# FREEDOM

## Beyond Political Independence
## Building a Nation of Opportunity

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Every year on 15 August, India pauses to honour the extraordinary courage and sacrifices of countless men and women, some celebrated, many remaining unsung heroes. Yet their collective sacrifices transformed a shared dream of freedom into reality. This year marks 79 years since India's independence from colonial rule, and since then the nation has been sovereign in determining its own path toward growth and development.

The term "freedom," however, carries different meanings that extend far beyond conventional political interpretation. While often constrained to political dimensions, freedom encompasses diverse dynamics worthy of closer examination. For instance, Amartya Sen, in his capability approach theory, describes freedom as both the primary goal and principal means of development thereby centering on people's actual capability to do and be what they value. By this definition, freedom encompasses not only political freedoms but also economic facilities and social opportunities that enable individuals to live inclusively and with dignity. For example, Article 21A of

the Indian Constitution guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years. Yet a constitutional guarantee alone proves insufficient. Without adequate infrastructure, economic support for families, and public awareness, Article 21A remains merely words on paper rather than lived reality. True freedom requires interconnected social and political systems wherein constitutional rights need structural support, infrastructure demands public awareness, and political rights require economic enablement. Similarly, conferring workplace rights on women means little if systemic barriers such as labour market withdrawal after marriage persist. Recognizing this, the government has amended maternity laws to support mothers' workforce re-entry. Therefore, genuine freedom transcends sovereignty and manifests through concrete opportunities available to every citizen including access to quality education, dignified livelihoods, healthcare, innovation pathways, meaningful democratic participation, and the ability to contribute to society.

In the contemporary context, India ranks among the world's fastest-growing major economies. The World Bank notes that the economy has nearly quadrupled in real terms since 2000, with per capita income almost tripling. The Government of India projects real GDP growth of 7.4 percent in 2025–26, reflecting robust macroeconomic fundamentals and sustained investment. Yet, history demonstrates a crucial lesson wherein economic growth alone does not ensure inclusive development. Nations can achieve impressive GDP figures while significant portions of their populations lack equitable access to quality education, healthcare, decent employment, and social mobility. Education access illustrates this paradox. Despite expanding school enrolment through initiatives like the Right to Education Act, Samagra Shiksha, and PM POSHAN, equitable access to quality education remains a formidable developmental challenge. According to Unified District Information System for Education Plus elementary enrolment remains high nationally. However, many government schools face persistent shortages because qualified teachers are scarce, infrastructure is inadequate, digital resources are limited, and learning outcomes remain inconsistent. Consequently, even modest-income families pursue private education, hoping to secure better opportunities for their children. When quality education depends on ability to pay, genuine access and freedom of choice remains elusive. The employment challenge reinforces this pattern. Though India's unemployment rate has moderated recently, structural labour market challenges persist, particularly regarding quality employment and underemployment. A substantial portion of India's workforce remains self-employed or engaged as unpaid family workers, revealing that creating decent jobs matters as much as creating jobs alone. This is because employment transcends mere income generation. It provides dignity, social identity, financial independence, and the confidence to shape one's life choices. Secure livelihoods enable individuals to educate their children, access healthcare, own homes, save for the future, participate in society, and pursue aspirations. Conversely, lack of employment opportunities or presence of better quality jobs traps citizens in cycles of insecurity, even within a politically free nation.

Talking about digital infrastructure, India has achieved global recognition in digital public infrastructure, establishing itself as a model for inclusive and innovative governance. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionized digital transactions, Aadhaar

enables identity-based service delivery, and platforms like DigiLocker and eSanjeevani expand public service access for millions. These accomplishments have positioned India as a governance model worldwide. Yet technology serves as means, not end. According to NPCI data, UPI processed over 18 billion transactions in June 2025, totalling more than Rs. 24 lakh crore in a single month. India also hosts one of the world's largest internet user bases, with over 970 million subscribers according to TRAI. However, this progress masks persistent inequalities. For millions of Indians, digital opportunities remain inaccessible, particularly those in remote rural areas, hilly regions, and economically disadvantaged communities. Barriers persist in terms of unreliable connectivity, inadequate infrastructure, limited device ownership, low digital literacy, language constraints, and cybersecurity concerns restrict full participation in the digital economy. Small farmers lack timely access to digital agricultural services. Rural students face learning disruptions due to poor connectivity or absent devices. Micro and small enterprises, despite available platforms, frequently lack skills and resources to capitalize on them. Therefore, true freedom's measure lies not in sovereignty alone but in whether it reduces inequality, expands opportunity, protects rights, and reaches historically excluded citizens.

