

মহাশিলাইয়া স্মৃতি

MANIPUR TODAY

Khongjom Day Special





GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR



MESSAGE

MY HEARTIEST GREETINGS to the people of Manipur on the occasion of Khongjom Day, 2022.

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-Manipur 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, 2022 all success.

(La. Ganesan)



CHIEF MINISTER, MANIPUR



MESSAGE

I AM GLAD TO learn that the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur is bringing out a Special Issue of Manipur Today on the historic occasion of Khongjom Day, 2022.

Khongjom Day is observed on 23rd April every year to pay rich tributes to the great generals, martyrs and soldiers who fought against the mighty British forces, despite inevitable defeat, to protect the dignity and sovereignty of our motherland, in the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891. On this day in 1891, valiant Manipuri soldiers led by Paona Brajabashi fought a fierce battle with British forces at the southern fringe of Manipur valley at Khongjom and laid down their lives. The Battle of Khongjom is a story of heroism and patriotism against heavy odds, the outcome of which was a foregone conclusion.

(N. Biren Singh)

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



CELEBRATION OF KHONGJOM DAY on 23rd April every year reminds us of the supreme sacrifices made by the brave and courageous sons of the soil against the mighty British colonial rule. Befitting tributes being paid to the departed souls on the occasion signifies immortalization of the great deeds of the heroes of Anglo-Manipur War of 1891 and re-define the meaning of freedom of the present generation and sovereignty of the country.

March 2022 marked historic return of Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh as Chief Minister of Manipur in his second innings after formation of BJP led government. The faith and allegiance reposed to his efficient leadership during his first tenure of Chief Ministership (2017-2022) is a crystal clear and symbolic sign of political freedom meticulously exercised by the electorates of Manipur and their elected representatives while exercising their universal franchise in choosing the most efficient public leader to govern the State for another five years. We have witnessed systematic expansion of the cabinet within the prescribed limit in two phases so far and brought about plethora of reforms, fresh policies and programmes.

100 Action Points for first 100 Days, withdrawal of "Disturbed Area" status from areas under the jurisdiction of nine police stations of the State with effect from 1st April, 2022, enhancement of free hospitalization benefit under the Chief Minister Gi Hakselgi Tengbang (CMHT) scheme from Rs. 2.00 lakh to Rs. 5.00 lakh per family per annum, strengthening of Anti Corruption Cell and Public Grievance Redressal for rooting out corruption, launching of Sub-Division Monitoring Mission for effective service delivery, declaration of five-day working week (Monday to Friday) for all government offices by revising the working hours for instilling work culture, stringent steps towards eradication of drugs for curbing drug trafficking and bring a drugs free society, destruction of illegal poppy plantation, etc. are the early symptoms and indications of a responsible government. As the old saying goes - "Morning shows the day", the clear vision exhibited in the first hundred days heralds iconic tenure of the newly constituted government for embracing change, progress, peace, security, equality, harmony and all round development for evolution of a new Manipur.

(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-Year-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 a servant of his 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. Yet 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.

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 recognise 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 Leintenant 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

darbar 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 reinforce 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 cavalymen of 12th Burma Regiment under Lt. Cox and 2 guns of the 2nd Mountain Battery under Lt. Persse.

The cavalymen 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 Cavalymen 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.

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 Shangkakpa 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 Uttra 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, Shagolsem, (14) General Thangal, (15) Pukhramba Kajao, (16) Niranjana 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 Niranjana 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 Thoubam Singh (Jamandar), Ashangbam Phurahongba, Kut, Nongthonbam Trilok Singh (Satwal), Shagolsem 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.

ANGLO-MANIPUR WAR 1891: UNSUNG HEROES

Dr. Rajkumari Bidyabati Chanu

Background of the War

Manipur was an independent kingdom in South East Asia and was never colonised by any country till 1891. She had established diplomatic contact with British India by signing treaties. The first treaty signed in 1762 was essentially a defence alliance. As agreed, they helped each other during the first Anglo-Burmese war 1824-26. After the British won the war, the treaty of Yandabo was concluded by which British India and Burma recognized the independence of the nation of Manipur. The British were friendly but they used this friendship for the expansion and consolidation of their hold over eastern India including Burma. Since the treaty of Yandabo, the intent of the British toward Manipur was to use this small country as a pawn in the expansion of British imperialism in Asian Countries. After the third Anglo-Burmese war of 1885, the death of Maharaj Chandrakirti in 1886 and the departure of political agent Sir James Johnstone, the friendly relationship between Manipur and the British had undergone certain changes. The other political agencies were not able to maintain the good traditions of the British like before.

Maharaj Surchandra succeeded the throne after the death of Maharaj Chandrakirti. Kullachandra became the Jubaraj and Tikendrajit the Senapati. The princes were divided into two parties animated by hostile feelings towards one another as Maharaj Surchandra was a feeble ruler. The dissensions, quarrels, mutual mistrust and rivalry among the princes culminated in the palace revolution. On the midnight of 21st September 1890, Angousana and Jillangamba suddenly attacked the palace. The immediate cause was the ban order issued by the Maharaj on Jillangamba to

sit in the darbar and for playing victory music at Wangkhei road after killing a tiger at Wangkhem. The ban was a result of his quarrel with Pakasana. Pakasana also falsely reported to the King that these two brothers were trying to snatch the throne and advised him to exile them. The two brothers wanted to threaten the King. So they entered his room in the middle of the night and made a blank fire. Surchandra fled to the residency of the Political Agent and informed him that he had formally abdicated the throne in favour of his brother Kullachandra and that he has decided to retire at Brindavan. On the next day when Surchandra left for Brindavan, Kullachandra became the king of Manipur and Tikendrajit the Jubaraj. After reaching Calcutta, Surchandra complained to the then Viceroy, Lord Lansdowne that he had been dethroned by his stepbrothers, mainly by Tikendrajit. This prompted the British to arrest Tikendrajit whom they knew had the potential and indicative to shake off the yoke of Manipuri dependence on British India. The Viceroy sent the Chief Commissioner of Assam, Mr Quinton to arrest Tikendrajit and arrived at Imphal on 22nd March 1891 with 400 Gorkha soldiers under the command of Colonel Skene. He called a darbar at the residency on the same day at noon where Kullachandra and his brothers including Tikendrajit were required to attend. Mr Quinton intended to arrest Tikendrajit and exile him. Mr Grimwood learnt about this plan on the 21st of March but he opposed the plan of arresting Tikendrajit which would be a very difficult task. Kullachandra along with his ministers arrived at the Darbar on time. But there was no one at the gate to receive them; they were kept waiting in the sun for several hours on the alleged reason that the translation of the order was not yet ready. They were suspicious of the unusual security

arrangement and the posting of soldiers. It was a very ill-mannered treatment to the King and the royal dignitaries of Manipur to make them wait at the gate under the scorching heat. After a long wait, the Maharaja and his ministers were permitted to enter into residency, and they had to wait two more hours on the Veranda to get into the darbar hall. Kulachandra was tired and wished to sit. The political agent allowed him to sit in a room.

Due to the absence of Tikendrajit, Mr. Quinton's plan failed and he postponed the durbar on 23rd March 1891 at 8 am at which Tikendrajit must be present and the same was intimated to the King. King Kullachandra informed Mr. Quinton that he could not come and Tikendrajit too will be absent as he was still too sick to leave his house. Thus, the plan of Mr. Quinton failed. On the same day at around half past four, Mr. Grimwood and Lt. Simpson went to the palace with a letter from Mr. Quinton which declared that British India recognised Kullachandra as the king of Manipur but Tikendrajit had to be exiled. They demanded that Tikendrajit be handed over to the British but Kullachandra refused. After failing their plans, the Chief Commissioner consulted Mr. Grimwood and Colonel Skene and decided to arrest the Jubaraj by force. This led the British force to enter the house of Tikendrajit without declaring war and attacked Kangla on 24th March 1891. This event is known as Palace Attack in the history of Manipur.

Deaths and Casualties of Palace Attack

1. Pukhrambam Tangko had killed the British officer who entered Tikendrajit's residence. He later became the first martyr of the Anglo Manipur War 1891
2. Khumbong Subedar, shot dead
3. Leishang Jamandar, shot dead
4. Wahengba, shot dead
5. Ngairangba, shot dead
6. Pukhrambam Angouba, shot dead
7. Naharakpa, shot dead

8. Priest of the Brindabanchandra Temple, shot dead
9. Ningomba Noutun, shot dead
10. Khinbam Sanahan, shot dead
11. Kangabam Chaoba, shot dead
12. Heikham Chaoba, shot dead
13. Lambabam Mocha, shot dead
14. Angom Mocha, shot dead
15. Athokpam Dewan, shot dead
16. Laishraba Tanu, shot dead
17. 1 (one) male child and 1 (one) female child shot and wounded
18. 1(one) woman fleeing through fear of life cut off hands and ear
19. Two daughters of Dasu Sardar, their hairs were tied together, thrown in the blazing fire and killed
20. Dasu Sardar, was killed by chopping hands, legs, neck and shot dead
21. The wife of Dasu Sardar shot at her leg
22. Two Tangkhul men were shot dead
23. Lukramba Laluplakpa
24. Tera Moikhongba
25. Lupangkok
26. Tera Moikhongba Naha
27. Yambem Tollenkhomba
28. Two gate keepers of Senapati's residence shot and wounded
29. 1 (one) wounded in the house of Shamuhanjaba

The unprecedented and unjust act of the British caused the death of many innocent people, including women and children besides heavy casualties and bloodshed on both sides. They also burnt down many houses of Saikhom Leikai, Usham Leikai, Yambem Leikai, a Kabui Leikai at the back of the Residency, Nongmaithem Leikai, Angom Leikai and Haobam Leikai. Mr. Quinton, Mr. Grimwood, Col. Skene, Cossin and Lt. Simpson went to the palace the next day, unarmed and without escorts to bring a peaceful concord between the two sides. But no amicable solution was brought. When the British officers came out and moved towards the gate, they were attacked by the agitated crowd. Noni Nepra pushed Grimwood to

Pukhramba Kajao and Kajao speared him as an act of impulse. Lt. Simpson was badly injured. At the demand of the agitated crowd, Thangal General gave the order to the public executioner to kill the British officers and all of them were beheaded in front of the Kanglasa.

During this time Manipuri renewed their attack on the British Residency. The British officials inside the Residency were compelled to evacuate at about 2 a.m. They were unable to resist Manipuri and they were short on ammunition. Thus, Manipur declared war against the British on this day, the 25th of March 1891.

Troops were sent to the north towards Mao, towards Burma Road and towards Tongjei Maril, Cachar road to pursue the British fugitives. About 51 British soldiers were arrested and put in jail for three days. King Kullachandra released them with rupees five each to go back anywhere out of Manipur.

The king also ordered that all the outposts be on the watch and to cut the telegraph line. Mr Melville, who had come to Manipur from Kohima to make a new telegraph line till Tamu, started his journey back to Kohima. A column of Manipuri troops consisting of Heikrujamba Chaobaton Subedar, Ashangbam Poradumba Kut, Heikrujamba Tona Kut, Mangsatabam Tonjao, Chapa Subedar, Ningthoujamba, Yengkhoiba Kut, Loitamba Subedar and some Manipuri soldiers came to Mayangkhang. After reaching Myangkhang, the villagers informed that two British Officers of the Telegraph Department were staying in the Mayangkhang Dak Bungalow. The Manipuri fired volleys of shots, Mr.O'Brien was killed but Mr.Melville escaped with his rifle under the cover of darkness. A big search was mounted and Chirai Naga found him near a stream, wounded. There he was killed and his head cut off by Chirai Thangal.

Just after the evacuation of the British troops from the Residency, the Manipuri burnt it

down completely. Taking advantage of the burning, Jamandar Birbal Nagarkati from the 42nd Gurkha Regiment with 30 soldiers ran towards Tamu and reported all that had happened in the Palace of Manipur to Lt. C.J.W. Grant, 12th Madras Infantry. He reported the matter to Lord Lansdowne, the Viceroy and Governor-General. He moved in double march to Manipur with the hope of saving the lives of those British Officers, thinking that they might be war captives.

The news of the death of five British Officials and Gunaram had reached Calcutta. On 31st March 1891, the Government of British India declared war against Manipur. Three British columns were constituted to advance towards Manipur. They were:

1. The Kohima column was under the command of Brigadier General Collett, C.B., who was also the overall commander of the united columns.
2. The Silchar Column under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Rennick of the 18th Bengal Infantry.
3. The Tamu Column under the command of Brigadier General Graham C.B.

Hearing the advance of British troops from North, West and East, Maharaj Kullachandra sent troops to the three directions for resisting the British columns. The Manipuri fought against the British at eight major Battles during Anglo Manipur War 1891.

I. Tongjei Marilgi Lanpham/ Maning Maikeigilanpham (Silchar Column.)

The Battle of Tongjei Maril, also known as Maning Maikeigilan, was commanded by Sanakhya Kalasana, Sagolhanjaba and his younger brother Sanakhya Sanangangba, Lourungpurel. Major Tamna, Major Leitam Mukta, Yengkhoiba Poila, Longjamba Poila and one thousand Cavalry soldiers resisted the Silchar column of British India commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Rennick of the 18th Bengal Infantry.

There were three battlefields:

1. Battle of Leimatak
2. Battle of Laimaton
3. Battle of Lamangdong

Amid heavy rain, thunder and lightning, firing was on from 22 April 1891. The Cavalry of one thousand soldiers were grouped into forty members each. They dominated the British at Leimatak and Laimaton near Ngarian.

A fierce fight occurred on 23 April 1891 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with heavy shelling. Unfortunately, two Meitei British soldiers from Surma Valley Regiment, Mr. Thangjam Khagendra and Khumanthem Pathar got the secret map of Laimaton range and gave it to Captain Butcher. Taking this advantage they became more aggressive, dominated and killed ten and wounded forty Manipuri and managed to reach Phojing through a secret way. Thus the two Meitei from Assam who worked for British India paved the way for a British victory.

II. Meiramgi Lanpham (Tamu Column)

1. Battle of Tengenoupal

Manipuri troops were sent towards Mao, Burma road and Cachar road to pursue the British fugitives after the Palace attack. The troop of Yengkhoiba Rudra Major General and Wangkhei Meiraba and 100 (one hundred) soldiers came to know that the fugitives had gone ahead of them for 6 hours, and had also taken 5 Manipuri soldiers and 50 civilians as hostages. To rescue the hostages, they reached Tengenoupal. Wangkhei Meiraba used the hand bomb and rescued all the 55 members from the enemies.

2. Battle of Thoubal Athokpam

After the evacuation of the British troops from the Residency, Jamandar Birbal Nagarkati with 35 soldiers reached Tamu and reported the incident at the Palace of Manipur to Lt. C.J.W. Grant. He informed the matter to the Viceroy Governor-General and moved in double march to Manipur with the hope of

saving the lives of those British Officers. The report of the British coming and camping at Thoubal area had reached the Palace. Troops were sent to resist them under the command of Lokendrabirjit Wangkheirakpa, Senapati Angousana, Jillangamba Dollairoihanjaba, Yaiskullakpa, Aya Pural Major, Chongtham Nilamani and 300 soldiers. Manipuri pushed the British back from Thoubal Keithel towards Thoubal Athokpam. On 3rd April, they burnt down the village of Thoubal Athokpam and blocked the Arong bridge. It was a very difficult situation for Manipur to attack. Yet they tried to attack from the front and back simultaneously. As the British were in a better position, all attacks were in vain. Yaisullakpa tried to fight the British up close. His eldest son Shengoisana followed him to the fight. Both father and son killed three British and Lt. C.J.W. Grant was wounded badly. Both father and son along with 20 soldiers gave their lives for Manipur at Thoubal Athokpam on 6th April 1891 at around 1:30 noon.

