatives of G20 and other countries also addressed the plenary session. The inaugural session was also attended by Ministers, Members of Legislative Assembly and Senior Government Officials among others.





LAII - REJUVENATING IN NATURE'S LAP

Wangkheimayum Bhupendra Singh

In the end all that remains of us are stories, with each phase of our lives becoming chapters of our stories. The sooner we realise and understand this, the more compelling and interesting our stories become.

Travel makes us happy as we get to experience new cultures, places, ideas. It gives us the chance to see, taste and try out new things, challenges and explore new

surroundings and enrich our own stories along the way.

It is only in recent years, when I started travelling across the State that I realise of the many potential tourist destinations that our small State has. Laii Village in Senapati District is also one of the many places where relaxation seekers can prepare to be wooed by rejuvenating landscapes, fresh air and the villagers' fine hospitality.



Like most villages in the interior parts of the State, it has huge tourism potential. If nothing else, the scenic beauty of the entire hill-top perched village glowing under the bright morning sun alone can attract tourists. Anyone would love a sightseeing trip in this village, soaking in the lush green surroundings and enjoy the fresh air.

The village is approximately 140 km from Imphal in Senapati District and around 42 km from the Imphal-Dimapur Highway at Tadubi. It is bounded on the East by Ukhrul District in Manipur and Nagaland on the North and West.

This January, I travelled with my team to two villages in interior Senapati district and Laii was one of them. The first village was Phaibung Khullen, where our team

spent two nights (January 4 and 5) and attended the three-day long Poumai Thounii 2023, celebrated under the theme 'Sustaining Culture'.

We started our Laii trip on January 10, around 10 am, hoping to reach there by early evening. The fresh air of the hills made the journey along the highway pleasant. The air was cool, quite refreshing and we get to treat our eyes to some spectacular landscapes as our vehicle swayed through the zig-zag curves of the hills.

At Tadubi Bazar, we took a break and had some delectable yet budget friendly chicken and pork curries for lunch at a hotel. From Tadubi, the road was a bit rough, nevertheless, the green hills and the blue-sky combination made the ride less bumpy. After numerous stops along the way to take pictures, we reached Laii around 4pm.

Laii, one of the biggest Poumai Naga Villages, also has historical significance and was a strategic location for the Allied forces during the Second World War. A road built by the British during the war continue to pass by the village hinting at its historical importance. We find the village was all decked up for the two-day Laii Day celebration and the villagers quite occupied with the preparations. We stayed two-nights with a local family and left for Imphal on the third day.

The first evening, we walked the streets, watching the locals and visiting a few of them in their homes and get to experience their ways.

Early next morning, I roamed the streets once again and found a commemoration stone standing tall in the centre of the village. It recognised the village as a unique place and birth place of many warriors, full of natural beauty. "The abode of the seven-horn stag, a range which a tiger can not cross in a night.



Whose paddy field cannot overfly by crow and kite. Quite a unique place surrounded by hills and mountains which makes difficult the foreigners to invade," it read. The village believes that their ancestors originated from Western Mao and that seven hunters from Mao had come chasing a seven-horn stag before setting up a new settlement.

We ended our tour with a visit down a nearby river about 45 minutes from the village. The landscape we get to see at the riverside made the bumpy ride along the narrow path worth the while.

The nature of my job has taken me to destinations with unmissable experiences

across the State. Inspiring both awe and envy amongst many of my friends, I continue to bookmark and punctuate my days with trips and tours to little known hamlets and towns, down narrow paths and offbeat tracks, through wilderness and across rivers which snake through the State's mountainous landscapes.

With each trip, I have enriched my own story by shaking hands with new faces, dining in strangers' kitchens, turning them into friends and forging new relations. We travel far and wide, enjoying diverse cultures and lifestyles along the way to make our stories interesting and lively.



**It shall be the
duty of every
citizen of
INDIA ----**



to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture



to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures



to develop the scientific temper, humanism, and the spirit of inquiry and reform



to safeguard public property and to abjure violence



to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement



who is a parent or guardian, to provide opportunities for education to his child, or as the case may be, ward between the age of six to fourteen years



to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom



to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem



to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India



to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so



to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women

MANIPUR'S GIRL OF THE MOMENT, STRELA CROWNED FEMINA MISS INDIA 2023 2ND RUNNER UP



“...when you hit rock bottom that is the most crucial and important part of any human being, because it can make you or break you. Failure has taught me to be humble, stay grounded and be nice to everyone...” said Manipur’s own girl of the moment, Thounaojam Strela Luwang when asked “What do you learn from failure that you don't from success?” during the Femina Miss India 2023 Grand Finale in Imphal.