Saying that, India's future will not be determined solely by economic indicators or technological metrics. Instead, it will be shaped by the character, vision, and commitment of its people, especially its youth. They are custodians of the values that inspired the freedom movement and architects of India's future. Honouring freedom extends far beyond celebrating Independence Day or commemorating 15 August 1947. It demands that every generation respect, preserve, and strengthen the values and sacrifices that made independence possible. It requires not only remembering the past but protecting the freedoms inherited from it. Honouring freedom, therefore, means looking forward with purpose while honouring the past with gratitude. It demands preserving democratic ideals from our Constitution while embracing innovation, inclusion, sustainability, and social harmony. It requires ensuring that development reaches all citizens and that progress is measured by justice, compassion, and opportunity, not merely by economic prosperity only. This responsibility extends beyond citizens to governments, which must create conditions where freedom becomes lived reality rather than constitutional ideal. The most enduring tribute to independence's architects lies in empowering younger generations to build upon that legacy. Governments can inspire youth to honour freedom by ensuring every young Indian accesses quality education, meaningful employment, innovation opportunities, and active democratic participation. When young people possess knowledge, skills, and confidence, they begin viewing freedom not as historical achievement but as personal responsibility toward national progress.

As the tricolour rises once more against the August sky, let it reminds us that freedom is not a gift received from history but indeed it is a promise we renew through our actions. By honouring past sacrifices and inspiring present aspirations, we can build an India where every citizen enjoys both the freedoms secured by previous generations and the opportunities to create an even brighter future. That will be the most meaningful tribute to those who gave us independence and the greatest legacy we can leave for generations yet to come.

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# The Loktak Protocluster

## A Name from Manipur in the Story of the Universe

*Dr. Laishram Ronaldo Singh*
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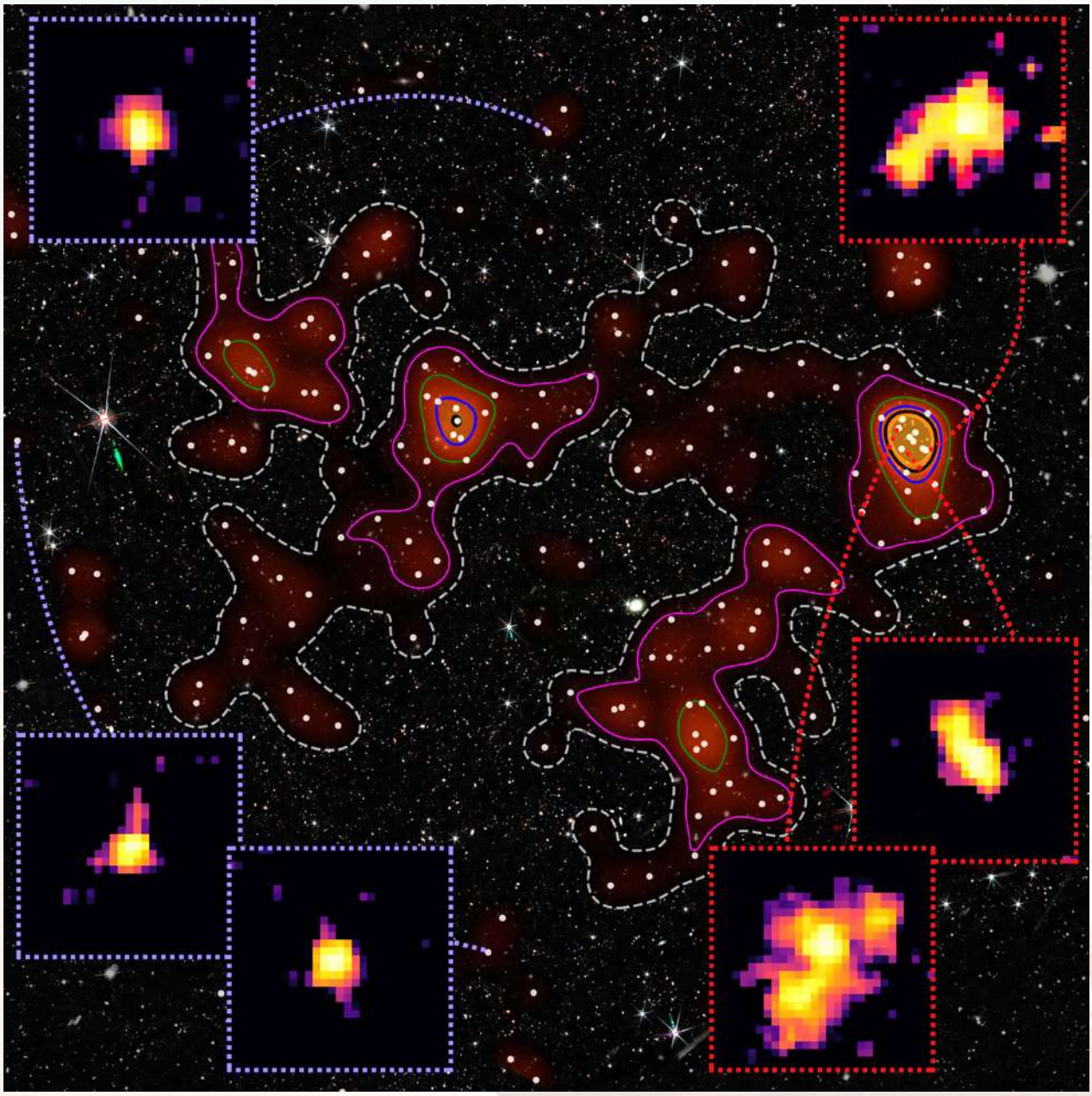
A scientific discovery is important because it adds something new to human knowledge. It helps us understand nature more clearly, opens new questions, and sometimes changes how we see our place in the Universe. It is the result of curiosity, careful observation, long analysis, and the effort to understand something that was not clearly known before. But sometimes, a discovery carries meaning beyond the result itself. It can also carry a name, a memory, and a place that gives it a deeper human connection. For me, the Loktak Protocluster is one such discovery.