3. Battle of Kakching

To break the British camp at Pallel, Manipuri troops were sent in two groups, one led by Chongtha Mia with 400 soldiers through Burma Road and another on a secret mission led by Major Meiraba Poila through Mayai Lambi with 700 soldiers. Both the teams were to reach Pallel at the same time and attack from front and back. On 22nd April, Meiraba reached Kakching but unfortunately, Mia's team was nowhere to be found. There was no information available. So Meiraba decided to see the situation at Kakching as the British entered and looted the village. On the same day at midnight, he went alone to see the surroundings and its situation and found some British officials had a meeting at Kakching Wairi Khundon. Using an Arambai Pokhaibi, he attacked them. The British ran towards Pallel camp to report what had happened. The next day on 23rd April during the early morning, Meiraba came to the Leikais to talk. There he was ambushed.

He went along the hillock of Manao Ching and fought there till his last breath. Along with him, 20 brave soldiers gave their lives for Manipur.

4. Battle of Khongjom

Tamu Column of British troops had occupied most of the important places. So Manipuri were camped at the bank of Khongjom River from 21st April to 23rd April and waited there to fight with British. After a good study of the nature of the Manipuri, Charles Leslie, Commanding Officer of Advance team applied to the General Commanding Officer for permission to attack. But he was instructed to wait for the Commanding Officer's arrival. After two days, he arrived and broke the V shaped formation of Manipuri Lanban which was attacked from two sides simultaneously. There was intense Close Quarter Combat. The casualties of both parties were very heavy. On the side of Manipur, 400 souls including Paona Brajabashi, Chinglensana, Loitongba Jamandar, Keisa Jamandar, Heirang Khongja, and Khumbong Major died. Mention may be made that Captain Drury, Captain Carnegie, Lt. Grant and Lt. Cox were wounded to name few. Many British soldiers were also killed. The defeat of the Manipuri at Khongjom was the loss of her independence and sovereignty. It marked the integration of Manipur with British India.

III Awanggi Lanpham (Kohima Column) Battle of Mayangkhang

Under the command of Sanakhya Khuraillakpa, eight hundred soldiers consisting of Major Jambhuban Laishraba, Maibiya Tamara Singh, Heikrujamba Poila. Subedar Heikrujamba Chaobaton, Heikrujamba Tona Kut, Asangba Kut, Khwairakpa and several others were sent to resist the advanced team of the British. The Kohima column under the command of Brigadier General Collet, C.B., who was also the overall commander of all three columns,

fought at Mayangkhang. No information of casualties could be found.

On the morning of 27th April 1891, Col. Rennick's force of Silchar Column occupied the capital Kangla at around 7 a.m. All three British columns had united in Kangla at 10 a.m. Thus Manipur fell into the hands of British in the morning of 27th April 1891.

Maharaj Kullachandra and the other royal dignitaries hoped to restore the independence of Manipur and planned to escape for China. They entrusted Moirangthem Tonjao (Moirang Tonjao) for every arrangement to reach China through Chasad village. For the arrangement Rs. 3000 (three thousand) was given to him. Around 200 persons including Kullachandra, his brothers, all the royal officials and others went to Chasad through a secret passage but unfortunately Tonjao was not to be found. He went and joined British alliance and informed them about the escape plan.

After the Anglo Manipur War in 1891, many leaders of Manipur were arrested. Many were put to jail, many were punished many were exiled and some were hanged on the charges of waging war against the Queen Empress of India and abatement of the murder of the five British Officers in Kangla.

The names of the persons who were deported for life are:

1. Maharaj Kullachandra
2. Angousana, Senapati
3. Lokendrabiljit, Wangkheirakpa
4. Colonel Samu, Luwang Ningthou
5. Chongtham Nilamani, Ayapurel Major
6. Chongtha Mia Singh, Major
7. Uru Singh, Usurba
8. Chaoba Hidam
9. Ghana Singh Khomdram
10. Khamba Singh Laishraba
11. Dhaja Singh Mayengba
12. Noni Singh Nepra
13. Trilok Singh Nongthomba
14. Dhana Singh Sagolsemba
15. Ghana Singh Ingudamba

16. Ningthouba Singh Chingshuba
17. Thouba Singh Phanjoubam
18. Tonjao Singh Mangsatabam
19. Chaobaton Singh Heikrujamba
20. Poradhumba Singh @ Ashangbam Kut
21. Chowkami Naga
22. Gowho Naga

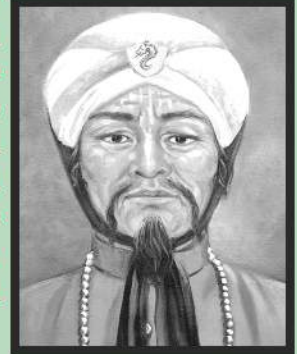
The names of those who were hanged are:

1. Jubaraj Tikendrajit, hanged on 13th August 1891
2. Thangal General, hanged on 13th August 1891
3. Niranjana Subedar, hanged on 8th June 1891
4. Pukhrambam Kajao, hanged on 25th May 1891

5. Charai Thangal, hanged on 13th October 1891

The Unsung Heroes of Anglo Manipur War 1891

There are reports that 5000 brave soldiers joined the war against the British in 1891. At the time of writing, we could trace around 120 soldiers and twenty-six people with photos, designations and addresses.



Sanakhya Yaishkullakpa



Angousana Senapati



Chirai Naga



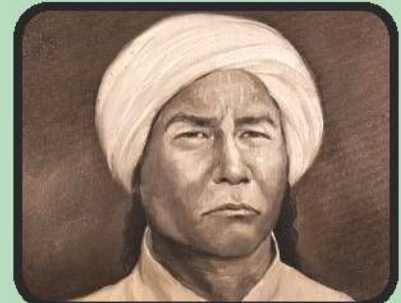
Heikrujamba Tona Kut



Chongtham Nilamani Singh



Sanakhya Chinglensana
Phunganai Shanglakpa



Leitam Mukta



Sanakhya Sana Nganba



Major General Yengkhoiba
Rudra



Major Wangkhei Meiraba
Poila



Major Chongtha Mia



Dasu Sardar



Pukhrambam Kajao
Phingang



Sanakhya Jillangamba
Dollairoihanjaba



Sanakhya Kalasana
Sagohanjaba



Sanakhya Lokendrabiljit
Wangkheirakpa



Sanakhya Sangoisana



Sanakhya Heikrujamba
Chaobaton



Colonel Samu Singh
Luwang Ningthou



Major Heirangkhongja



Niranjana Subedar



Maibya Tamara Singh



DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY HEADQUARTERS AT MOIRANG, BISHNUPUR DISTRICT

*W. Ibohal Singh
Director, Tourism*

MOIRANG IS A small town in Bishnupur District located at a distance of about 45 kms from Imphal. This town occupies a very special place in the history of the freedom struggle of India. During the 2nd World War, this small town served as the headquarters of the Indian National Army (INA). The INA Museum which is located at this town honours the noble sacrifices made by Indian soldiers under the leadership of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. The museum has a



collection of priceless photographs, letters, badges of rank and other war memorabilia.

It was here that Colonel Shaukat Malik of the Indian National Army hoisted the Tricolour Flag on 14 April 1944 at the courtyard of Shri Hemam Thambaljao Singh. It is said that the Allied Forces bombed the same courtyard during its air raid in the 2nd World War.

The descendants of Shri Hemam Thambaljao Singh, father of Hemam Nilamani has preserved the damages caused by the bombing till date and the holes made in the roofing, pillars of the house are vivid proof of the losses endured by the bombardment site. The site lay unattended in a dilapidated condition till the time it drew the attention of the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur in the year 2021.

Headquarters of the Indian National Army during 2nd World War

Keeping in view, the significance of the site the Department proposed to take up a project to develop the site as a Tourist Heritage site and preserve the Heritage House by way of preserving the damaged top roofing structure without disturbing and distorting the unique structure of the house. The project had the potential to add another important Tourist destination in Moirang besides Loktak Lake which is a must visit for tourists coming to the State.



The project- Development of Indian National Army Headquarters at Moirang, Bishnupur District, Manipur was proposed under Ministry of Finance, Government of India with a project cost of Rs. 40 Crore under the Scheme of Special Assistance to State for Capital Expenditure for Fy 2021-22. The project would develop a heritage tourism site and other basic amenities for promotion of remembrance tourism in the state and will help develop an important destination to

narrate stories about INA to visiting tourists. Once the site is developed, it could re-enact memories of 2nd World War in the state. This site could visualize the memory of the war and its destructive impact.

The project was approved by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in 2021. The Department of Tourism acquired 0.57 acre of land for implementation of the project and the project was undertaken with a total project cost of Rs. 40 Crore as a way of paying homage to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose during the celebration of his 125th birth anniversary. The different work components of the project are INA Heritage Home, Flag Mast, INA Monument, Security Booth, Eastern Fencing with Planter Box, Library & Souvenir Shop, Ticket Counter & Security Cabin, Café & Toilet, Pool, Water Body & Bridge, West Landscape with Planter Box, Paving Area, Boundary Fencing, Road and Drain Works, Pond Development, Parking Area, Welcome Gate & Exit Gate to Main Road and Gazebo in Pond Area. The project was completed and inaugurated on 2022.



GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE 12th MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2022

STATE PROFILE

- Area (in square km) : 22,327
- Population (2011 Census) : 28,55,794
- No. of election districts : 11
- No. of polling stations : 2959
- No. of polling station locations : 2398
- General electors : 19,68,476
- Male : 9,55,657
- Female : 10,12,655
- Third Gender : 164
- No. of service electors : 21438
- No. of overseas electors : 1
- No. of PwD electors : 8601



1. Khundrakpam
Thokchom Lokeshwar Singh
Indian National Congress



2. Heingang
Nongthombam Blren Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



3. Khurai
Leishangthem Susindro Meitei
Bharatiya Janata Party



4. Kshetrigao
Sheikh Noorul Hassan
National People's Party



5. Thongju
Thongam Biswajit Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



6. Keirao
Lourembam Rameshwor Meitei
Bharatiya Janata Party



7. Andro
Thounaojam Shyamkumar
Bharatiya Janata Party



8. Lamlai
Khongbantabam Ibomcha
Bharatiya Janata Party



9. Thangmeiband
Khumukcham Joykisan Singh
Janata Dal (United)



10. Uripok
Khwairakpam Raghumani Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



11. Sagolband
Rajkumar Imo Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



12. Keishamthong
Nishikant Sapam
Independent



13. Singamei
Yumnam Khemchand Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



14. Yaikul
Thokchom Satyabrata Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



15. Wangkhei
Thangjam Arunkumar
Janata Dal (United)



16. Sekmai (SC)
Heikham Dingo Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



17. Lamshang
Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



18. Konthoujam
Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



19. Patsoi
Sapam Kunjakeswor (Keba) Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



20. Langthabal
Karam Shyam
Bharatiya Janata Party



21. Naoriya Pakhanglakpa
Sagolshem Kebi Devi
Bharatiya Janata Party



22. Wangoi
Khuraijam Loken Singh
National People's Party



23. Mayang Imphal
Kongkham Robindro Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



24. Nambol
Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



25. Oinam
Irengbam Nalini Devi
National People's Party



26. Ningthoukhong
Konthoujam Govindas Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



27. Moirang
Thongam Shanti Singh
National People's Party



28. Thanga
Tongbram Robindro Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



29. Kumbi
Sanasam Premchandra Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



30. Lilong
Md. Abdul Nasir
Janata Dal (United)



31. Thoubal
Okram Ibobi Singh
Indian National Congress



32. Wangkhem
Keisham Meghachandra Singh
Indian National Congress



33. Heirok
Thokchom Radheshyam Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



34. Wangjing-Tentha
Paonam Brojen Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



35. Khangabok
Surjakumar Okram
Indian National Congress



36. Wabagai
Dr. Usham Deben Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



37. Kakching
Mayanglambam Rameshwar Singh
National People's Party



38. Hiyaanglam
Dr. Yumnam Radheshyam Singh
Bharatiya Janata Party



39. Sugnoo
Kangujam Ranjit Singh
Indian National Congress



40. Jiribam
Md. Achab Uddin
Janata Dal (United)



41. Chandel (ST)
SS Olish
Bharatiya Janata Party



42. Tengnoupal (ST)
Letpao Haokip
Bharatiya Janata Party



43. Phungyar (ST)
Leishiyu Keishhing
Naga People's Front



44. Ukhrul (ST)
Ram Muivah
Naga People's Front



45. Chingai (ST)
Khashim Vashum
Naga People's Front



46. Saikul (ST)
Kimneo Haokip Hangshing
Kuki People's Alliance



47. Karong (ST)
J. Kumo Sah
Independent



48. Mao (ST)
Losi Dikho
Naga People's Front



49. Tadubi (ST)
N. Kayisii
National People's Party



50. Kangpokpi (ST)
Nemcha Kipgen
Bharatiya Janata Party



51. Saitu (ST)
Haokholet Kipgen
Independent



52. Tamei (ST)
Awangbow Newmai
Naga People's Front



53. Tamenglong (ST)
Janghemlung Panmei
National People's Party



54. Nungba (ST)
Dinganglung Gangmei
Bharatiya Janata Party



55. Tipaimukh (ST)
Ngursanglur Sanate
Janata Dal (United)



56. Thanlon (ST)
Vungzagin Valte
Bharatiya Janata Party



57. Henglep (ST)
Letzamang Haokip
Bharatiya Janata Party



58. Churachandpur (ST)
L.M. Khaute
Janata Dal (United)



59. Saikot (ST)
Paolienal Haokip
Bharatiya Janata Party



60. Singhat (ST)
Chinlunthang
Kuki People's Alliance

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES HOUSE, HIGHLIGHTS STATE'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF Manipur Shri La. Ganesan addressed the first session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly and highlighted activities and achievements of the government in the past year.

The Governor started off his speech by welcoming and congratulating the newly elected Members of the House and added "I am hopeful that individually and collectively, you will uphold the values enshrined in the Constitution of India."

In his address, the Governor also spoke on Covid-19 pandemic and healthcare and said the pandemic continued to present challenges during last year. Nevertheless, the proactive efforts of the Government to accelerate vaccination programme against COVID-19 went a long way to facilitate opening up

of economy and in picking up the pace of developmental works, he said.

He said "During the second wave of the pandemic, there was increased demand for medical oxygen. Stock of 'D' type oxygen cylinders was increased from just 25 to 6,328 within two months. 24 PSA Oxygen Generation Plants were commissioned in the past one year alone covering all 16 districts. 2 Liquid Medical Oxygen Storage Plants with capacity of 10 KL at JNIMS and 20KL at Veterinary Complex, Porompat were commissioned. A 3rd LMO Plant of 20KL is also ready to be commissioned at COVID Hospital, Kiyamgei. About 480 Ventilators, 3,145 Oxygen Concentrators and 20,000 Pulse Oximeters were used."

In the past one year, five families of Healthcare Workers who died due to COVID-19 while performing duties were compensated with Rs. 50 Lakh per family under PM GaribKalyan Package, he said.