Strela was crowned Femina Miss India 2023 2nd Runner up during an extravagant event at the Khuman Lampak, Indoor Stadium here in Imphal. A first not just for the State but for the entire region, her win has thrown wide open the doors for all girls to believe in themselves and dream big of winning the much-coveted crown themselves someday.

Manipur hosted the Grand Finale of 59th Femina Miss India 2023, a first in the region on April 15, 2023. The 30 State winners of Femina Miss India 2023 arrived in the State capital on April 7.

On April 9, the 30 state winners held a video shoot at the state’s historic Kangla Fort.

Later the same day, the state winners enjoyed a yoga session by Prunajita Sen during the evening hours at their hotel to help them better relax and boost their mood.

The State winners also visited the Loktak Lake and INA campus on April 9. They also visited one of Imphal's premier all-girls schools - Little Flower School.

Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh hosted a gala dinner for the State winners at Hotel Classic Grande, Chingmeirong on April 12.

The Grand Finale of VLCC & Trends co-present Femina Miss India 2023 was hosted by Manipur Tourism, co-powered by ORRA Fine Jewellery, makeup partner Colorbar Made for Magic & co-powered by Rajnigandha Pearls.

The extravagant evening also witnessed the attendance of several Bollywood personalities including Ananya Panday and Kartik Aaryan. The show was anchored by the Maniesh Paul and Bollywood actress Bhumi Pednekar.

NEWS IN BRIEF



INDIAN JOURNALISTS' UNION PAY VISIT TO DIPR HQ

Indian Journalists' Union (IJU) President, Shri Geetartha Pathak, Joint Secretary, Indo-Bangla Journalists Forum (IBJF); Shri MD Abdul Habi and Executive Member, Journalists' Union of Assam (JUA) Shri Shahidul Islam visited DIPR HQ at Nityaipat Chuthek, Keishampat, Imphal. The Meeting was jointly organised by DIPR, Manipur and All Manipur Working Journalists Union at the Auditorium of DIPR. The visiting Journalists were warmly received by Director (IPR) Shri H. Balkrisna Singh, Deputy Director (Press) Shri T. Ramesh Singh, Assistant Publicity Officer (Press) Shri Kishan Longjam, President of AMJWU Shri Wangkhemcha Shamjai, General Secretary, AMWJU Shri Khwairakpam Naoba and other media persons of the state. During the meeting, Director (DIPR) H. Balkrisna Singh expressed his happiness for their visit and briefed about the achievements, activities and schemes initiated by the Directorate for the welfare of the Journalists of the State to them.



DISTRICT SKILL MELA 2023 HELD IN KANGPOKPI

District Skill Committee Kangpokpi organised District Skill Mela 2023 under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at the Sadbhavana Mandap, Kangpokpi Headquarters. Shri LN Kashung, IAS, Mission Director, Manipur Society for Skill Development graced the function as Chief Guest; Shri Siile Anthony, Former Director HRD, North-Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong & amp; Joint Registrar, JNU as Guest of Honour and Smt. Kengoo Zuringla, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kangpokpi as President. The Mela was organised focusing on key sectors such as IT, handloom & amp; handicrafts, agriculture, banking, petrochemicals, healthcare, power, aviation, tourism & habitability, food processing among others. Activities such as information/awareness regarding career opportunities in Japan, awareness on training courses, entrepreneurship talk, financial literacy awareness and on-spot registration were availed to the people at the Mela.



DISTRICT LEVEL ASHA CONVENTION PROGRAM FOR KAMJONG HELD

A District-level ASHA Convention Program of Kamjong district was held at the Amity Hall of Adimjati Complex, Chingmeirong, Imphal organised by the District Health Society, Kamjong. Deputy Commissioner of Kamjong, Shri Rangnamei Rang Peter attended the program as the chief guest, while CMO Kamjong Dr Lucy Duidang was the functional president. A total of 110 participants including 80 ASHAs from remote corners of the district, ASHA facilitators, MOs in-charge of Kamjong, Phungyar and Kasom Khullen, DIO, all block programme managing units (BPMUs) and district program managing units (DPMUs) of the district attended the program. Shri Rangnamei stressed on the important roles played by the ASHAs as frontline workers and said that they act as an important linkage between villagers and the health department. He further added that ASHAs will get more responsibilities along with appropriate logistics and resources in the coming days. As a part of the program, 3 ASHAs were given Best ASHA Awards (one from each block) and 16 ASHAs were given consolation prizes. Also, all the participating ASHA facilitators received appreciation tokens.