I come from Khangabok, a town in Thoubal district of Manipur. My childhood was simple, surrounded by familiar landscapes, paddy fields, distant hills, and the night sky above. I did not grow up with telescopes, astronomy clubs, or easy access to research institutions. But curiosity was always there. As a child, I often looked up at the sky and wondered what existed beyond what we could see. I did not know then that this quiet curiosity would one day take me into the study of galaxies billions of light-years away.

That curiosity stayed with me through school and later through my studies. At the age of eighteen, I took part in the All India Asteroid Search Campaign and discovered a preliminary Main Belt Asteroid, an experience that showed me that a student from Manipur could also take part in the wider world of science. Years later, through education, scholarships, and research opportunities, that same curiosity took me to

Japan, where I completed my Master's and PhD in Astronomy at Tohoku University and later continued my work at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

Growing up in Manipur also meant growing up with places that carry deep meaning. Among them, Loktak Lake holds a special place. Loktak is not just a lake on the map. It is part of Manipur's collective memory and identity. It is one of the most important natural symbols of the state, a lifeline for many communities, and a landscape deeply connected to our culture, ecology, livelihood, and sense of home. Years later, while studying galaxies in the early Universe, I had the opportunity to give the name Loktak to a distant structure of young galaxies seen 12.6 billion years in the past. For me, the Loktak Protocluster is therefore not only a scientific discovery. It is also a way of carrying a part of Manipur into the story of the Universe.

The Loktak Protocluster is a large structure of galaxies observed at what astronomers call redshift $z \approx 4.9$. In simple terms, this means that the light from these galaxies has been stretched by the expansion of the Universe, allowing us to see them as they existed approximately 12.6 billion years ago, when the Universe was only about 1.2 billion years old. The discovery was made using observations from the Subaru Telescope and studied further with the James Webb Space Telescope. Our study was published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters in 2026.

In astronomy, looking far away also means looking back in time. The light from the Loktak Protocluster travelled for billions of years before reaching our telescopes. When we study it today, we are not seeing the Universe as it is now, but as it was in one of its earliest chapters. Long before the Earth existed, long before the Sun was born, and long before human beings looked up at the night sky, the galaxies in this structure were already forming and growing.

A protocluster can be understood as an early "city of galaxies" still under construction. In the present-day Universe, galaxies are not spread evenly through space. They gather into groups, clusters, and even larger cosmic structures. Galaxy clusters today can contain hundreds or thousands of galaxies and are among the largest structures in the Universe. But these clusters did not appear fully formed at the beginning of cosmic history. They grew gradually from regions where matter was slightly denser than average.

Protoclusters are the young ancestors of these present-day galaxy clusters. By studying them, astronomers can ask how the largest structures in the Universe began to form. We can also ask when the surroundings of a galaxy first started to influence how that galaxy grew.

This question is important because galaxies do not evolve alone. In the nearby Universe, we know that galaxies living in crowded environments often look different from galaxies in quieter regions.

Galaxies inside large clusters tend to be more massive, more evolved, and less active in forming new stars. This is known as an environmental effect. It means that the growth of a galaxy depends not only on its own mass and internal properties, but also on where it lives.

For a long time, astronomers have wanted to know when this environmental influence began. Did it start only after galaxy clusters became mature, or was it already present when the Universe was still very young?

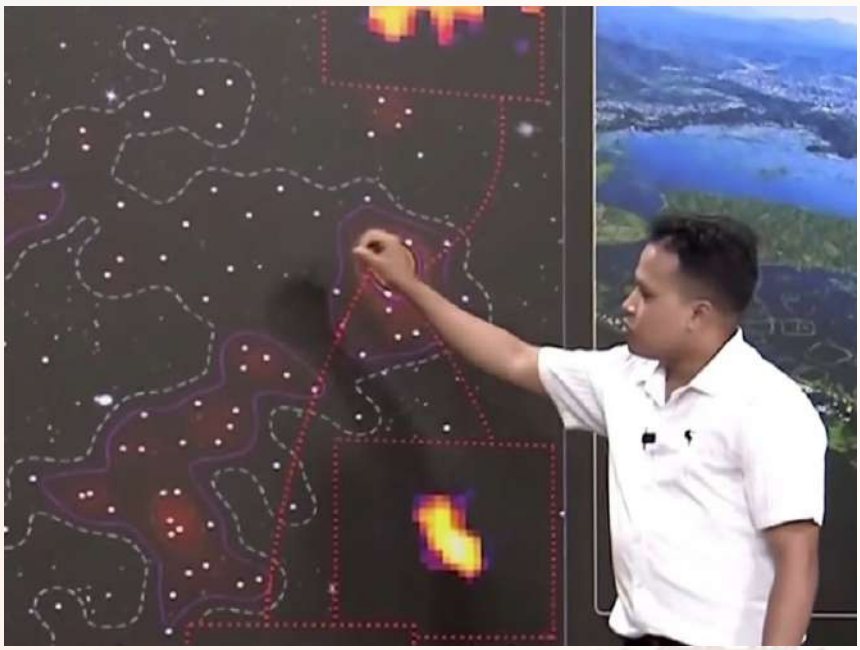
The Loktak Protocluster gives us an important clue.