"District hospitals at Tamenglong and Ukhrul have now been upgraded to 100 bedded hospitals. Trauma Care Centre at Bishnupur was inaugurated. Foundation stone was laid for 150 bedded Cancer Hospital at JNIMS."

Law and Order and Justice Delivery

The Governor said "During 2021, in counter-insurgency measures, Security Forces arrested 234 Extremists and neutralized 15 Extremists. 14 persons were detained under NSA and 20 UG cadres surrendered. Security Forces also recovered 167 arms, 3,115 assorted ammunition, 253 IEDs, 27 Lathod bombs and 360 numbers of Detonators."

Under the government's "War on Drugs", during 2021, massive seizures were made, including 87 Kilograms of Heroin, 1,320 Kilograms of Brown Sugar, 505 Kilograms and

80 litres of Opium, nearly 10 lakh tablets and over 64 Kg of WY(Amphetamine). 42 cases were registered and 20 disposed under ND &PS Act. 3,424 acres of illicit poppy cultivation were destroyed, he added.

Finance and Planning

He said various projects with funding from North Eastern Council are being taken up. Improvement of Bishnupur – Nungba Road and Water supply projects at Ramrei in Ukhrul and Top Dusera in Imphal East have been completed. Water supply project for Tamukhong in Imphal East is nearing completion. Construction of mini-stadium at Parbung has been completed and another at Senapati Public ground is in progress.

He said under Hill Area Development Program (HADP) being implemented in Tamenglong and Noney districts, out of 41 projects worth over Rs. 98 crore, 16 projects are physically completed.

Tribal Affairs, Minorities and SC & OBC Welfare

The Governor continued that the Government provided assistance to 1,708 ST families under various family-oriented programme and to 100 tribal women organisations for carrying out various activities. 1,196 ST families were provided GCI sheets roofing for their dwelling house. Altogether, 51,488 ST students were extended Pre and Post-Matric Scholarships.

“As a part of infrastructure development under Autonomous District Councils in health sector, PSA Oxygen Generator Plants with 200 cylinder per day capacity were installed in 6 District Hospitals in hill districts. 6 Advance Life Support Ambulances and 12 Basic Life Support Ambulances were procured for use in hill districts under the 15th FC grants.”

The government is committed to the welfare of Minorities, OBC and SC Communities in the State, four hostels for SC students and four hostels for OBC students are being constructed with a total project cost of Rs. 28.00 crore under Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana and

scheme for Construction of OBC Boys and Girls Hostel.

The Governor also highlighted achievements under the Prime Minister's Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV).

Food Security

Under the National Food Security Act, automation of all Fair Price Shops in the State and 100 % Aadhaar seeding of all ration cards in the State was achieved. State Commission and District Consumer Fora are functioning to safeguard the rights of beneficiaries, he said.

Education

He said the government continued to make efforts to improve the overall education sector in the State and highlighted schemes.

“In the wake of restrictions imposed by COVID-19 pandemic, web-based digital platform named Moodle Learning Management System was introduced in 45 Government and Government Aided Colleges of Manipur for teaching and learning interventions.”

He also highlighted Chief Minister's College Maheiroi's E-Support Scheme, University and Higher Education Digital Support Scheme, School Fagathansi Mission, etc.

Power Sector

He also said that the Government is committed to ensure quality and reliable power supply in the state.

With commissioning of 400 kV D/C transmission lines between “Silchar – Imphal” and “Imphal – New Kohima – New Mariani” at its rated voltage, the Available Transmission Capacity (ATC) of interstate transmission has been enhanced considerably to about 2,000 MW to cater to the power requirement of the State for the next 10 to 15 years.

In the past year, one 400/132kV Substation at Thoubal and eight 33/11kV sub-stations were operationalised.

Agriculture & Allied Activities and Natural Resources

He said under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM KISAN) scheme, 6.19 lakh farmers have been enrolled.

He further highlighted Sub Mission on Agriculture Mechanization, RKVY-RAFTAAR and National Food Security Mission, Soil Health Card and Soil Health Management, etc.

Efforts continue to be made to ensure long term survival of Manipur Brow Antlered Deer (Sangai) and protection of Amur falcon.

Pisciculture, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry

With persistent efforts, the production capacity of fish has been increased to 36,000 MT per annum during the past 5 years, thereby helping in reducing imports from outside the State.

The Governor also spoke on Water Resources and Management and said providing assured irrigation is critical for accelerating growth in agriculture sector with about 2.3 lakh hectares of net cultivable area.

Water Supply

For improving Water Supply system in Imphal area, Phase-III of "Integrated Water Supply for Imphal Planning Area" costing Rs. 990.46 crore is being taken up under NDB funding and targeted for completion by December, 2022. Water Supply Scheme for 25 other towns is also being targeted for completion by 2023, he said.

Connectivity (Works & Transport)

Two works sanctioned under NEC, namely, construction of Inter-State Truck Terminus at Sekmai and improvement of road from Muallak to Kolhen diversion road via Munlui were completed during the year.

The governor also said that the government has taken up several strengthening work of national highways, improvement and

construction of roads under different funds including the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and ADB.

With funding from HUDCO, the completion of the remaining work of Civil Secretariat Complex at Mantripukhri and construction of VVIP State Guest House - "Shanglen" are being taken up.

Urban Planning and Development

Under the PM-SVANidhi Scheme, 8,461 street vendors have been provided working capital loan to resume their livelihoods during the pandemic, he said.

He also highlighted Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) - Housing for All Mission, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM), Imphal Smart City Mission, development of Kangla Nongpok Torban and Thangalambi.

Rural Development

9,716 houses were completed against a target of 9,740 under Phase-I of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin. Under Phase-II, 4,012 have been completed out of a total target of 8,900 houses. For 2020-21, out of a total target of 15,842 beneficiaries, 15,047 beneficiaries have been sanctioned housing units.

He also said that under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - I and II, construction of road length of 430 km have been completed during the year.

Social Welfare

He highlighted "Chief Minister's Widow Pension Scheme, National Disability Pension Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. He added that the number of beneficiaries under the Manipur Old Age Pension Scheme was increased from 66,738 to 82,738 by providing additional fund of Rs. 3.84 crore for 16,000 additional beneficiaries.



He also highlighted the Chief Minister's Shotharabasingi Tengbang, ADIP scheme, Rastriya Vayoshree Yojna (RVY), etc.

Textiles, Commerce and Industries

Considering the hardship faced by the MSME sector due to the Covid-19 pandemic, rent payable totaling more than Rs. 16 Lakh for work sheds in three industrial Estates were waived, he said and added that construction of Industrial Estate at Ukhrul is completed. Further, establishment of industrial estates in Imphal East and Senapati districts at a total project cost of about Rs. 21.93 crore has also been sanctioned.

Mega Food Park for Manipur State is being set up at Yaithibi Khunou.

Tourism

To boost the tourism sector, various Tourism Infrastructures were completed during the year. These include Cheiraaoching Eco Tourism Project, Integrated Tourists Circuit Imphal-Tamei, Integrated Tourists Destination at Longa Koirang and Longmai, Development of Spiritual Circuit – Shree Govindajee Temple,

Shree Kaina Temple – Shree Bangsibudon Temple, Shree Gopinath Temple and Shree Bijoy Govindajee Temple under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

Sports

He highlighted construction of the 'Manipur Olympian Park'. The park will stand as testimony to Manipur as the 'Powerhouse of Sports'.

Under Khelo India Scheme, football fields and RCC galleries at Hiyangthang and Hao Ground were completed. Construction of football fields and RCC galleries has been started at 8 blocks.

Arts & Culture

To nurture, propagate and preserve the cultural heritage of Manipur, various works were taken up during the year. Memorial Complex of Exile Heroes of Anglo-Manipur War, 1891 at BT Park was inaugurated.

The Governor further highlighted the achievement under "Chief Minister's Artistes Singgi Tengbang."

N BIREN SINGH SWORN AS CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE 2nd TIME



SHRI NONGTHOMBAM BIREN Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur for the second consecutive term on 21st March 2022. Five ministers also took oath along with him.

He was administered the oath of office by Governor La. Ganesan at a ceremony at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

BJP's Thongam Biswajit Singh, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Govindas Konthoujam and Nemcha Kipgen, and Naga People's Front (NPF) member Awangbow Newmai are the five ministers who joined his cabinet.

Nemcha Kipgen is the only woman in the council of ministers. The cabinet, which

can have six more members, is expected to be expanded later.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by BJP president JP Nadda, Chief Ministers Himanta Biswa Sarma of Assam and Biplab Kumar Deb of Tripura and a host of other top dignitaries.

The BJP had won 32 seats in the 60-member assembly. The NPF (seven seats), Janata Dal-United (six seats), Kuki People's Alliance (two seats) and an independent member later announced their support to the BJP.

CM N Biren Singh expands cabinet; adds 6 more ministers

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on 16th April 2022 expanded his cabinet by inducting six more ministers and thereby filling up all 12 ministerial berths.

The newly inducted ministers who took oath at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal are Letpao Haokip, Dr Sapam Ranjan, Leishangthem Susindro, Heikham Dingo, Thounaojam Basanta and Khasim Vashum.

The swearing-in ceremony was held a day after the arrival of Dr Sambit Patra who is the BJP's state in charge for Manipur.

Dr Ranjan, Susindro, Dingo are BJP MLAs from Khurai, Konthoujam and Sekmai assembly constituencies while Basanta is a first-time BJP MLA from the Nambol seat in Bishnupur district.



Manipur Governor La. Ganesan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at the Banquet Hall of Raj Bhawan in Imphal at around 11am.

Letpao, who was elected for the second time from the Tengnoupal seat on a BJP ticket, was a former water resources minister in the previous government when he was elected for the first time on a National People's Party ticket in the 2017 polls from Chandel Constituency.



NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL CAN EMULATE THE SUCCESS OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S GREATER MEKONG SUB-REGION ENTERPRISE

Pradip Phanjoubam

THE FOLLOWING IS an account of the author's extended travel in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region nations, including Northern Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Yunnan and Guangxi provinces of China, some years ago, a trip for seven senior Indian journalists, sponsored by the Asian Development Bank. Once notorious as a region of warring neighbours, today is considered amongst the fastest growing economic regions of the world. This article is about how they entered the new chapter of development and economic development of their common regional homeland not so long ago. There are plenty of stories of tears too that accompanied this transition. But as they

say, only the sweat the tears that go in the making of any successful project can make the laughter at the end of the journey all the more worthwhile. Mekong river also touches upper Myanmar therefore should have been included in this project, unfortunately the country has been in political trouble for long, and now after a brief interlude of democracy, as the world has seen it has plunged back into military dictatorship leaving its future uncertain yet again.

The days of "nation states" may not be over yet, but "region states" which scholar and entrepreneur Kenichi Ohmae predicted would replace them are taking birth, or

are in the process of doing so. In any case, the understanding of “nation state” has been undergoing a drastic alteration, so it seems at least for the last three decades, with the formation of many regional economic organisations. In Europe it is the European Union (EU), in South Asia, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) etc., and now in the Asia-Pacific region, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), a strategic partnership in which India is an important member.

But for now, let me focus on the Greater Mekong Sub-region, GMS, project. Six former bitter rival nations along the basin of the mighty Mekong River, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and the Yunnan and Guangxi provinces of China are the latest to decide to sublimate past antagonism into mutually beneficial channels of economic cooperation and reap in the process what is in their common parlance, “peace dividends”.

The six together today form the GMS, and the initiative to evolve them into one single economic unit is strongly backed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), as well as Japan and China for their own economic and political benefits.

“The key is trust and respect of each other. Each of the nations has its own goals but the point is for all of them to know that all can gain and grow together by opening up to each other.” Jin Liqueun, the then vice president of the ADB and a former vice minister in the Chinese government, said in an interview with this writer in New Delhi in the ADB India Resident Mission office. Jin exuded optimism that India too would come on the radar of GMS initiative sooner than later by coupling its own “Look East” (now Act East) policy with it. This is significant, for Act East is very much about connection

between India and SAARC countries via the Northeast India.

During a brief but intensive tour of two of the major GMS nations, Thailand and Vietnam recently, it however became evident that India figures very little as yet on the consciousness of those working on the ground of this ambitious project. People do however fondly remember the Indo-ASEAN car rallies which periodically passes through the region, indicating the importance of these cultural outreach programmes. The goodwill generated by such overtures is tangible, and it is only to be expected it will pay dividends in the long run.

Officials are quick to point out that the foundation of the GMS initiative rests on three visions: CONNECTIVITY, COMPETITIVENESS and COMMUNITY.

The project’s flagship programmes are: transport, trade facilitation, telecom, investment, energy, human resource development, environment, tourism and agriculture. Since its inception in 1992, the project has done miles in infrastructure development as well as confidence building. The GMS countries have been recording strong growths, Vietnam topping with a steady 7%. In all 5.2 billion dollars have been sunk into 19 infrastructure projects, and another \$115 million in 110 technical assistance projects in the first two decades alone.

The results are visible, both in terms of physical infrastructure, notably world class roads, but also more subjectively in the sense of optimism all around among officials as well as the ordinary men and women on the streets. The sense is also of a region on the move. One stop custom houses are being worked out at the borders so that trucks are not harangued by the need to complete tedious official formalities of two countries at every border crossing, driving licensing norms are being formalized so that they

become recognized throughout the region etc.

Although it has still not taken shape, there were also thoughts on the introduction of a common visa regime for the GMS region in the pattern of the Schengen visa regime in EU countries, according to project officials. The underlying logic behind the push for the evolution of economic regions and corridors is that the forces that led to the formation of the political reality of “nation states” with their hard, precise, zealously defended political boundaries, are seldom in congruence with natural economic regions. In fact, the case more often has been for the former to segmentize these natural regions, diminishing the economic strength and potential of each of the political units. The new outlook seeks to break these political barriers, at least in the economic spheres.

North Eastern Council, NEC

The idea of economic region forming a broader contour covering many nations is not new. The European Union had shown the way late in the last century, so have the ASEAN and to a much lesser extent the SAARC. Within the country, the idea of the North Eastern Council, NEC, the apex development agency looking after the eight Northeast states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura is an articulation of this spirit.

As a regional entity, the Northeast is rich in resources and developmental potential, but as individual states, all of them remain underdeveloped. But the idea must be allowed to expand beyond the international border and ultimately couple up with the GMS. “In such an outcome, the entire corridor would become a land bridge between two growing economic super powers, India and China.” former Managing Director-General of ADB Rajat Nag said.

There are lessons to be learnt in the area of conflict resolution too from the GMS

experience. It would be a welcome miracle if the actualization of economic regions can come to supersede the obsession with political boundaries and closed ethnic identity perimeters which have been the roots of many feuds in the Northeast. There is no reason why such a miracle cannot happen. But this will entail a development agenda that empowers the people by opening up opportunities, and building capacities that will enable them to reap the fruits of these opportunities. This coupled with administrative guarantees of identity safeguards should make a potent medicine. After all, what is freedom beyond the guarantees of these basic dignities?

Development policy initiatives must hence be able to see beyond the immediate. Insurgency as alibi for delaying or denying development, would amount to accepting defeat even before entering the ring. The official chant that it is a necessary condition for peace to precede development in northeast must be reversed. Development must not be allowed to be held at ransom at any cost.