ONE DAY MEDIA WORKSHOP VARTALAP HELD IN THOUBAL

One day media workshop “Vartalap” for media persons of Kakching and Thoubal District organized by Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was held at the counting Hall of Deputy Commissioner Office Thoubal. Deputy Commissioner, Thoubal Shri A. Subhash Singh, IAS as the Chief Guest of the function said organizing such workshop by PIB will be very helpful to the media persons. They will be aware about the various welfare schemes and projects taken up by the Government and help in reaching out to the general public. The programme was attended by SP Thoubal Shri Jogeshchandra Haobijam IPS, MCO PIB Imphal L. Premlata. In the technical session, Shri Kangujam Nongpoknganba District Social Welfare Organization speaks on the The Welfare Schemes for Senior Citizens, Differently Abled Persons and Weaker Sections. Dr. Chinglen Maisnam Prof. Economics Dept. Manipur University speaks about The India’s Act East Policy and its impact in Manipur and Shri Ksh. Umananda CEO Zilla Parishad Thoubal speaks on the Scheme under Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. About 40 media persons from Thoubal and Kakching Districts participated in the Workshop .



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Health & IPR Minister Shri Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh has said that digital transformation in health care system is rapidly growing. Minister was speaking as Chief Guest at the occasion of State Orientation Workshop on ABDM held at Sangai Hall, Hotel Imphal. The workshop was organized by Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Manipur. Minister said that the people can be connected with the health care facilities through digital platform. Digitization of health records of individual scan can be done through Ayushman Bharat Digitization Mission (ABDM) by downloading the ABHA App. It is also one of the innovative and advanced ideas of the Honorable Prime Minister of India, he maintained. He said that digitization of health care service will help to streamline and improve the health care service in the state. It will benefit the rural people where there are less health care facilities. The fast-growing Tele Health Care service and digital platform have also made it easily accessible to health check-up and treatment of the individuals, Minister added. Shri Ranjan informed that the around five lakh individuals has been created with health identification number in the state. 50% of the total population of the state will be covered under Ayushman Bharat Digitization Mission by the end of the year.



42ND WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY 2023 OBSERVED

The 42nd World Tuberculosis Day 2023 was observed under the theme “Yes! We can end TB!” at the Auditorium of JNIMS, Porompat, Imphal East. The programme was jointly organized by National TB Elimination Programme, Government of Manipur and National Health Mission, Manipur. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, said that to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) by 2025 is the top priority programme of the Government of India under the far sighted and ambitious Prime Minister. Considering the present pattern, expertise and commitment of India, the target to eliminate TB by 2025 will be a success, he said. The state government has also taken up steps to eliminate TB with co-operation from every sector of the society. Integrating under the Chief Ministers’ Health for All screening activity of TB patients has been taken up. The Hon’ble Prime Minister is addressing the nation from Varanasi on World TB Day to seek support from the people to eliminate tuberculosis, he further added. Smt. H. Rosita, IAS, Spl. Secy (Health & Family Welfare and PD, MACS) said that all stakeholders and the general public should work together to eliminate tuberculosis. Recently the government also launched the community engagement programme where Ni-kshay Mitras can adopt TB patients and provide them monthly nutritional support.



DIGITAL DESIGN LABS FOR LIVELIHOOD GENERATION INAUGURATED

Secretary, NEC, Shri K. Moses Chalai, IAS inaugurated the project namely Digital Design Labs for Livelihood Generation at Don Bosco Technical School, Shillong. Present in the event were Smt. Sherry Lalthangzo, Economic Adviser (E&M), NEC, Shri S Sundar, MD, AMTRON, Guwahati, Fr. Sagi Stephan of Don Bosco Technical School, Shillong, Shri Tanung Jamoh, Director(S&T), NEC, ALIMCO officers and other Senior Officers of NEC. This project was funded by NEC at a cost of about Rs. 5 crore combined with ACC Institute, Senapati, Manipur. The Centres developed will be providing training of use case deployment for technologies namely Graphic Designing and Animation with high end Softwares. Lateron, it will move towards 3D printing, 5G applications, digital designing of training/instructional videos/3D Animations in different languages including local North Eastern Languages. The day marks as one of the modest initiatives in NER towards Digital and 4.0 Industry journey which will open up to huge scope and opportunities ahead in Digital.



DISTRICT SKILL MELA HELD AT TUIBONG ,CCP

One day District Skill Mela, 2023 under Sankalp Scheme today at Multipurpose Hall, DC Complex, Tuibong. Chief Guest, Shri Thienlaljoy Gangte, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Churachandpur highlighted the importance of skilling and encouraged the youths, especially students, to benefit the programme by enrolling themselves in skilling/training courses to enhance their overall employability in all available avenues. The Chief Guest also inspected the stalls and interacted with the participants. About 24 firms, including some government departments opened stalls wherein they reached out to job seekers, potential entrepreneurs and students.