Our team used the Subaru Telescope's wide-field camera to search for young star-forming galaxies known as Lyman-alpha emitters. These galaxies emit a special kind of light from hydrogen gas, which helps astronomers trace

structures in the distant Universe. By mapping many such galaxies, we identified a region where galaxies were strongly concentrated. This concentration showed that a large cosmic structure was already forming when the Universe was only about 1.2 billion years old.

The structure was then studied in more detail using images from the James Webb Space Telescope, often known as JWST. This telescope is especially powerful for studying the early Universe because light from distant galaxies is stretched to longer wavelengths as the Universe expands.

Light that was originally emitted as visible light reaches us today as infrared light. JWST allows us to study this ancient light with remarkable sensitivity and detail.



What we found was that galaxies inside the dense regions of the Loktak Protocluster were already growing differently from galaxies in less crowded environments at the same cosmic time. In ultraviolet light, which traces young stars and active star-forming regions, galaxies in dense and average environments looked broadly similar in size. But in optical light, which traces the wider distribution of previously formed stars, galaxies in the protocluster were larger. On average, they were about 1.4 times larger than similar galaxies in more typical environments.

This result suggests that the star-forming cores of galaxies may have been similar, but the overall stellar structures of galaxies in dense environments had already grown more extended. In simple terms, where a galaxy lived was already affecting how it grew, even when the Universe was very young.

Scientifically, this is the most important message of the discovery. It provides observational evidence that dense environments were already influencing galaxy growth 12.6 billion years ago.

This helps us understand how the cosmic structures we see today began to take shape and how galaxies were shaped not only by their own internal processes, but also by their surroundings.

The name "Loktak Protocluster" came from a deeply personal and cultural place. Loktak Lake is one of the most meaningful symbols of Manipur. It is often described as the lifeline of the state because of the way it supports ecology, livelihood, identity, and memory. For generations, Loktak has been connected to the lives of people around it. It is a lake of beauty, but also of survival, history, and belonging.

For many of us from Manipur, Loktak is not only a geographical landmark. It is part of who we are. It represents home. It represents the landscape we carry in our memories even when we live far away. Naming the

distant galaxy structure after Loktak Lake was my way of placing a part of Manipur into the permanent record of astronomy.

There is also a visual connection between the protocluster and Loktak Lake. The protocluster contains several galaxy concentrations connected as part of one larger system, which can be compared with the way different parts of Loktak's floating landscape belong to one connected lake.

But for me, that was not the main reason. The deeper reason was what Loktak represents for Manipur. It is a symbol, a lifeline, and a shared memory of our people.

Scientific discoveries become part of humanity's long-term archive of knowledge. Once a name enters scientific literature, it can remain there for generations. Long after we are gone, the name Loktak Protocluster will continue to appear in astronomical papers, databases, archives, and discussions about the early Universe.

In that way, a name from Manipur now belongs to a structure seen 12.6 billion years in the past.

A lake from our homeland is connected with galaxies whose light began travelling before the Earth existed. To me, that connection is deeply meaningful.

This does not mean that a name alone is the science. The science comes from careful observation, analysis, collaboration, and evidence. But names matter because they carry memory. They remind us that science is done by people, and people come from places, cultures, histories, and communities. A discovery made through international collaboration can still carry the identity of a small place with great meaning.

The Loktak Protocluster is also a story of collaboration. It involved observations from some of the world's most advanced telescopes and the work of researchers across countries and institutions.

The Subaru Telescope, operated by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, provided the wide-field view needed to identify the structure. The James Webb Space Telescope then allowed us to study the galaxies in greater detail. Modern astronomy depends on this kind of cooperation, where people, instruments, and ideas come together across borders.

For me, this story also reflects the value of education and opportunity. Coming from Manipur, I know what it means to begin far from many of the world's major centres of astronomy. Like many students from the state, I did not grow up surrounded by large observatories or direct access to research institutions. The night sky above Manipur is the same sky studied from observatories in Hawaii, Japan, Europe, and elsewhere. The difference often lies in access, guidance, opportunity, and encouragement.

That is why I hope this discovery can speak to young students from Manipur. Science should not feel distant from them. Astronomy is not only for people born near famous universities or major research centres. It is for anyone who is curious enough to ask questions and patient enough to keep searching for answers.

This belief is also one of the reasons I have remained connected to science outreach in Manipur, including through the Manipur Astronomical Society, MitSna, OviEdu etc. Discoveries should not remain only inside journals or observatories. They should reach students, classrooms, and communities, especially in places where many young people may not yet see science as something close to their own lives.