Greater Mekong Sub-Region

The mud brown, rough waters of the mighty Mekong River have been tamed somewhat. It is today navigable for a greater part of its great length of over 4000 kms giving livelihood and hope to the population along it in six nations of the Greater Mekong Subregion, GMS, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar and the Yunnan and Guangxi provinces of China.

The river has also become a major route for commerce between the six nations. It can today take 300 tonne vessels during the monsoons, although on the average 150 tonne loads is normal. During the dry season 50 tonne vessel are safe. A loaded vessel takes one day to reach Thailand from Yunnan but upstream journey time is one and half day.

China took the trouble as well as footed the expenses of blowing up many of the

dangerous rapids along its meandering course. Its reward is, no other nation knows the river bed grid better than it does. While the grid map can be shared, the confidence that came along in the process of harnessing the river cannot be, overnight. It cannot be a coincidence that nearly all of the freight vessels on the Mekong and their crew today are Chinese. The river is still dangerous for those who do not know it well and only Chinese vessels engineered with the river in mind, and their crews feel safe on it, said a Thai custom official at Chiang Rai, Thailand's northernmost city bordering China, Myanmar and Laos.

were Chinese.

A score kilometres drive from this port is a point where two tributaries of the Mekong picturesquely confluence, dividing between them three countries, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. The panoramic view of the three countries on the bank of the same river makes the nomenclature, Golden Triangle, supposedly given by an American officer, extremely appropriate, and hence has stuck. Down the same road, on the Thailand bank of the river, a state-of-the-art museum, "Hall of Opium, Golden Triangle Park", has come up and expectedly it has become a major tourist destination.



Golden Triangle at Chiang Saen

A river port with modern loading and unloading facilities is coming up at Chiang Saen in the vicinity of Chiang Rai and situated almost at the heart of the Golden Triangle, a name that conjures up images of opium fields and drugs mafia. All of the vessel docked here when our team visited it,

A third bridge was in the process of being completed over the Mekong River at Chiang Khong about 80 km from Chiang Rai, making a slight detour along the 2000 km highway connecting Bangkok and Kunming, the capital of China's Yunnan province, at an estimated cost of \$34 million. The bridge will allow this rapidly developing land trade route to skirt trouble-torn Myanmar

and instead pass-through Laos for 230 kms before re-joining the main artery.

This highway, of course is just one of the main routes, and considered important for it connects two prosperous regions, Thailand and Yunnan, and one which is already in service via Myanmar. But there are other corridors identified, notably two north-south corridors including this one, and two east west corridors running from Thailand to Vietnam.

Myanmar Vacuum

Is Myanmar then paying for its political uncertainty? It probably would have, if not for its extremely strategic location and the richness of its minerals, especially its reserve of natural gas and other fossil fuel.

The GMS nations, especially Thailand and China, have not banished the country from their minds and are continuing to extend infrastructure into it in the belief that the nation would sooner than later open up to its neighbours. As we have noticed, India too is not distancing itself altogether from Myanmar despite the recent military coup. Such is its importance geo-strategically when it comes to the Asian region. Thai officials expressed the hope that Thailand and India coordinates on this front so that the two countries can ultimately meet half way in Myanmar.

But the success of the ADB's GMS project is another strong reason for the Northeast to look forward to India's Act East Policy. In a way this must also be the reason for all to want and urge for a lasting resolution to the endemic problem of numerous insurgencies in the region.

Right now, the focus of all GMS countries seems to be Yunnan. All of them want an access to this growing market, and a little reflected halo from an increasingly prosperous province. According to figures made available, Yunnan's economy in the past few years have been recording a 9 plus growth rate.

China has also been preparing for such an outcome for years with its own "Kunming Initiative" whereby it sought to understand more comprehensively, not just the economy but also the inner spirit of the GMS region and the rest of South East Asia.

Northeast Initiative

If China has used the geographical and ethnic similarities between the Yunnan and the rest of the GMS countries to reach out to them without inspiring any sense of unease or awe, India too can do it with a similar "Northeast Initiative". The Northeast can and would also as easily fraternise with these nations and their people because of so many cultural and temperamental similarities. But this should be no cause for insecurity that the Northeast would prove disloyal to the nation. The Yunnan example should spell this out loud. Develop the place, unleash its natural potential by allowing it to follow the paths of least resistance, and a lot of the troubles should disappear.

The need to prepare for an Asian integration is dictated by yet another related development. The plan for a web of Trans-Asian highways is simmering in the office of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP, United Nations, in Bangkok. It is worth noting here that India is among the 27 nations to have put its signature on the agreement to develop this highway system, although it is still not among the 13 to ratify the decision. Already the Northeast, Manipur not the least, is witnessing the actualisation of this initiative, with one of the major roadways, the Asian Highway-1, running across it from Moreh to Mao Gate. Portions where construction has already been completed, such as at the Lilong-Pallel stretch is there for all to see.

THREE FROM MANIPUR CONFERRED PADMA AWARDS



PRESIDENT RAM NATH Kovind conferred Padma Awards - 2022 to recipients at a civil investiture ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 21st March, 2022. Among the Padma Shri Awardees are three eminent personalities from Manipur.

The President conferred the Padma Shri award, the third-highest award in the Padma series of awards, on Smt Lourembam Bino Devi for her distinguished service in the field of art. The award is in recognition of her service as a "Veteran Appliqué Textile Artist preserving the Leeba textile art of Manipur for over five decades."

Shri Konsam Ibomcha Singh was conferred the Padma Shri in recognition of his distinguished services in Arts, of preserving the century-old dying art of Laiphadibi (doll) making of the Meitei community in Manipur.

Smt Muktamani Devi, an innovator, and entrepreneur from Manipur, who founded a firm to manufacture hand-knitted woolen shoes and trained more than 1000 people, received the prestigious award for her contribution to Trade and Industry.

The awards are announced on the eve of Republic Day every year and are conferred by the President at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

This year a total of 128 Padma awards are being conferred, including two duo cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one). The list of awardees comprises four Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 107 Padma Shri awards.



As many as 34 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners, NRI, PIO, OCI, and 13 posthumous awardees.



S.N. CHAND

THE FATHER OF MANIPURI CINEMA

Meghachandra Kongbam

MAKING A FILM in Manipur was then considered a distant dream owing to the poor economy, the meager population and the limited audience. It needed huge investment, manpower and all the resources, besides engaging crew members and equipment from outside the state. Finding its market was beyond imagination. Bollywood movies had also flooded all the cinema halls numbering less than 15 in the state and the Manipuri audience were already engrossed by the Bollywood movies- its story, stars and songs.

During the later part of the 1960s and the beginning of 1970s – when the Indian film industry flourished to its zenith, and the New Indian Cinema also emerged- there was a strong feeling and urge among the people of Manipur who were in the field of theatre and allied arts to have their own films.

There was a strong film movement in Manipur created by the Film Society of Manipur established in 1966 and registered in 1969, the lone organization in the state and the third film society in North East India after Shillong Film Society and Guwahati Cine Club in Assam. And among the eminent personalities of theatre and allied arts, Sapam Nadiachand (1935-1989) aka S.N. Chand belonged to that era.

A multifaceted personality, S.N. Chand was the first Manipuri film director in Manipuri cinema when he completed his feature film *Brojendragi Luthongba* (Brojendra's Marriage) in the year 1972. Armed with the knowledge of Italian neo-realism and the 'New Wave' of Indian Cinema, he picked up the short story penned by Dr. Lamabam Kamal (1899-1935), the yesteryear's great poet of Manipur to make the film. And he sowed the seed of the 'New Indian Cinema' in Manipur.

Like Dhundiraj Govind Phalke in making the first Indian film- *Raja Harishchandra* in 1913 and Jyoti Prasad Agrawala in making the first Assamese film- *Jyomati* in 1935, S.N. Chand was also a one-man army shouldering various important responsibilities of producer, director, screenplay writer, dialogue writer, lyricist, playback singer, music director and the leading actor when there were no basic amenities available to make a film.

Early Life

Born on 8th August, 1935 at Singjamei Mayengbam Leikai in Imphal, to Sapam Marei and Sapam Ibemcha, S.N. Chand inherited an abiding interest in music and performing arts from his parents who were in their own right, patrons of Manipuri traditional culture. But music was his first love. He studied classical music at Bhatkhande Sangeet Vidyapith, Lucknow from where he passed Sangeet Visharad and Sangeet Nipun. His interest in the performing arts led him into association with premiere Manipuri theatre groups like Rupmahal Theatre, Manipur Dramatic Union and Leimayol Arts Centre.

He served as a Hindi Translator at the Imphal Station of the All India Radio in 1965. He wrote lyrics, sang modern songs and composed music for several classical and modern songs, anchored many programmes and rendered background dialogues for AIR, Imphal. He was established as a good anchor in 'Fauj' programme, a musical programme format where songs are played only from the request received from military personnel in Hindi of the All India Radio, Imphal. He was a man of many faces and a real artist.

Venturing Into Film

Though engaged in other art forms and involved in the promotion of Manipuri culture, his only dream was to make films. An active member of the Film Society of Manipur founded by Hijam Romani in 1966, S.N. Chand learned film-making from great

movies, books and visited film studios in Kolkata and Mumbai. While he was serving at AIR, Imphal, he went to Bombay to do cosmetic surgery on his face to suit the leading man in the film.

Screenplay writing is not an easy task. Apart from having a thorough knowledge of film craft, he or she has to know the intricacies to develop characters, create plots, and come up with dialogues and actions. S.N. Chand took on the challenging task and made an amazing screenplay of *Brojendragi Luhongba* adapted from the 800-word short story. He added two main characters of maternal uncle and father of the bride in his screenplay, which was not found in the original text of the short story. He developed an important scene of Churachandpur, the place of posting of Brojendra. He established the contemporary situations in his screenplay to suit the audience.

He sold his own saleable properties and even mortgaged his homestead property. He left the Government job. Hijam Romani, President of Film Society of Manipur opposed his decision to quit the permanent post of AIR, Imphal. But, he always dreamt of making a Manipuri film. And his only dream was accomplished in 1970 when he launched his film production house - Sajatiya Pictures Private Limited - at his home Singjamei Mayengbam Leikai in Imphal. He engaged technicians and hired film equipment from Calcutta for the production.

In the summer of 1971, he along with his crew members took shots for three important sequences of his film at the historic Ningthem Pukhri, the big royal pond dug out during the reign of King Pamheiba (1709-1748). During the whole day shooting, the crews took the panoramic shot of the pond where lotuses were blooming for credit titles. The shot continued with Brojendra's maternal uncle coming towards Brojendra's house after meeting an astrologer to fix the suitable date of the marriage ceremony. This was the opening scene of the film. The other sequence

was Brojendra's arrival at his home after getting posted in Churachandpur. There were two shots – a long shot of a lighted jeep coming towards Brojendra's house and a mid-shot of Brojendra getting down from the jeep. The last sequence at the location was Brojendra's Point of View shot at a double storied house illuminated inside, which revealed the place where 'Bashok' (a popular form of Nata Sankirtana) performance took place. The last two sequences were captured during the night. People from distant places and nearby areas thronged the place to have a glimpse of the outdoor shooting of the Manipuri film. This writer was also in the audience. 'The shooting of the film was of the first Manipuri feature film' and 'the nose of the hero of the film had a cosmetic surgery' were the talks of the audience during the shooting.

With great difficulties and against all odds, he continued with the process of making the film. However, he could not complete his film within the scheduled time due to financial problems. Some of the prominent locations he featured in his film include Churachandpur to depict the hill station and the tribal lifestyle, the old palace of Canchipur, the residence of the Khaidem Family at Uripok and other sites of historical significance and cultural importance.

Meanwhile, Karam Monomohan, an exhibitor who owned his theatre house at Moreh and also a timber merchant running the business in Indo-Myanmar border and a jungle contractor dealt in dachini and spices produced his Manipuri feature film- Matangi Manipur engaging Deb Kumar Bose, son of noted filmmaker Devaki Bose from Calcutta as director, shooting the whole film at Movietone Studio in Calcutta with a few shots in Imphal in a short period and released the film in three cinema houses namely Usha Cinema, Friends Talkies in Imphal and Azad Talkies in Kakching on April 9, 1972, which was marked as the birth of the Manipuri cinema.

With his tireless efforts, S.N. Chand completed his film- *Brojendragi Luhongba* during the calendar year 1972 and the Censor Board passed his film on December 30, 1972. If the film was made in a studio, it could be completed early and marked as the first Manipuri film. But S. N. Chand didn't like the studio made film. He strongly believed in the realistic approach while making his first film. S.N. Chand scheduled the release of the film on Friday, January 26, 1973. And it was released simultaneously at Usha Cinema, Friends Talkies in Imphal and Thoubal Cinema at Thoubal. The then Chief Minister of Manipur Md Alimuddin was the Chief Guest for the release of the film at Usha Cinema.

During the premiere show, S.N. Chand submitted, "It is not a successful business if we treat the film-making in Manipur as a business. However, being a devotee of arts and artistic skills, and with a thought that the rich Manipuri culture would shine in the world through this medium, I have taken the whole responsibility of making this film sacrificing all I have possessed."

With few shots in Calcutta showing the protagonist as an MBBS student, the film was set at the backdrop of unique historical places, enchanting landscape of plain and hill areas, beautiful tribal dance and typical traditional performing arts- Pena (A traditional stringed instrument used in the narration of the Epic of Khamba Thoibi legend) and Bashok of Manipur. It was a true Manipuri film made by the first son of the soil.

Based on the short story with the same title of Dr. Kamal's work, which appeared in a monthly journal 'Lalita Manjuri Patrika' in 1933, the 122- minute feature film depicts among other things the religious and cultural life of people dwelling in the hills and plains of Manipur. The thematic concept of this social story seeks to establish that honesty of purpose shall be maintained in every sphere of life to achieve success and honour

of life. The film also revolves around a conflict between modernism and traditional values and reveals that traditional values are worthy of one's identity.



(S.N. Chand)

Brojendra (S.N. Chand) returns home with a medical degree from Calcutta Medical College. When he reaches home, he learns that his marriage has already been scheduled. It was a bolt from the blue to a young man with a modern outlook like Brojendra. He thinks that marriage should not be treated so lightly, at least he shall see eye to eye before they are wedded. So, he argues with his mother (Ibemhal). His mother replies that she gets married to his father as arranged by her parents. Brojendra's maternal uncle (Oinam Birmangol) also tries to convince him to fulfill the decision of the elders.

Brojendra dislikes the idea. Being an obedient boy of his parents and of good nature, he obeys. But he decides not to even look at the face of his would-be wife (Romola). He does not spend the wedding night in the bride's room. He gets a government job with a posting at Churachandpur, a hill station and leaves home before Mangani Chakkouba (Marriage feast on the fifth day after marriage). Days pass by, the agony of the innocent girl increases day by day.

Later on, Brojendra realizes his fault after experiencing a few incidents. In the meantime, his boss calls him at Imphal for some important assignment. He reaches home but cannot enter his house. He takes a turn and visits a Bashok, a Manipuri Nata music concert in a nearby Mandap. The singer is performing the Birha song of Radha - "Vrindaban-gi amuba thadu amuk thoklamkhini" (The black moon of Vrindaban would have appeared). This Sringara Rasa has submitted to Brojendra's heart. When he glances towards the audience, he catches sight of a very beautiful woman. She is so lovely that Brojendra is fully attracted to her.