SDO/BDOs, DLOs, representatives from different firms, public sector undertakings and different government departments, and students from various institutions in town attended the Mela.

K SHANATHOIBA, TH CHAOBA RECEIVE PADMA SHRI AWARDS



President Droupadi Murmu conferred three Padma Vibhushan, five Padma Bhushan and 45 Padma Shri awards during the Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan Darbar Hall, New Delhi on 5 April, 2023. Two persons from Manipur—former Union Minister Thounaojam Chaoba Singh and Thang-Ta coach Kakchingtabam Shanathoiba Sharma have been honoured with Padma Shri awards this year. While Th Chaoba was given the Padma Shri in public affairs, Shanathoiba Sharma was conferred the civilian award in sports. This is the first time Padma Shri in public affairs is awarded to Manipur since its inception in 1954. Th Chaoba started social work from 1970 and won five Assembly elections consecutively (1972 to 1995) from Nambol AC. He also contested and won three Lok Sabha elections consecutively (1996 to 2004) and had served as president of BJP State Unit (from 2000

to 2003 and from 2013 to 2016). Th Chaoba retired from electoral politics and is serving as Chairman of KVK, Bishnupur and Managing Chairman of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute of Agriculture Sciences, Manipur. Meanwhile, Shanathoiba born in Thoubal Wangkhem in Thoubal district is recognised for his contribution in Thang-Ta, the indigenous martial arts form of Manipur. It is an art form of armed combat and refers to a sword and a spear. It also has an unarmed fighting form known as 'Sarit-sarak' which has gained popularity as a sports item in and outside the state. He is also the principal cum director of Huiyen Lalong Manipur Thang-Ta Cultural Association, Irilbung and also received the Manipur State Kala Akademi Award in 1993-94, Kala Bhushan Award in 2010, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2015 and Joy Patra Award in 2022.

WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING OF ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION PROCESS HELD

A Workshop on Strengthening of Organ Donation and Transplantation Process was held at the Conference Hall of Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS), Porompat, Imphal East. The workshop was organized by Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS), Imphal in association with MultiOrgan Harvesting Aid Network (MOHAN) Foundation, India. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh said that the doctors have been saving and improving the lives of the people who needs organ transplantation.

Congratulating the doctors of JNIMS team on successfully conducting 25 Kidney transplantation, Minister said that it is a boon for our state. JNIMS, RIMS and SHIJA has been doing the Kidney Transplantation successfully in the state, he added. Reminiscing the first successful kidney transplantation that took place at JNIMS, Minister stated that the Chief Minister was elated at the successful renal transplantation in a state government institute at a minimal cost with the commitment and generosity of the team of JNIMS. Chief Minister wants to make sure that people get the benefit of CMHT and PM-JAY as the government is committed with a sincere approach to the people, he said. Regarding funding of JNIMS, Minister said JNIMS is also in the pipeline of the government and appeal to all the healthcare providers and staffs to work with commitment and sincerity. On the increase of kidney diseases in the state, Minister said that it is high time to carry out research work on a serious note to find out

the reason and causes. He added that there is need to co-ordinate with the major research centres to study minutely the reasons and bring out the possibility of giving awareness to the people on the causes of kidney disease as the kidney transplant patient has risen up numerously. Prof. Kh. Lokeshwar Singh, Medical Superintendent, JNIMS, Imphal; Prof. L. Deben Singh, Director, JNIMS; Dr. Sunil Shroff, Managing Trustee, MOHAN Foundation; Dr. Palin Khundongbam, CMD, Shija Hospital & Research Institute Pvt. Ltd. (SHRI); Prof. H. Priyosakhi Devi, Director, RIMS; Senior Doctors, faculty members; nurses and patients attended the workshop. An update on living kidney transplant program was presented by Prof. K. Sholay Meitei, Dept. of Urology, JNIMS. It may be mentioned that the first successful kidney transplant and second in North-east India was done on 18 th June, 2022 by a team of doctors at a government set up i.e., JNIMS. The team was awarded a cash reward of Rs. 5 lakh by Chief Minister for performing the transplantation successfully and the reward money is being utilized as a fund for organ donation only. A booklet was also released by the dignitaries in connection with the Workshop on Strengthening of Organ Donation and Transplantation Process. The main aim of organizing the workshop was to enhance the participants the necessary knowledge and skills to tackle the various aspects of brain-stem deceased organ donation and to provide a road map to hospitals that are planning to start a deceased organ donation and transplantation programme.