A student from Imphal, Thoubal, Bishnupur, Ukhrul, Churachandpur, Senapati, Tamenglong, Chandel, Kakching, Jiribam, Kangpokpi, or any other part of Manipur can contribute to science.

What matters is not where the journey begins, but whether one continues with discipline, honesty, and courage.

This is especially important for young people from places that may feel far from the usual centres of opportunity. Many students have talent, but they may not always see a clear path. They may not know whom to ask, where to begin, or whether their dreams are realistic. I understand that feeling.

But I also know that small beginnings can grow into unexpected journeys when curiosity is supported by hard work, mentorship, and perseverance.

Whatever journey I have been able to make was never mine alone. I remain deeply indebted to my family, especially my parents and elder siblings, whose sacrifices, guidance, and support allowed me to continue my education. I am also grateful to my teachers, mentors, friends, and many well-wishers who encouraged me at different stages of life. Their support gave me the strength to keep learning, even when the path ahead was not always clear.

The story of the Loktak Protocluster reminds us that local identity and global science can stand together. We do not need to leave behind who we are in order to contribute to the world. Our roots can travel with us. Our landscapes, memories, languages, and cultural symbols can become part of how we see and interpret the Universe.

As India continues to grow in science, technology, and education, it is important that young people from every region feel included in that journey. The future of science should not belong only to large cities or established institutions. It should also belong to students in smaller towns, hill districts, rural areas, and communities that have often been far from scientific infrastructure. Talent exists everywhere. What is needed is encouragement, mentorship, access, and opportunity.

The Loktak Protocluster discovery is not the end of the story. Further observations and analyses with the Subaru Telescope, HST, JWST, and other advanced facilities will help us understand more about the galaxies in this protocluster. We still need to learn how these galaxies formed stars, how they interacted with one another, and how such structures eventually evolved into the massive galaxy clusters seen in the present-day Universe. Science always moves forward through new questions.

But even at this stage, the discovery carries an important message. It tells us that where a galaxy lives can shape how it grows. It also tells us that where a person comes from does not determine how far their curiosity can reach.

For me, naming this discovery after Loktak Lake was a way of honouring Manipur and sharing a part of home with the world. The Universe is vast, but our connection to it can begin from familiar places: a lake, a village, a night sky, a question asked in childhood, or a dream quietly carried forward.

The Loktak Protocluster lies billions of light years away in the distant Universe, but its name begins here, in Manipur. Through it, Loktak Lake becomes part of a cosmic story, and Manipur finds a place in the permanent record of astronomy.

That, to me, is the most meaningful part of this discovery.

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# HISTORICAL CONTINUITY AND THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

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The history of Manipur is not merely a record of the past, but a strong foundation of identity, ethnicity, multicultural heritage, and a profound sense of integrity. At the heart of this glorious legacy lies the sacrifice and blood of nationalist heroes, whose enduring voice emerged from ancient times and continued into the early twentieth century as a sophisticated, well-planned, and united response against foreign invaders, colonial rulers, and all attempts to distort the historical heritage of our land.

Throughout the period of monarchical rule in Manipur, most of the rulers proclaimed to the people of the subcontinent that they governed Kangleipak (Manipur) for the welfare of the Manipuri people. They regarded themselves as faithful trustees of the kingdom and believed that it was their sacred and holistic duty to perform their divine responsibility by ruling Manipur with justice and wisdom. The undeniable fact, however, is that the colonial administrators governed Manipur primarily for the interests of the British Empire. While the monarchs and kings largely maintained the unity of Manipur with comparatively little hostility among its various ethnic communities, the colonial administration established a centralized political system and institutions on our soil that served imperial interests rather than those of the native population.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, anti-colonial sentiments undoubtedly began to emerge in different parts of Manipur and were heroically expressed during several movements, including the struggles of the Manipuri women, various tribal uprisings, and later the Naga rebellion. Most of these protests, however, were driven more by the economic and social injustices suffered by the people at the hands of British officials than by an organized sense of political nationalism, although they gradually contributed to the awakening of patriotic consciousness.

The impact of the liberation movement against the Burmese, led by Maharaj Gambhir Singh, marked a significant advancement in the history of Manipuri nationalism. This development was partly inspired by the teachings of ancient traditions and legends that had flourished during the pre-colonial period. A stable and popular government was

not established in a single step following the devastation of the Seven Years Devastation. With the assistance of British military support, Maharaj Gambhir Singh's Manipur Levy entered Kangla without encountering any opposition on 12th June 1825, as the Burmese forces had reportedly abandoned Kangla on the previous day after suffering considerable setbacks. Following his arrival at Sangaithel, Maharaj Gambhir Singh entrusted the administration of the State of Manipur to Senapati Nara Singh before departing for Cachar on 28th June 1825 to recruit additional soldiers and procure ammunition.

Before the British came to Manipur, there appears to have been only minor conflicts between the people of the valley and those of the surrounding hills and plains. For the most part, however, they lived together peacefully and harmoniously. It is true that there were occasional wars between the valley and the hill communities, but these were not wars of religion. Rather, they were traditional tribal conflicts arising from political disputes, territorial ambitions, or the desire of kings to expand their domains and gain control over land and natural resources. It is unfortunate that some of the early rulers of our land became opportunistic and excessively self-interested, allowing themselves to be influenced and manipulated by the colonial authorities. As a result, the colonial rulers were able to deceive, divide, and exploit the entire native kingdom for their own political and economic interests.