His conscience pricks him as he rejects his innocent wife. He makes up his mind to go straight to his wife and apologize for his mistake. But to his great surprise, he finds at his home the very beautiful woman whom he sees at the Mandap. He stands speechless. At this moment, his wife falls at his feet sobbing and beseeching his love. Brojendra takes her in his arm and embraces her with love.

Anil Gupta was the Cinematographer and Rasbehari Sinha was the Editor of the film. Songs were recorded at Technicians Studio, Calcutta. In the film, renowned Bengali playback singer Aarti Mukherjee who later shot to fame in Hindi films such as *Geet Gata Chal* (1975), *Tapasya* (1976) and *Masoomi* (1983) sang a Manipuri song- *Nil Khonglaba Nonggi Mapei Mapei* (Noisy Thunder of Black Clouds) in semi-classical style.

S.N. Chand's multifaceted talents flowered in his production. The film bagged the Best Screenplay Award in the First Manipur State Film Festival, 1984 organised by the Government of Manipur. But the film missed the National Award of the 20th Edition of National Film Festival 1972 because the film scored the same marks as Debkumar Bose's *Matangi Manipur* (Present Day Manipur). The President's Silver Medal for the Best Feature Film in Manipuri was given to *Matangi Manipur* being the first-ever

Manipuri Feature Film. This was revealed by eminent writer and critic Elangbam Nilakanta who was associated with the jury as an invitee. However, Elangbam Nilakanta praised the film- *Brojendragi Luhlongba* for its reflection of the vivid identity of Manipur, capturing the beautiful ways of lives of the people at the real spots. It was not a studio-made film. M.K. Binodini, an eminent writer who was also on the Jury as an invitee, opted out from the Jury for being associated with Matamgi Manipur as a lyricist. The Regional Jury, Calcutta was headed by Sombhu Mitra. If we study S.N. Chand's *Brojendragi Luhlongba*, it may not be an exaggeration to say that the film emerged as a product of the New Indian Cinema wave, which was prevalent from the later part of the 1960s to the 1980s. S.N. Chand himself was an active member of the Film Society of Manipur. The film was a complete departure from the mainstream cinema and made with a realistic approach dissecting the then trends of Manipuri society which was about to be blown away by an alien culture. It was a wake-up call for the masses for identification and realization of one's ethos.

It was during the emergence of the new Indian Cinema, many regional films from different parts of the country also found a new premise with striking glory and achievement. Under the initiatives taken up by the Government of India, such landmark films were produced. The period heralded a shift from mainstream cinema to a new direction where films were based on social issues with a realistic approach. The films generated a new wave of thinking and discussions amongst the masses.

Funded by the Film Finance Corporation of the Government of India, films like Bhuvan Some of Mrinal Sen (1969), *Uski Roti* of Mani Kaul (1969), *Sara Akash* of Basu Chatterjee (1969) were considered as the birth of the movement of the New Indian Cinema.

It was preceded by films considered as Parallel Cinema like *Pathar Panchali* of Satyajit Ray

(1955), *Ajantrik* of Ritwik Ghatak (1958). The films were based on realistic humanism. The New Indian Cinema also focused on socio-political consciousness. The establishment of the Film Institute of India at Pune in 1960, the National Film Archives of India in 1964, and the Film Finance Corporation in 1960 helped financially and logistically in the production of a new genre of films. Other films of the New Indian Cinema wave were Kumar Sahani's *Maya Darpan* (1972), Shyam Benegal's *Ankur* (1973), M.S. Sathyu's *Garam Hawa* (1973), Jabbar Patel's *Sannia* (1974), Saeed Akhtar Mirza's *Arvind Desai Ki Ajeeb Dastaan* (1978), Muzafar Ali's *Gaman* (1978), Govind Nihalani's *Aakrosh* (1980), Ketan Mehta's *Bhuvani Bhuvani* (1980), Nirad Mahapatra's *Maya Miriga* (1983).

John Abraham's *Vidyarthikale Ithile Ithile* (1972), Adoor Gopalakrishnan's *Swayambaram* (1972) and G. Arabidan's *Uttarayaman* (1974) were the Malayalam films emerging out of the New Indian Cinema wave. Pattabhi Rama Reddy's *Samskara* (1970), B.V. Karanth and Girish Karnad's *Vamsila Vriksha* (1971) and Girish Kasaravalli's *Ghatashradha* (1977) were Kannada new wave films. Gautam Ghosh, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Aparna Sen spearheaded the movement in Bengal. Bhabendra Nath Saikia, Jahnu Barua also emerged in Assam. After S.N. Chand, Aribam Syam Sharma, M. A. Singh and K. Ibohal Sharma came forth to make new wave films in Manipur.

S.N. Chand wrote the script and directed yet another Manipuri film- *Ngak-E-Ko Nangse* (What a wonder you are) produced by Wangkhem Basantakumar under the banner of Poonam Pictures. It was the fourth Manipuri film made in 1974. The film depicts the impact of a growing alien culture in the Manipuri society, its crisis and the realization of one's identity after getting into trouble.

The film opens and ends with a traveller (Irom Nabakanta) driving a jeep on the

serpentine road in the hills of Manipur. He describes the uncertainty of life through a song-

*"Pinsi! Ngak-e-ko Nangse
Khangdeko Nangse
Karamba Nangi Lipinna Chetna
Pullibano Taibang Meeoiba
Haiyu, Eikhoise Nangi Sammapotla ..."
(Oh life! You are amazing
Don't understand you
Which thread of yours binds us?
We human beings, so tight.
Tell us, are we your toys ...)*

The film has seven songs- two romantic songs, a ballroom song, a sad song, a traveller's song, a lullaby and a devotional song. All songs are penned by noted writer and lyricist



B. Jayantakumar Sharma and composed by legendary singer Nongmaithem Pahari who himself sang four songs. The film is a trend-setter, which depicts the social turmoil in an elite Manipuri family.

In a story of joy and tears, the eldest son Binoy (Manish Ningthouja) who is a Forest Officer of a rich family meets a vulnerable girl Shanti (Rajani Yumnam) accidentally and saves her. A traveller picks them up and provides shelter at his place. They fall in love and get married in a temple. The social

fallout of the relationship between the two is intense as she is not accepted by her mother-in-law (Binokumari). But her father-in-law (Laishram Netrajit) who is dominated by his wife accepts the simplicity and devotion of Shanti. The film is "A fresh and stimulating family drama of modern family" depicting the story of two girls who dream of a "happy life and romance". The mother-in-law however encourages her daughter Anita (Bobby Bhattacharjee) to be involved with a rich Casanova Ravi (Basantakumar) who later exploits both of them. A man breaks in and attempts to molest Shanti and taking it as an opportunity, the mother-in-law sends her off. Her husband is shocked when his mother tells him that his wife has gone on her own after her illicit relationship has been

discovered. The husband and wife search for each other and Shanti finds solace in the hills and gives birth to a child.

Meanwhile, Anita who gets pregnant fails to convince her boyfriend to marry him and rather than accepting her, he turns

her away. The traveller an old gentleman unexpectedly finds Shanti who disguises as a tribal woman in a hill village and helps Shanti and her husband Binoy in reuniting.

Binoy searches for Ravi and brings him to unite with his sister. His mother also realizes her past misdeeds and arrogant nature. The traveller hands over Shanti, her husband and their little child to their family. And he moves away singing the traveller's song. The film closes with a positive note. The film was made with S.N. Chand's previous

team- Anil Gupta as Cinematographer and Rasbehari Sinha as Editor. The film was released on 20th September 1974 at Usha Cinema, Imphal.

Without any credit, S.N. Chand extensively helped G.C. Tongbra, a distinguished dramatist, in making his directorial debut film- *Khutthang Lamjel* (1979). He also acted in R.K. Kripa's *Ingallei* (1990). He expired on December 12, 1989.

On Film Promotion

S.N. Chand was actively associated with the Film Society of Manipur established in 1966 for the promotion of a good film movement in Manipur. As a resource person, he presented research papers on 'Recent Trends in Contemporary Cinema' in the Seminar on Trends in Contemporary Cinema jointly organized by the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, the Film Society of Manipur and the Manipur Film Development Council at JN Manipur Dance Academy in Imphal on April 24, 1982. In his paper, he elaborated the trends of silent and talkie films and the emergence of the Italian neo-realism wave which had influenced Indian filmmakers like Satyajit Ray. He indicated that the regional filmmakers should have adequate knowledge of the film medium and the social significance while making films.

In another Seminar held on August 23, 1983 at J.N Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal organized by the Manipur Film Development Council in connection with the Eastern Indian Film Festival, S.N. Chand presented a paper on 'Problems in Making Manipuri films' which highlighted the revolution of regional cinema in 1955-65 in India, the importance of Manipuri cinema in the small State of Manipur, lack of facilities in the production, distribution and exhibition sectors of Manipuri cinema, film policies of Assam, Bengal, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab and its positive impacts in the promotion of regional film industry, and the need of a Film Policy in Manipur.

S.N. Chand was a member of the Governing Council of the Manipur Film Development Council from September 1981 to April 1987 and one of the Directors of the Board of the newly converted Manipuri Film Development Corporation Ltd. from May 1987 to 1988-89.

The Manipur Film Development Corporation Ltd. and the Cine Artistes and Technicians Association, Manipur paid rich tributes to S.N. Chand by organizing functions every year for his dedication to the Manipuri cinema.

Meghachandra Kongbam is a retired Director of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur and member of International Federation of Film Critics, Indian Chapter (FIPRESCI-India). He is currently the president of Film Society of Manipur, the third oldest film society in Northeast India. He has also received Swarna Kamal for the Best Film Critic in the National Film Awards -2015.





100 ACTION POINTS FOR FIRST 100 DAYS

CHIEF MINISTER SHRI N. Biren Singh announced the State Government's Action Plan "100 Action Points For First 100 Days" in a Press Meet held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on 26th March, 2022. The Action Points will provide momentum to the new Government to serve the people of Manipur effectively throughout the five years.

Addressing the media, Shri N. Biren stated that the new Government, in recognition of the trust of the people of Manipur, aimed to strengthen Citizen-centric governance, fill gaps in critical infrastructure, frame policies for rapid economic growth and promotion of revenue generation and strive for inclusive development of the entire State.

Reading out some main points from the 100 Action Points, the Chief Minister informed that a Sub-Division Development

Monitoring Mission would be launched for which designated Prabhari Officers would be appointed for regularly monitoring and competitive ranking of progress. Health Camps would be organised in each Block during the first 100 days. He also stated that e-office would be introduced in all Government offices. The other important points included the Inauguration of Solar Power System for Government Health Facilities in Tamenglong, Chandel and Churachandpur. Inauguration of Paid Private Ward with 18 rooms in Jawaharlal Institute of Medical Sciences; distribution of benefits to 16,000 beneficiaries under Manipur Old Age Pension Scheme; inauguration of 16 Model Anganwadi Centres; distribution of benefits to 10,000 beneficiaries under CM Widows Pension Scheme; formulation of Rani Gaidinliu Nupi Singi Scheme for Rs. 25,000/- incentive to girls from Economically Weaker Sections and other Backward Sections.

Inauguration of new Manipur Civil Secretariat at Mantripukhri, Installation of 50,000 numbers of prepaid power meters in the next 100 days, inauguration of ISBT at Sekmai, Amusement cum Children Park at Tamenglong, Senapati, Ukhrul, Jiribam, Churachandpur and Chandel, Water and Amusement Park at Thenguchingjin, Imphal East, launching of Manipur Start-Up 2.0 with Corpus Fund of Rs. 100 crores and an expanded Greater Imphal Master Plan 2041 are also among the main action points announced.

Elaborating on Sub-Division Development Monitoring Mission, the Chief Minister said that to ensure development reaches every person and every village, the Government is starting the mission. It will focus on transparent delivery of public services to the poorest of the poor in the area, inclusive growth, speedy implementation of government programmes in letter and spirit, accessibility of administration to the people and regular functioning of government

offices in the Sub-Division. Ranking of Sub-Divisions for performance against specified targets will also be developed. Prabhari Officers for each Sub-Division will be designated from among IAS, IFS and MCS officers. A Corpus Fund will also be created in Planning Department to meet the special needs of a Sub-Division that are otherwise not covered in any existing programme or project, he added. Moreover, the development of one product for every Sub-Division would be given focus, he stated.

Shri N. Biren also mentioned that the State Government, with an aim toward making Manipur 'Corruption-free', had reconstituted the 'Anti-Corruption Cell' in the Office of the Chief Minister. The Officer-in-charge of this 'Cell' will be an officer not below the rank of an Administrative Secretary. Two other officers will be assigned to this cell- one not below the rank of Deputy Secretary and the other not below the rank of an Additional Superintendent of Police. He further said that the 'Anti-Corruption Cell' would receive and act on complaints of corruption against public servants, received from the general public. The public can submit their complaints through multiple means, including 'CM da Haisi platform, phone call, messages, written complaints etc. The 'Anti Corruption Cell' would transfer actionable complaints to the competent authority and necessary action will be initiated by the concerned authority within 24 hours, he added.

The Chief Minister also sought public support and cooperation for successful implementation as the development of society needs the Government and the public to march together towards growth.

Ministers Shri Thongam Biswajit, Shri Yumnam Khemchand, Shri Govindas Konthoujam, Smt. Nemcha Kipgen and Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar also attended the Press Meet among others.



DISTURBED AREA WITHDRAWN FROM AREAS UNDER NINE POLICE STATIONS

CHIEF MINISTER SHRI N. Biren Singh announced the withdrawal of “Disturbed Area” status from areas under the jurisdiction of 9 (nine) Police Stations of the State with effect from 1st April, 2022 for a period of six months. He made the announcement to the media during a press conference held at the Chief Minister’s Secretariat on 31st March, 2022.

The Chief Minister said that this development is effectuated by the historic announcement of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958 being removed from several districts across Assam, Nagaland and Manipur by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 31st March 2022.

Following that, “Disturbed Area” status under Section-3 of the AFSPA, 1958 are withdrawn from additional nine police

stations, viz, Sekmai, Lamsang, Patsoi, Lamlai, Irilbung, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Kakching and Jiribam. As of now, the Disturbed Area had been withdrawn from 15 Police stations including 6 Police Stations withdrawn earlier i.e. Imphal City, Lamphel, Singjamei, Porompat and Heingang. These police stations come under Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Jiribam, Kakching and Bishnupur.

The Chief Minister stated withdrawal of Disturbed Area had been a long standing demand for the people of the State. The State Government had been informing the Central leader about the necessity of lifting the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 from the State, he added. He continued that the State Government, under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and support of Union Home Minister Shri Amit

Shah, had been working tirelessly to improve the law and order situation in the State. With the financial assistance of the Central Government, the State had been able to persuade many underground organisations/insurgent groups to surrender and join the mainstream.

Shri N. Biren said that the withdrawal of Disturbed Area status had shown that the law and order situation of the State had considerably improved. He appealed to the public to support the Government's efforts for improving the law and order further across the State so that the Disturbed Area status could be lifted from remaining areas of the State.



**Government
to honour
Irom Sharmila
for her 16 years'
anti-AFSPA
struggle**

He further expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Union Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and other central leaders for lifting the Disturbed Area status. He also acknowledged the contribution of Irom Sharmila Chanu, different Civil Society Organisations and Students who were at the forefront demanding withdrawal of Armed Forces Special Powers Act from the State.