In the words of Professor Gangmumei Kamei, Maharaj Bhagyachandra displayed exceptional vigour and remarkable competence in restoring the Manipuri kingdom and strengthening the institution of monarchy. Under his leadership, the kingdom once again attained a position of political stability and military strength. He ordered the destruction of all the remaining symbols and relics of the Burmese conquest, including the victory memorial erected at Thangapat to commemorate the conquest of Manipur. In 1760 A.D., he commissioned a team of astrologers and scholars under the supervision of Maniram and Sidananda to prepare a new calendar based on a distinct era known as Kangleipak Sak, which was calculated to have begun 971 years before 1760 A.D. This chronological era later came to be known as the Manipur Sakabda (Manipur Era) and continued to be used during the reign of Maharaj Gambhir Singh, reflecting the kingdom's determination to preserve its cultural identity and historical continuity.

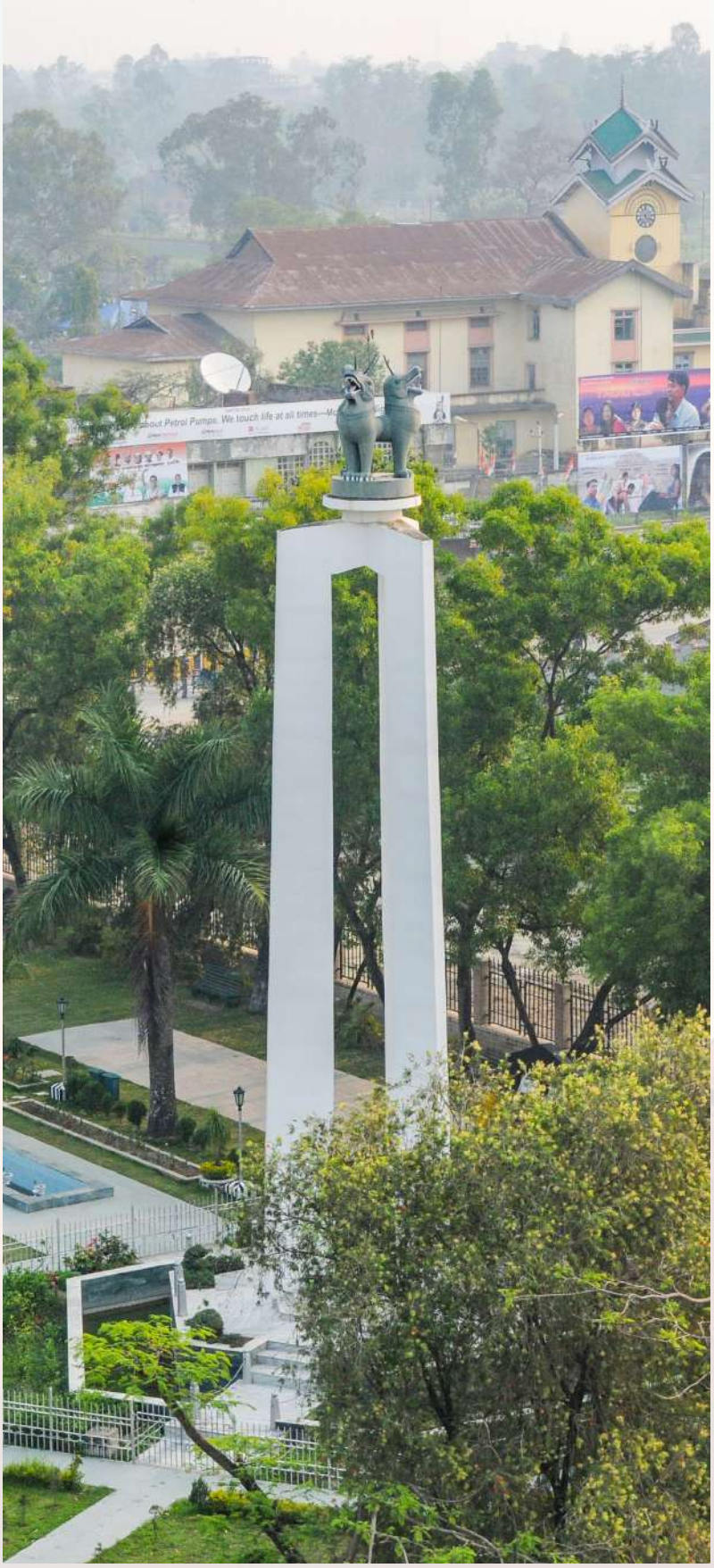
The present Western world appears to be facing a profound sense of uncertainty and instability. From global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, demonetization, globalization, conflicts and ethnic wars in different parts of the world, humanity continues to move from one crisis to another with an uncertain destination. In such circumstances, the principles of "Moral Nationalism" often appear to be weakened, leaving many people with the fear that the finest days of our past are already behind us. The enduring nationalism that inspired the freedom struggle of our forefathers reminds us that the ultimate reward of rediscovering freedom lies in self-knowledge, self-reliance, and collective responsibility. Equally encouraging is the realization that these ideals can also contribute to the revitalization of society through the reconstruction of moral values and the empowerment of women. History has demonstrated that such transformations are indeed possible. We can face the future with confidence and hope only if we possess a genuine spirit of self-sacrifice for a noble and truthful cause. For non-violence to succeed as an instrument of nationalist struggle, it presupposes a considerable degree of tolerance, benevolence, and responsiveness to higher moral values on the part of both the people and the adversary against whom it is employed.

Yet, nostalgia for ethnic identity, reflected in what may be described as **Self-Made Nationalist History (SMNH)**, continues to remain politically significant in the post-colonial era. This is partly because such narratives are often **artificially constructed** and, at times, may develop into forms of **narcissistic or exclusionary nationalism**. Consequently, they must be examined honestly and critically for historical inaccuracies through the responsible use of digital archives and documented historical evidence. At the same time, the continuing remembrance of the freedom movement and the sacrifices of our past leaders should not be neglected. The memory of past struggles—even the memory of war—helps societies understand what they have endured, who they are, and where they belong. It strengthens the collective consciousness of a people and reinforces their connection to the history, culture, and identity of their homeland.

The current usage of the concepts of nationalism and culture in Manipur has, in many respects, acquired certain undesirable manifestations. Such tendencies have become increasingly prevalent in the region today. During the period of the freedom struggle, the highest ideals of patriotism were exemplified by great national heroes such as Tikendrajit, Thangal General, and Paona Brajabashi. For all of them, ancient Manipur was regarded as a self-contained and sovereign kingdom, united under a common political and cultural identity. They envisioned Manipur as a great and integrated realm in which the hills and the valleys existed in harmony and mutual cooperation. However, with the passage of time, that historic unity has gradually diminished, resulting in social and political divisions that have brought considerable degradation to the land. It therefore became the sacred duty of the nationalist heroes to revive and preserve the spirit of unity among all the people of Manipur.

The **more extreme** or **hybrid** forms of nationalism, however, often propagated the belief that the freedom movement would remain incomplete without the existence of an identifiable enemy, particularly in the form of communal divisions. Ethno-communalism is not self-sustaining; rather, it continually seeks an external or internal adversary to justify its existence. In contrast, one of the most distinctive characteristics of the nationalist movement in ancient Manipur was its spirit of positive tolerance and mutual respect. People were free to practise their own customs and traditions, including their styles of dress, music, manners, religious worship, and food habits, while remaining united by a common sense of belonging. Furthermore, the countless people throughout the State who continue to honour and revere great leaders such as Rani Gaidinliu and Hijam Irabot Singh serve as a reminder that the struggle of the native Manipuri people was never directed against any particular community or culture. Rather, it was fundamentally a struggle against imperialism, colonial domination, and the racial discrimination imposed by foreign rulers. Their sacrifices continue to symbolize the enduring values of freedom, justice, equality, and the collective dignity of the people of Manipur.

**Who is a true patriot,** and **who were the greatest heroes of nationalism? Do we become anti-national** if we critically examine the achievements and shortcomings of both the past and the present? These are important questions that deserve thoughtful reflection. As we understand it today, the ideals of freedom and the sacrifices of its brave heroes first became deeply rooted in this land more than a thousand years ago. Since then, the spirit of freedom has



remained one of the strongest driving forces in the social, cultural, religious, and political life of the people. The anti-colonial and anti-imperial movements not only demonstrated extraordinary courage and determination but also revealed the enduring importance of justice, equality, and human dignity. Today, the latest advances in artificial intelligence, **when combined with digital technology and the wisdom accumulated over millennia, have the potential to transform our lives** by preserving and presenting history in more authentic and accessible ways. Such technological developments should serve to strengthen historical understanding rather than create artificial or distorted narratives that misrepresent our collective past. A truthful and well-documented history can free society from misunderstanding, unnecessary conflict, and the growing pressures of an increasingly stressful, divided, and chaotic world.

In this context, the sacrifices made by our brave heroes trace the growth and development of cultural and national consciousness through its various stages of evolution. They represent the ideals of liberal thought, tolerance, cosmopolitanism, democratic values, and the enduring spirit of unity among the people. The teachings and contributions of some of our greatest thinkers and leaders—including Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rabindranath Tagore, Tikendrajit, Rani Gaidinliu, Hijam Irabot Singh, Maharaj Gambhir Singh, and many others—continue to remind us of the true meaning of patriotism. Their lives inspire us to uphold moral and ethical values, cherish freedom with responsibility, and strive to establish a harmonious, inclusive, and just society. Such ideals remain essential for building a strong nation founded upon mutual respect, unity, integrity, and the collective welfare of all its people.

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# SPORTS, A POWERFUL UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

*Wangkheimayum Bhupendra Singh,*
*District Information Officer*

India's National Sports Day celebrated every year on August 29-held to commemorate hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand carries profound weight in Manipur, a region widely recognized as the powerhouse of Indian sports.

Manipur Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, Shri Govindas Konthoujam, emphasized that the occasion serves as a vital platform for leaders and citizens to advocate for communal harmony.