Power Minister Shri Thongam Biswajit, Education Minister Shri Yumnam Khemchand, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam, Cooperation Minister Smt. Nemcha Kipgen, Water Resources Minister Shri Awangbow Newmai and Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar were also present during the press conference among others.

The State Government announced to felicitate "Iron Lady" Irom Chanu Sharmila for her 16 years' hunger strike as part of the anti-AFSPA movement on 2nd April 2022.

The government's decision comes following the Centre removing Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from several parts of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland on 31st March 2022.

"We shall definitely invite her and honour her," Chief Minister N Biren Singh said. "I also appreciate the people of Manipur, mainly Shrimati Sharmila who sacrificed half of her life staging dharna and hunger strike for 16 years," he added.

Well known human rights activist Irom Chanu Sharmila was on a hunger strike from 4th November in 2000 to August 2016 demanding repeal of the AFSPA before forming the People's Resurgence and Justice Alliance ahead of the 2017 Manipur assembly elections.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION SAVES LIVES AND IMPROVES HEALTH

*Dr. H Khaukhampau Simte
State Programme Officer
Blood Cell, Manipur*

OUR FOREFATHERS SACRIFICED their lives and their blood to defend our motherland Sanaleibak on Khongjom Day we also sacrifice and donate our blood for the needy people of our state. Blood transfusion saves lives and improves health.

An adequate and reliable supply of safe blood can be assured by a stable base of regular voluntary unpaid blood donors. These donors are also the safest group of donors as the prevalence of blood-borne infections is the lowest among these groups. As per the direction of the supreme court of India collection of blood from paid or professional blood sellers has been banned and it has been mandatory for all blood units to be screened for HIV, Hep-B, Hep-C, Malaria and syphilis with effect from 1st January 1998. The National Blood Policy adopted by the Government of India in 2002 has also focused on a well-organized blood transfusion service. Despite medical advances, the need for blood is ever increasing. Blood is required for routine as well as emergency conditions in many of the health facilities the world over.

As per World Health Organisation's criteria for calculation of blood need, if 1 percent of the population donates blood it will be sufficient to meet the need of the state. The present estimated blood need of Manipur is 30,000 units of the state population (30 Lakhs). If there are 10 voluntary blood donors per 1000 population there would not be any shortage of blood for Manipur and no patient's relative would be required to arrange for the replacement of blood donors. There is a constant need for a regular blood supply because blood can be stored for only a limited time of 35 days before being

used. Motivating people to donate blood is a fundamental task of any blood transfusion service.

Any healthy person in the age group of 18–65 years whose body weight is more than 45 kgs and has more than 12 gm of hemoglobin can donate blood. Every male has 76 ml of blood per kg of body weight; while the female has 66 ml of blood per kg of body weight. But the body of males and females needs only 50 ml of blood per kg of body weight. There is an excess of 26 ml of blood in the case of males and 16 ml of blood in the case of females per every kg of body weight. During the donation, only 8 ml of blood per kg of bodyweight out of the excess amount are taken to make up 350 ml in the blood bag. The liquid part of donated blood is replenished within 48 hrs while the cellular part in 21 days. One can donate blood every 3 months or 4 times a year. No special diet is required after blood donation just resting for 30 minutes is sufficient.

By donating blood one will get the following benefits: having an exalted feeling of saving someone's life, free medical checkups for Blood Pressure, body weight, hemoglobin as well as referral for medical care if needed. Regular blood donation help to alleviate certain health problems like heart diseases and cancer. Blood donation is an excellent way to get rid of excess iron accumulated in our bodies due to overconsumption. The excess iron in the body can stimulate the formation of free radicals which are responsible for causing damage to body cells and tissues. Blood donation also burns extra calories and reduces one's cholesterol level and it stimulates the production of new blood cells and refreshes the systems.

HOSPITALISATION BENEFITS UNDER CMHT INCREASED TO 5 LAKHS



CHIEF MINISTER SHRI N. Biren Singh announced to increase the free hospitalization benefit under the Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT) Scheme from Rs. 2 Lakh to Rs. 5 Lakh per family per year. The announcement was made during a press briefing held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Imphal on 4th April 2022.

The State Cabinet had decided to increase the benefit amount considering the success of CMHT in the past four years and its benefit to poor and vulnerable families of the State.

The Chief Minister further stated that the Health for All Scheme, which was launched to provide door-to-door health screening for primary health care and chronic disease

management, had covered around 300 villages so far. All villages of the State would be covered soon, he added. Mentioning that 5.24 Lakh poor beneficiaries had been enrolled under CMHT, he added that more than 83000 beneficiaries have received benefits of free hospitalizations of up to Rs 2 Lakhs per family per year in Private or Government hospitals in the last four years.

Shri N. Biren continued that the State Government had launched Sub-Division Development Monitoring Mission to scale up inclusive growth and development in all the 68 Sub-Divisions of the State. Prabhari Officers consisting of IAS, IRS, IFS, MCS and MFS Officers, had been appointed for each Sub-Division. The Prabhari Officers in coordination with local leaders would conduct a family-wise survey to identify the needs of the people. He further stated that the step had been taken to provide a source of livelihood for every household. The Prabhari Officers would also have a discussion with residents and officials of the Sub-division on "One Sub-division One Product" and also analyse the population profile of the Sub-division to provide a sustainable livelihood for each household, he added.

He further informed that the State Cabinet

**Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi
Tengbang**

Launched on 21st January, 2018

**5.24 lakhs poor beneficiaries have
been enrolled; 83,000 have received
free treatment upto Rs 2 lakh.**

**Increased free hospitalization
benefit up to Rs 5 Lakhs**

Manipur StartUp

5772 StartUps benefited

Rs.100 cr approved for StartUp 2.0 on 31st March 2022.

had approved to increase the corpus fund for Manipur StartUp from earlier Rs. 30 crores to Rs. 100 crores. The State Government would tie up closely with Government schemes, NEDFI and partnership with DPIT and other stakeholders with a focus on providing a better ecosystem for nurturing the growth of StartUps and marketing linkages. New StartUp 2.0 Policy and Guidelines would be finalized within 100 days, he added.

Mentioning the recently launched "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign, Shri N. Biren stated rainwater harvesting methods would be set up in all offices, institutions and schools to conserve water. Instructions had also been given to officials concerned to start work for conserving wetlands to mitigate environmental degradation, he stated. He informed that steps would be initiated to take action against illegal construction carried out on paddy land after 2014 to preserve and save agricultural land. Zila Parishads, Pradhans and official concerns had been informed on the matter.

Stating that making out a long-term plan for at least 50 years from now, the State Cabinet had decided to widen State Highways, District Highways

and Inter-Village Roads. He appealed to the public to support and cooperate in such an initiative considering its necessity. Stressing on the development of catchment areas, he stated that a meeting consisting of MLAs of hill districts, Autonomous District Councils and Bureaucrats would be held to take steps for the same. He was also hopeful that deforestation carried out for shifting cultivation would become lesser with the initiatives of the State Government to provide means of livelihood for every household.

Power Minister Shri Thongam Biswajit, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Yumnam Khemchand, Works Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam, Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kumar and other Government officials also attended the press conference.



The infographic for Startup Manipur features a dark blue background with a network of white lines and dots. At the top left are the logos for 'myGov' and 'मेरी सरकार'. In the center is the Manipur State Emblem. To the right, the text 'STARTUP MANIPUR' is written in large, bold, white letters, with the tagline 'Turning Your Idea Into Opportunity' below it. A large, thick, pink arrow points upwards from the bottom right towards the top right. The infographic is divided into two main sections: 'Its Vision:' and 'Its Mission:'. The 'Its Vision:' section contains a single bullet point: 'To make Manipur emerge as one of the top start-up destinations in the North East by providing the most enabling eco-systems to support start-up entrepreneurship.' The 'Its Mission:' section contains six bullet points, each preceded by a small pink upward-pointing arrow: 'To strengthen the start-up culture in the State through strategic investment and policy interventions.', 'To encourage the youth in the State to consider entrepreneurship as a career choice.', 'To provide enabling mechanisms to start-ups, through training and skill development, capacity building and networking.', 'To implement a hassle-free and time bound statutory regulatory frameworks.', 'To provide appropriate infrastructural support.', and 'To create a platform for accessing financial support such as grants, bank loans, fiscal incentives, etc.' At the bottom, there is a pink bar with the text 'Apply online at www.startupmanipur.in'. Below this bar, on the left, is the text 'Register at : <https://manipur.mygov.in/>'. On the right, there is a social media handle '@manipurmygov' followed by icons for YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

STARTUP MANIPUR
Turning Your Idea Into Opportunity

Its Vision:

To make Manipur emerge as one of the top start-up destinations in the North East by providing the most enabling eco-systems to support start-up entrepreneurship.

Its Mission:

- ↑ To strengthen the start-up culture in the State through strategic investment and policy interventions.
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- ↑ To provide enabling mechanisms to start-ups, through training and skill development, capacity building and networking.
- ↑ To implement a hassle-free and time bound statutory regulatory frameworks.
- ↑ To provide appropriate infrastructural support.
- ↑ To create a platform for accessing financial support such as grants, bank loans, fiscal incentives, etc.

Apply online at www.startupmanipur.in

Register at : <https://manipur.mygov.in/>

@manipurmygov

PUBLIC GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL AND ANTI-CORRUPTION CELL

WITH THE AIM of eliminating corruption from public offices and enhancing public service delivery in the state, the Public Grievance Redressal and Anti-Corruption Cell has been created in the Office of the Chief Minister.

So far, the cell has received 8 (eight) complaints out of which one Abdul Hei, Senior Accountant, Directorate of Treasuries and Accounts Thoubal is now in Police custody. While the remaining cases have been forwarded to respective departments for further investigation.

A Secretary rank officer has been appointed as in-charge of the cell assisted by one Deputy Secretary rank officer and one Additional Superintendent of Police rank officer. It will also have other support staff in addition to the officers.

This Cell will function as an interface between the general public and the government. Complaints against corruption or poor service delivery received through various sources will be subject to continuous monitoring and resolution of the complaints.

NATURE:

This cell will review the complaints, initiate immediate action through competent authorities and monitor continuously to the conclusion of the complaints.

Corruption cases received by this cell would be examined and referred to the concerned offices for action.

Cases with significant vigilance angle shall be referred to Vigilance Department for inquiry and further action.

It will also work on the structural changes required to facilitate transparent administration and hence reducing the very scope of corrupt activities.

Better service delivery will be focussed by means of redressal of people's grievances.

For better management of the complaints, an IT based platform will be created.

SCOPE:

Receive and act on complaints of corruption against Public Servants/ Public Offices.

Receive and act on the complaints of Public Grievances on the delivery of Public Services.

Public Offices would include all the offices of Government of Manipur including all the offices receiving Aid/Fund from the state government.

While dealing with corruption complaints, CVC guidelines would be followed.

Complaints received from named individuals will only be entertained.

However, the identification of the complainant would be kept confidential as far as practicable.

PROCEDURE:

The public can submit their complaints through multiple means including CM da Haisi platform, Phone Calls, Messages, Written Complaints etc. On the receipt of complaints, action will be initiated within 24 hours.

CM DA HAISI, A MEGA CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE FOR PEOPLE OF MANIPUR TO DIRECTLY CONNECT WITH THE CHIEF MINISTER VIA HELPLINE NUMBER (95347 95347) WAS LAUNCHED ON 12TH OCTOBER 2021



The phone numbers as detailed below:

a) CM Da Haisi: 95347 95347

b) Anti-Corruption Cell: 1800 3453 877

c) Dedicated Mobile Number of Anti-Corruption Cell: 94021 50000

Any complaint on corruption or delivery of public services shall be examined by the Cell in the first place.

It would gather more information from the complainant if required.

It may requisition relevant documents from the concerned offices.

On thorough examination, the corruption cases would be referred to Vigilance Department if the complaint is found actionable.

For complaints on service delivery, the matter would be transferred to the concerned offices through concerned department to be sorted out within a given timeline.

Cell in charge will review the progress with the nodal officers of the concerned departments/ offices on weekly basis. The status will be flagged to the Hon'ble Chief Minister through Principal Secretary.

Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister would review the progress with the Administrative Secretaries/ HoDs on monthly basis.

Hon'ble Chief Minister would review the grievances once in a quarter.

Review will preferably be done on digital platforms so as to make it convenient for all the stakeholders.

BENEFITS:

Creation of a corruption free work environment.

Direct access to information and leadership

Enhanced and prompt delivery of public services benefitting the common people

A two-way communication between government and the common people

It would be a very good feedback mechanism for the government.



THE STATE GOVERNMENT has issued an order lifting all the COVID-19 restrictions imposed under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, on 31st March 2022.

However, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and guidelines issued by the state education department on 9th March 2022 will continue to be in force, an order of the Chief Secretary Dr Rajesh Kumar, who is also the chairperson of the state executive committee of the state disaster management authority, stated on 31 March.

Various restrictions like mass gatherings, meetings, social distancing, wearing masks in public places etc. were imposed since the COVID-19 spread in the state. The restrictions imposed under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 were extended from time to time and the latest extension order was issued on 29th January 2022.

The order lifting all the restrictions stated that the absolute number of COVID-19 cases detected per day in the state is less than 10 and the positivity rate is below 1% over the last seven days.

At the same time, the Union ministry of home affairs, in a letter to the state chief secretary on 22nd March, had also advised the state government to consider discontinuing the issue of orders and guidelines under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 for COVID-19 containment measures.

As such, the state chief secretary as the chairman of the state executive committee of the state disaster management authority issued the order lifting all restrictions imposed earlier under the act for COVID-19 management. However, the SOP and guidelines issued by the state education department on 9 March will continue to be in force.

The state health department will closely monitor the situation and will take prompt and proactive action at the local level as advised by the Union ministry of health and family welfare wherever any surge in the number of cases is observed, the order stated.

The order further advised the public to continue the use of face masks and maintain hand hygiene.



STATE OBSERVES 172nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHARAJ NARA SINGH

MANIPUR TODAY OBSERVED the 172nd Death Anniversary of Maharaj Nara Singh at Kangla, Imphal on 11th April 2022. Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh led the Ministers, MLAs and other officials in paying floral tribute to the portrait of Maharaja Nara Singh at his memorial. He also led other dignitaries in offering Tarpan at Nungjeng Pukhri Achouba.

The observation function was organised by Manipur State Archaeology, Department of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur.

After the floral tribute, a contingent of 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles offered guard of honour, gun salute and sounded the last post as a mark of respect to Late Maharaja Nara Singh.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri N. Biren Singh stated that the State Government had started paying tribute and respect to our great forefathers, organising functions at State level, to make people aware of their sacrifices towards protecting their motherland. Stating that whatever we have today is all because of the hard work and sacrifices of our great leaders, he added that our society would have no value if we don't honour them and follow their paths.

The Chief Minister recalled the hardship faced by our forefathers during the Seven Years Devastation period (1819-1826) and hard work of great leaders namely Maharaj Gambhir Singh and Maharaja Nara Singh towards regaining their land from Awa. Urging people not to possess sectarian ideology and to stop thinking only about their respective communities, he appealed to everyone to work together for overall development of the land which we inherited from our forefathers. He stressed the need for every citizen of the State to have knowledge of our history and go hand in hand with one another regardless of hill and valley areas, adding that we shouldn't forget the spirit of nationalism possessed by our elders.

Shri N. Biren informed that the State Government had started seeing sites at Nongmaiching Hills to install the statues of Maichou Taret and added that a statue of Maharaja Nara Singh would also be installed at the Western Gate of Kangla within 100 days. He also stressed the need to preserve the Leng Ondabi Pat located at Cachar district of Assam, which was named after the commitment of Maharaja Nara Singh.

MIRABAI CHANU

BBC INDIAN SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALLIST weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award for 2021 on 28th March 2022, following a public vote.

Mirabai created history last year when she became the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics in the 49kg category in Tokyo.

"I am currently training in the United States of America. I will give my best to win gold at this year's Asian and Commonwealth Games. Thanks again to BBC India for honouring me with the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award," Chanu said in a media release.

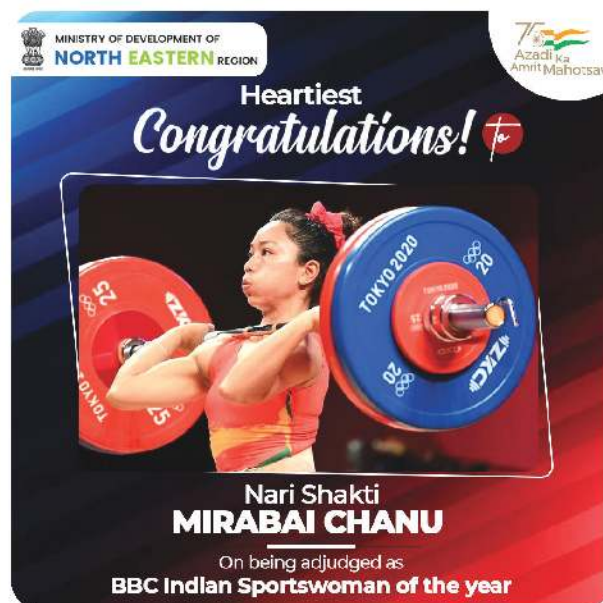
Born in Manipur, in the North-East of India, the 27-year old Olympic silver medalist beat golfer Aditi Ashok, boxer Lovlina Borgohain, Para-shooter Avani Lekhara, and badminton player PV Sindhu to win the award.

The Olympic silver medallist has also won the gold medal in the 48kg division at the 2017 World Championships in Anaheim, and followed up with Commonwealth Games gold in 2018.

Young India opener Shafali Verma was awarded the 'BBC Emerging Player' award. Verma is the youngest female cricketer to have played for India.

The first Indian woman to have won a medal at the Olympics in 2000, former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the 'BBC Lifetime Achievement' award.

Olympians and the Paralympians from the Tokyo Games were also honoured in this edition of BBC ISWOTY.



Tim Davie, BBC's Director General said, "It's wonderful to be here in Delhi in the BBC's centenary year, and to honour the talented Indian sportswomen who've achieved so much, often in the face of challenging circumstances."

STATE OBSERVES 78TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLAG HOISTING DAY

THE 78th ANNIVERSARY of Flag Hoisting Day was observed at INA Martyr's Memorial Complex, Moirang with Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh gracing the function as Chief Guest. The Function was organised by the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur on 14th April 2022.

It was on 14th April, 1944 that the Tricolor Flag of Free India was first hoisted at Moirang.

Shri N. Biren Singh expressed that he felt honoured taking part in Moirang Utsav being observed in connection with the 78th Flag Hoisting Day. He termed the day (14th April) as a historic day for people of the Country adding that on 14th April, 1944, Lieutenant Colonel Shaukat Ali of Indian National Army (INA) hoisted the Tricolor Flag of Free Indian for the first time on Indian Soil.

The Chief Minister continued that in early April of 1944, the Subash Brigade of INA along with 33 Division, Japanese Army crossed the Indo-Burmese Boundary to form Imphal Front. On 14th April, 2022, the combined force after capturing Moirang, reached the house of Shri Hemam Nilamani of Moirang Konjengbam Leikai and set up the first Headquarter of INA in India.

He recalled that 96 Manipuri took part in the efforts of INA to capture Moirang from the British Army and hoist the Tricolor Flag. He informed that the State Government had already acquired land for the construction of new INA Memorial Hall and construction work for the same had been started. Regarding the expansion of INA Headquarter Complex, he stated that the existing area was 0.46 acres along with the house which was used to be the



INA Headquarter and added that the Government is in process to acquire 2.12 acres of adjoining areas to develop it into a World Class INA Memorial Park.

He continued that a 165 feet tall Indian National Flag, highest in Northeast, would be installed at the INA Headquarter Complex for which the pole had already been erected. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah will visit the State and unfurl the Indian National Flag as a part of the 100 Days Action Plans, he added.

Delivering his presidential speech, Works Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam stated that Colonel Shaukat Ali hoisted the Tricolor Flag at Moirang and announced independence from the mighty British. He recalled that former Chief Minister Late M. Koirang, Late Hemam Nilamani and other leaders worked closely with INA and played an important role in bringing Indian Independence. He stressed the importance of remembering the freedom fighters, who had played a key role in the movement for Independence so that our youth could be imbibed with a sense of nationalism.

MLA, Moirang AC Shri Thongam Shanti and President, Akhil Bhartiya Poorva Sainik Seva Parishad Lt. Gen. V.K Chaturvedi were Guests of Honour of the rogramme. Water Resources Minister Shri Awangbow Newmai, Members of Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary and other officials also attended the 78th Flag Hoisting Day observation.

SUB-DIVISION DEVELOPMENT MONITORING MISSION LAUNCHED

TO SCALE UP and speed up the process of growth and development in all the 68 sub-divisions of the state, Sub-Division Development Monitoring Mission was launched as one of the 100 Action points within 100 days programme on 30th March 2022.

The Sub-Division Development Monitoring Mission is a one-of its kind initiative wherein the sub-division will compete with one another in terms of delivering welfare schemes to people as well as other developmental parameters.

Focus is on identification of gaps / needs of the people for inclusive growth of the entire State and to ensure that no one is left behind.

There will be a designated Prabhari Officer for regular monitoring and competition ranking of progress among the 68 Sub-divisions.

Prabhari Officer and the team will identify the gaps/ needs of the people i.e household without housing, drinking water, source of livelihood, job, school dropout children, etc which are not yet covered by any of the government programmes.

State Government will give top priority to cover them in the existing schemes and supplement with state programme/ intervention wherever needed in a time bound manner.

Prabhari Officers for 68 Sub-divisions have been appointed by DP from among IAS, IFS, MCS, MFS officers on 30th March 2022.

District Level Co-ordination Team (Secretary and above) has also been created and the team is being led by a secretary level officer as chairman and Deputy Commissioners concerned as vice-chairmen. All Prabhari Officers, District Level Officers and SDOs will be members.

A State Coordination Cell in Planning Department comprising of official from Economics & Statistics, IT, MARSAC and Planning will be formed.

Planning Department will develop a Dashboard to monitor progress.

Orientation Session with Prabhari Officers will be organized within April 2022.

For Competitive ranking of the Sub-Divisions, monitoring will be done on performance of each Sub-division on a set of measurable and quantifiable parameters concerning their respective departments.

Planning Department has identified some of the parameters/ indicators, which will be finalised in consultation with the line departments.

Each Prabhari Officer will be visiting Sub-Division within April 2022.

Prabhari Officer will have discussion with residents and officials of Sub-division on "One Sub Division One Product" with residents and officials of sub-division.

Prabhari Officer will identify development partners / persons in Sub-Division.

Prabhari Officer will analyse population profile of Sub-Division with aim of "Sustainable Livelihood for each Household".

Prabhari Officer is expected to "add value" in development of Sub-Division.

A Corpus Fund may be created to fund some essential works not covered by existing schemes.

The following officers have been appointed as Prabhari Officers of the respective Sub-divisions.

CM BIREN VIRTUALLY ATTENDS PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA, 2022

CHIEF MINISTER SHRI N. Biren Singh virtually attended the Pariksha Pe Charcha, 2022, an interaction programme of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi with school students at the Sangai Hall of Hotel Imphal on 1st April 2022. Altogether 200 students and their teachers from six different schools in Imphal East and Imphal West also attended the event. The event was also live-streamed for students and teachers at various schools located in different parts of the State.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event at Imphal, Chief Minister N Biren Singh appreciated Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his innovative ideas of giving educational awareness to the students, teachers and guardians.

He said the Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative will help in developing independent thinking in the young minds and is an innovative effort never seen before anywhere else.

The Chief Minister appealed to the young students, parents and teachers to follow the ideas and suggestions shared by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.



During the 5th edition of "Pariksha Pe Charcha", Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi interacted with school students, parents and teachers in a town-hall interactive format at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi from 11 AM onwards.

The interaction programme was live telecasted on Doordarshan (DD National, DD News, DD India), radio channels, TV channels, digital media including YouTube channels of EduMinofIndia, narendramodi, pmoindia, pibindia, Doordarshan National, MyGovIndia, DDNews, RajyaSabha TV, Swayam Prabha.

Education Minister Shri Yumnam Khemchand and Public Works Minister Shri Konthoujam Govindas, Education (S) Commissioner Shri M Harekrishna, Education (S) Director and State Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Manipur Shri L. Nandakumar and other officials attended the event in Imphal.

OFFICE TIMINGS CHANGED

5-DAY WORKING WEEK FOR MANIPUR GOVT. OFFICES FROM APRIL 1

IN PURSUANCE OF Chief Minister N Biren Singh-chaired cabinet's decision taken on 22nd March 2022, the Governor of Manipur has declared a five-day working week (Monday to Friday) for all offices, agencies, bodies and public sector undertakings (PSU) under the state government, except vacation departments, with effect from 1st April 2022.

The first cabinet meeting of the BJP-led government which was installed in Manipur with N Biren Singh as chief minister for the second consecutive term held on 22nd March 2022 decided to implement the five-day working week for government offices, without affecting essential services.

A notification signed by the deputy secretary to the Government of Manipur, Sunanda Thokchom, was issued in this regard on 26th March 2022.

According to the notification, the working hours from Monday to Friday for all offices, agencies, bodies and PSUs under the state government of Manipur will be from 9 am to 5.30 pm for summer (March to October). For winter (November to February), the working hours will be from 9 am to 5 pm, the notification further added. There will be a lunch break from 1 pm to 1.30 pm both in the summer and winter seasons.

"Further, school hours will start at 8 am in all state government/aided/private schools across the state from Monday to Saturday," it said.

The departments dealing in essential services will work out a roster system for employees for non-working days to ensure non-disruption of essential services, it added.

Also, the new school hours which will be followed by all government, aided and private schools across the state have also been implemented from April 1.

While reducing the working days in a week, the cabinet further resolved to increase the working hours.

To sync with school timings and to enable proper home management as well as ease traffic congestion, school timings will also change with classes starting from 8 am.

The state government hopes that the new system would improve the output and productivity of government employees by providing much-needed rest and rejuvenation on weekends. It further hopes that it will also enable adequate time for school children to productively use afternoon hours.

A notification issued by the Manipur education department on 31st March in line with the GAD order stated that the class hours for the pre-nursery will be from 8 am till 10 am while it will be 8 am to 12.30 pm for primary (I-V).

The class hours for the upper primary (VI-VIII) will be from 8 am to 1.15 pm while it will be from 8 am to 2.15 pm for secondary and higher secondary (IX-XII).

FIRST GOODS TRAIN ARRIVES AT KHONGSANG STATION FROM RANI GAIDINLIU STATION IN MANIPUR



IN A HISTORIC moment for Manipur and India as a whole, the first goods train arrived at Khongsang Station from Rani Gaidinliu Station on the first Jiribam-Imphal railway line in Manipur on 28th March, 2022, covering a distance of 56 km.

"As promised in our election campaign, I'm pleased to share that the first goods train has successfully arrived at Khongsang Station from Rani Gaidinliu Station (56 Km). Immensely thankful to Hon'ble PM Shri@narendramodi ji for his unwavering support for development of Manipur," Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur said in a Twitter post.

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra hailed the successful arrival of the goods train and said that the train will boost connectivity and commerce in Manipur.

"Transformation of Manipur continues! The first goods train arrived at Khongsang station from Rani Gaidinliu station. The train will boost the connectivity & commerce in Manipur. Thank you hon'ble PM Shri@NarendraModi Ji, for taking Manipur to new heights of development," Sambit Patra tweeted.

The railway line between Rani Gaidinliu Station at Oinamlong village to Khongsang Station at Khongsang is a part of the Rs

14000-crore Jiribam-Imphal new broad gauge railway line project.

The first ever goods train reached Rani Gaidinliu Railway Station, Tamenglong on 27th January, 2022.

The Jiribam-Imphal railway new broad gauge railway line project being constructed at an estimated cost of over Rs 14,000 crore has 46 tunnels, including a 12-km single tube tunnel, which is the second longest in Indian Railways network, and 153 bridges.

Although the crucial 111 km Jiribam (Assam border) to Imphal new line project has been delayed due to several reasons, the Northeast Frontier Railway has accelerated the work to complete it within the revised timeline.

The project was first sanctioned and included in the 2004-05 Budget. The detailed estimate was sanctioned in 2013 and work was bid out subsequently.

One of the bridges, Noney Bridge, which is under construction, is slated to become the world's tallest rail bridge on piers as two out of the seven piers will be of 141 meters each. The other piers vary between 50 metres to 90 metres.



10-YEAR-OLD ATTENDS CLASS WHILE BABYSITTING HER SISTER, PICTURE GOES VIRAL



A 10-YEAR-old girl's indomitable spirit to study has moved many online.

According to media reports, Meiningsinliu Pamei, was photographed sitting on her desk, holding her baby sister inside the classroom in the remote Zeliangrong Naga-dominated Tamenglong district, while her parents were busy working in the fields.

According to a report by India Times, the now-viral photograph, which has won thousands of hearts over social media, prompted the State Government to rush to the aid of the girl and her family.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh sent a childline service team that provided ration to her family as immediate relief besides taking steps to support her under the integrated child protection scheme. His cabinet colleague, Th Biswajit Singh, promised to look after her education till she graduates.

In his Facebook post, Shri Biren said, "I have sent a team of Childline Service Tamenglong

(CLST) to visit the family of the young girl who took the internet by storm today (2nd April 2022) and discussed a way forward to extend help under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme. As an immediate relief, some rations including rice, dal, potatoes, oil, etc. have been provided by the Childline today."

The Chief Minister added, "I also appreciate my cabinet colleagues for reaching out to this family with great compassion and generous assistance for the little girl."

Minister for Power, Forest and Environment, Thongam Biswajit Singh, wrote in his tweet, "Her dedication for education is what left me amazed! This 10-year-old girl named Meiningsinliu Pamei from Tamenglong, Manipur attends school babysitting her sister, as her parents were out for farming & studies while keeping her younger sister in her lap"

"As soon as I noticed this news on social media, we traced her family & asked them to bring her to Imphal. Spoke to her family that I will personally take care of her education till she graduates. Proud of her dedication!" Shri Biswajit wrote in another tweet.

Minister Biswajit posted the photo on his Twitter handle on 2 April and it has garnered over 16,000 likes so far.

The 11-year-old is a Class 1 student at the autonomous district council-run Dailong Primary School in her native Dailong village in Tamenglong district.

Netizens lauded the child's determination and dedication toward education.

"Such dedicated children leave us speechless but proud of this nation who keeps giving us such strong children who are the reason of this nation's might," a user wrote.

"It is absolutely heartening and her dedication at this tender age is commendable," wrote another.

C.M SHRI N.BIREN SINGH TABLED DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS AND BUDGET ESTIMATES IN THE HOUSE

ON THE 1ST day of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly Chief Minister N. Biren Singh tabled Demands for Supplementary Grants 2021-2022 and Budget Estimates 2022- 2023 in the House. Shri N. Biren Singh also presented the first report of the Business Advisory Committee, 2022. He also laid the Annual report of Manipur Information Commission for the year 2018-2019 and Annual report of Manipur Lokayukta 2020-2021.

After the Governor's address and motion of thanks to the Governor's address, Obituary reference was conducted on the demise of the 5 (Five) former members of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. The 5 former members are Shri Leitanthem Tomba Singh of 31-Thoubal Assembly Constituency, Shri A. Aza of 45- Chingai ST/ AC, Shri Wahengbam Angou Singh of 21- Naoriya Pakhanlakpa A/C, Shri Mayengbam Manihar Singh of 36- Wabagai A/C and Shri Athuibo Daimai of Aimol A/C.

During the Obituary reference Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh said that losing the prominent members of the Assembly is a great lost for the State. Their deeds and dedicated services to the people will always be remembered.

Opposition Leader Shri O. Ibobi Singh, MLA Shri Khasim Vasum, MLA Shri Usham Deven Singh and Minister Shri Awangbow Newmai also expressed their profound grief and sorrow to the departed souls.

COMBINED FORCE DESTROYS POPPY PLANTATION

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the War on Drugs campaign, for a drug free society, by the Shri N Biren Singh led government, the anti-drug movement in the State has been taken up on a war footing.

As part of the government's initiative, a combined force of Narcotics and Affairs of Border, Kangpokpi District Police, Forest Department, 22 Assam Rifles Motbung Post conducted a poppy plantation destruction drive along the Charkot Hill Range at Lamlan, Kangpokpi District on March 30, 2022.

A huge number of personnel of the combined team are engaged in destruction of poppy plantation in the area, said DSP, Saparmeina L. Sheimang Khongsai adding that the drive is a continued effort as part of the War on Drugs initiative.

He said for the day, the team is destroying poppy at three locations along the said range and by the end of the day, the team would have destroyed around 20 acres of poppy plantation. It may be mentioned that an FIR has also been lodged in connection with the plantation of poppy.

HOUSE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS AMOUNTING TO RS. 44,554,030,000



ON THE 2ND day of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, the House unanimously approved several supplementary grants amounting to Rs 44,554,030,000.

The supplementary grants for State Legislature is Rs 17,82,42,000, Finance Department Rs 694,52,32,000, Transport Rs 25,83,000, Police Rs 13,42,63,000, Public Works Department Rs 245,41,25,000, Information and Publicity Rs 1,34,77,000, Education Rs 12,57,54,000, Medical, Health and Family Welfare Services Rs 387, 38, 17,000, Municipal Administration Housing and Urban Development Rs 27,96,56,000, Labour and Employment Rs 43,47,000, Agriculture Rs 15,03,72,000, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary including dairy farming Rs 7,55,69,000, Environment and Forest Rs 7,52,95,000, Community and Rural Development Rs 2128,90,00,000, Textiles, Commerce and Industries Rs 11,94,05,000, Youth Affairs and Sports Rs 17,02,91,000, Administration of Justice Rs 4,37,07,000, Election Rs 32,54,16,000, Sales Tax, Other Taxes/Duties on Commodities and Services Rs 93,88,000, Planning Rs 512,86,86,000, Fire Protection and Control Rs 3,50,000, Jails Rs 54,92,000, Rehabilitation Rs 88,50,000, Panchayat Rs 6,12,02,000, Art & Culture Rs 3, 27,02,000, Horticulture and Soil Conservation Rs 11,79,50,000, Social Welfare Department Rs 159,08,71,000, MOBC Rs 31,63,59,000, Relief and Disaster Management Rs 79,91,29,000, Economics and Statistics Rs 25,00,000 and Information Technology Rs 22, 00,00,000.

Replying to the general observations and suggestions raised by the members of the House, Leader of the House, Shri N. Biren Singh informed the house that any person arrested with illegal drugs would face compulsory jail term of 1 year which will be extendable upto 2 years under relevant act.

The Leader of the House, Shri N. Biren Singh tabled the reports/papers on - (i) Report No. 2 of 2021- Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on "Social, Economic (Other than Public Sector Undertakings), Economic (Public Sector Undertakings), Revenue and General Sectors" for the year ended 31st March, 2019; (ii) Finance Accounts (Volume I) 2019-20, Government of Manipur; (iii) Finance Accounts (Volume II) 2019-20, Government of Manipur; (iv) Appropriation Accounts 2019-20, Government of Manipur; (v) State Finances Audit Report (Report No. 3 of 2021) for the year 2019-20; (vi) The Manipur Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 2020 and (vii) 49th Annual Administrative Report of the Manipur Public Service Commission.

Discussion and Voting on motion for Vote on account, 2022 presented in the House on the 1st Day of the ongoing session was unanimously passed in the House today.

The Manipur Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2022 and The Manipur Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2022 was also introduced by the Leader of the House.

GOVERNOR PAYS RICH TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM FIGHTER RANI GAIDINLIU



GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR Shri La. Ganesan led the people to pay tribute to Freedom Fighter Rani Gaidinliu on her 107th Birth Anniversary on 26th January, 2022.

In the main function held at Rani Gaidinliu Park at Mantripukhri in Imphal, Governor laid wreath to the statue of Rani Gaidinliu and paid floral tribute to the freedom fighter. Later, talking to the members of Kabui Mother's Association (KAMA), Shri La. Ganesan said, he has come to the Park not only as Governor of Manipur but also as a devotee of Rani Gaidinliu. He said, Rani Gaidinliu fought against the mighty British rule not only for Manipur but also for the nation as a whole. She had been an inspiration to many Indians who fought for independence during the British rule, he added. Governor also appealed to follow the footprints of Rani Gaidinliu and also to nurture the rich cultural values. He also assured to extend all possible help for the development of the Park too.

It may be recalled that Rani Gaidinliu Park was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 16th March, 2018.

GOVERNOR VISITS COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTRE AT JNIMS



HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF Manipur Shri La. Ganesan visited the Covid-19 Vaccination Centre at JNIMS Porompat on 2nd February, 2022.

During his visit, he inspected the Covid Vaccination Centre at JNIMS auditorium. The Centre started operating since 16 January 2021.

As part of the visit, he also distributed Covid Vaccination certificates, pens and badges to those fully jabbed with second vaccination doses and immunity doses belonging to different age groups and professions.

Governor La. Ganesan also interacted with the doctors, nurses, frontline workers and other related officials of JNIMS and Health Department, Manipur. He also discussed matter relating to the vaccination status of the state with the Covid-19 Vaccination team of JNIMS.

Additional Chief Secretary Health & Family Welfare Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam IAS, JNIMS Director Prof. Laishram Deben Singh, doctors and other concerned officials were present during the Governor's visit amongst others.

'MANIPURI CINEMA' AUTHORED BY MEGHACHANDRA KONGBAM RELEASED



LEGENDARY THEATRE DIRECTOR and Writer Shri Ratan Thiyam released a book titled 'MANIPURI CINEMA' authored by Shri Meghachandra Kongbam, Former Director, Information & Public Relations, Government of Manipur and a member of International Federation of Film Critics, Indian Chapter (FIPRESCI-India), at the auditorium of JN Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal. The book is released in connection with the solemn celebration of the Manipuri Cinema 50 years.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Shri Ratan Thiyam said that the most important part of Manipuri Cinema is its aesthetic value. While making commercial films we need to consider the various aspects of our society, he added. He also added that Children films are lacking in our state and the filmmakers need to focus on making films which can be beneficial to the children. He appealed the filmmakers and producers of this generation to make film which reflects social values.

In his speech as president of the function, Shri M. Joy, IAS, Commissioner IPR and

Arts & Culture said that filmmakers need to focus on making film which connects the generations. He further added that we should all render our support in producing films which have social values.

Professor MC Arun, Department of Anthropology, Manipur University reviewed the book before releasing. In his review speech he said the book throws light on the environment of cinema before the actual birth of Manipuri Cinema, the works of the pioneers of Manipuri Cinema, the life and works of the second generation filmmakers and producers, the digital era of Manipuri Cinema and the issues of Manipuri Cinema. He added that a creative outburst is needed at this hour for continuation of our creativity in the field of art and culture which is unique from others.

Shri Meghachandra Kongbam, the author highlighting his journey in the field of art and culture as a critic of films, said that he continuously contributed articles on films from various parts of the country. After taking break for a year, he started concentrating on writing the book as a contribution of his knowledge about the various aspects of Manipuri Cinema, he added. He urged the readers for positive suggestions, criticisms etc. for further improvement of his book.

It may be worth mentioning that Shri Meghachandra Kongbam of Wangkhei Ningthem Pukhri Mapal, received Swarna Kamal for the Best Film Critic in the National Film Awards in the year 2015. He is a member of Film Critics Circle of India and currently the President of Film Society of Manipur, the third oldest film society in Northeast India. He is also the founder of Cine Artistes and Technician Association Manipur. He is a regular article contributor of many cinema books published by the Federation of Film Societies of India and FIPRESCI-India and others edited by film scholars.

MANIPUR RECIEVES E-SHRAM AWARD



HON'BLE UNION MINISTER for Labour & Empowerment, Government of India Shri Bhupender Yadav handed over the prestigious e-SHRAM Award to Manipur State in the inaugural function of the Iconic Week held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 7th March 2022.

The Award was jointly received by Shri B. John Tlangtinkhuma, Secretary (SLEE), Government of Manipur and Shri Karam Bono Singh, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Manipur. Manipur was included among 11(eleven) States / UTs selected for the Award.

The Iconic Week is being organized from 7th-13th March, 2022 to celebrate the successful journey of e-SHRAM to 25 crores registrations in a record time of 162 days. This achievement was made possible with the active support of the States/ UT Governments, Central Government Departments, Labour Unions, NIC, CSC and other stakeholders including the organised work force of the country.

In Manipur, total enrolment of unorganized workers in e-SHRAM portal so far is 3,75,194

NATIONAL TOURISM DAY

AS IN OTHER parts of the country, Manipur also celebrated the National Tourism Day at the Ibudhou Marjing Polo Complex, Heingang Imphal East District on 25th January, 2022 organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur.

Director (Tourism), Manipur Shri W. Ibohal Singh, speaking at the celebration, said that the Marjing Polo Complex was selected as the venue as it has tourism prospect.

Stating that the theme for this year's celebration is 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism', he elaborated that promotion of tourism will be difficult without promoting rural and community centric tourism.

In today's world, the trend is shifting towards rural tourism as tourists are looking more towards experiencing stays in rural homes, interaction with the people, home-stays.

He continued that the Marjing Polo Complex is becoming quite a popular tourism destination due to the efforts of the department. He explained the tourism project being taken up at the complex and said Marjing Polo Complex is already completed, while construction of a Polo Statue is presently ongoing and is expected to be completed by mid-2022.

It may be mentioned that the Ministry of Tourism is observing National Tourism Day under the aegis of Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava with the theme 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'.

The celebration was attended by Shri P.K. Jha, IAS, Commissioner (Tourism) and Shri W. Ibohal Singh, MCS, Director (Tourism), Manipur as Chief Guest and President respectively.

MAISNAM MEIRABA LUWANG MANIPUR'S POSTER BOY OF BADMINTON

Sagolsem Snehprabha



MANIPUR'S POSTER BOY of badminton, teen shuttler Maisnam Meiraba Luwang, has been making steady progress since his successful debut on the Badminton World Federation (BWF) senior circuit.

The former world number 2 and Asia's number 1 in the under 19 singles by BWF

ranking and national junior champion scripted history by winning on debut the Yonex Latvia International Futures Series at Jelgava in 2021 without any world ranking.

The 19 years old, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA), is climbing the ranking charts since his debut in the senior circuit.

Within eight months, he has reached a world ranking of 103 and has maintained his excellent record by winning the Bulgarian International Future Series in October 2021 and recently the 30th Iran Fajr International Challenge 2022.

Meiraba, who is from Segar Road, Khwairakpam Leikai, Imphal West, picked up the sport from his father and badminton coach Maisnam Romesh Luwang.

In an exclusive interview over the telephone, the Shuttler, the first recipient from Manipur of Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ), a non-profit, in the field of Badminton spoke about his breakout tournament and more.

The teen sensation firmly believes that given the right nurturing and support, a badminton craze can be brought about in the state otherwise known as the powerhouse of football and boxing.

How did you first make your foray into sports? And what led you to choose badminton?

My first introduction to badminton dates back to when I accompanied my father (Maisnam Romesh Luwang) to see him coach young badminton players. At four, initially, I started badminton just for fun. That's how I

started. But by seven, I have started playing Badminton as a professional.

You are currently training at Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy. How is the training shaping up?

Very strict with our training. Ten elite (Meiraba included) are given intensive training at the academy. Mental health camps called SAMIKSHA are regularly organized by my training academy.

What is your current rank in the men's singles category Tell us more about your transition from junior to senior category?

Currently I'm ranked 103 in the world in men's singles. Just like I played while I was in junior, I'm trying to overcome my shortcomings and win more tournaments.

We are sure that you must have had your share of struggles as success usually comes after challenges. So what were the major challenges that you faced so far?

Financially I didn't face many challenges. OGQ has supported me since I was 11 in 2013.

Right now, my biggest challenge is to constantly improve my game. To be mentally and physically fit. Iron out any of my shortcomings and play as many tournaments and steadily improve my rankings. Also, other challenges are mainly mental. Need to be patient, not be overconfident, or lazy. Constantly motivating myself in tough situations, to keeping a positive frame of mind at all times are my challenges.

Which person (or sports personality) inspires you the most in life?

Every sportsperson has a different playing style and a different mindset in different games. And I look up all of them.

Among the tournaments that you played so far, which particular moment or victory stands out as the most special in your life? And why?

All the tournaments I played have been important in making me where I'm today. However, the under 13 national championship in Cuttack was my first national championship. It was the turning point of my career and I believe the most important tournament for me.



How do you observe the current scenario of badminton and the development of the sport in our state?

Lots of community halls dote across the State, where I see people swinging their racquets. Adults and children alike play it as a leisure activity. However, football too has its beginnings in the grassroots. From playing at local playgrounds, many took it up professionally later. The same can happen to Badminton. The young minds exposed to Badminton will one day play professionally. It's a good sign.



Talents are there, only lacking support which is preventing many from taking it up as a career. Talents spotted early and nurtured well will give brilliant results. With the right support and guidance, Manipur can be a badminton hub and produce many champions.

Who do you want to give credit for your success?

My parents. They have stood behind me like a rock. Support and acknowledgement from your parents are extremely important. My father being a badminton player himself in the nationals and later as a coach helped me to achieve my dream. But, my mother has also stood by me and understood my passion for the game is equally important.

What is next on your agenda?

Constant training. I plan to play more tournaments while keeping my fitness level. The rest will follow if I keep playing well. I'm entering lots of tournaments in preparation for upcoming major events such as Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Paris 2024 Olympics. We need to have certain rankings to qualify to play in these important tournaments.

Lastly, what will be your message or appeal to those youngsters of Manipur who want to enter the field of sports?

Be it sports or whatever field they choose, they should choose fearlessly. Be undeterred by small failures or challenges and should try to excel in their chosen field.