He described sports as a powerful universal language capable of bridging cultural divides, fostering mutual respect, and driving societal healing.

Ultimately, the Minister emphasized that sports remain a critical tool for building lasting peace and positively channeling the energy of the state's youth.

Sports are an absolute way of life in Manipur, far transcending leisure or career paths, according to Shri Govindas.

Speaking on the state's athletic achievements, the Minister highlighted that Manipuri athletes have shown unparalleled resilience, consistently winning medals in national and international competitions despite facing numerous challenges.

Manipur has already produced 19 Olympians and numerous Arjuna and Khel Ratna awardees.

"The success of our athletes and footballers from all communities makes our whole state proud, not just one group," Govindas stated.

He added that through true grit, local athletes have repeatedly validated Manipur's status as the country's definitive sporting powerhouse.

Shri Govindas expressed immense pride in Manipur's athletic prowess, highlighting that weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu along with Assam's boxer Lovlina Borgohain is leading the Indian contingent as flag and baton bearers at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.

Eleven athletes from Manipur are representing the nation among the 122 athletes Indian contingent, with several already securing historic podium finishes. Foremost among them is superstar weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who clinched India's first gold medal of the 2026 Games, sealing a remarkable golden hat-trick following her consecutive titles in 2018 and 2022.

The Minister also lauded weightlifters Chanambam Rishikanta Singh and Sorokhaibam Bindyarani Devi for their stellar, medal-winning performances.

Turning his attention to local developments, Shri Govindas—a staunch advocate for grassroots sports—celebrated the success of the inaugural Bishnupur District Olympic Games and noted that Imphal is currently co-hosting the prestigious 135th Indian Oil Durand Cup, which recently drew massive crowds to the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium for a highly anticipated derby between local rivals TRAU FC and NEROCA FC

Furthermore, Shri Govindas outlined several government welfare schemes for state athletes, including the infrastructure-focused Khelo India grassroots initiative. Highlighting the State's robust support system for athletes, he pointed out that the government ensures incentives and awards, including job reservation for meritorious sport person.

Expressing optimism about the state's rising pool of sporting talent, Shri Govindas emphasized the critical need for community backing. He urged parents, local clubs, and sports enthusiasts to actively support young local athletes. This collective encouragement, combined with the athletes' relentless hard work and dedication, is essential not only for winning medals and building careers but also for fostering a healthier, more disciplined society, he concluded.

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*Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam taking the salute from marching contingents during the Opening Ceremony of Bishnupur District Olympic Games 2026.*

# SPORTS IN MANIPUR

## India's Emerging Sports Capital

*Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh, MCS*
*Director, Youth Affairs & Sports,*
*Government of Manipur*

## Introduction

Manipur has earned a distinguished place in India's sporting history through its remarkable contribution to national and international sports. Despite its modest geographical size and population, the State has consistently produced world-class athletes who have excelled in prestigious competitions such as the Olympic Games, World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and numerous international tournaments. This outstanding performance is not a coincidence but the outcome of a deeply rooted sporting culture, a disciplined and resilient youth population, and sustained efforts by the Government to nurture talent. Today, Manipur stands at the threshold of a new era where sports are being recognised not only as a means of achieving competitive excellence but also as a powerful driver of economic growth, tourism, employment, youth empowerment and international collaboration. Guided by an ambitious Vision 2030, the State is determined to transform itself into the Sports Capital of India while creating opportunities for investment and innovation across the entire sports ecosystem.

## A Legacy of Sporting Excellence

Sport occupies a unique place in the social and cultural life of Manipur. The State possesses one of the richest sporting traditions in the country, where physical fitness, discipline and competitive spirit have long been integral to community life. Traditional games such as *Sagol Kangjei*, recognised as the origin of modern Polo, along with indigenous disciplines like *Thang-Ta, Mukna, Yubi Lakpi* and *Hiyang Tannaba*, have shaped generations of young people by instilling values of courage, teamwork and perseverance. These traditional sporting practices have naturally evolved into excellence in modern disciplines including Boxing, Weightlifting, Football, Hockey, Judo, Wushu, Taekwondo, Athletics and Fencing. This remarkable continuity between tradition and modern sport has enabled Manipur to emerge as one of the most productive sporting regions in India.

## A State that Produces Champions

Manipuri athletes have consistently represented the nation with distinction, often outperforming competitors from much larger States. Their achievements are testimony to the State's strong grassroots sporting

culture, dedicated coaching ecosystem and the unwavering commitment of athletes and their families. Equally significant is the active participation of women in sports, which has made Manipur a national model for gender inclusion in athletics. The success of these athletes has inspired generations of young sportspersons and strengthened the State's identity as India's powerhouse of sporting talent.

## Building on the Legacy of the Fifth National Games

The successful hosting of the Fifth National Games in 1999 marked a defining milestone in the sporting development of Manipur. The event led to the creation of modern sports infrastructure that continues to serve athletes across multiple disciplines. It also represented a historic moment for Indian sports with the introduction of women's boxing in the National Games, paving the way for India's subsequent emergence as a global force in the discipline. The infrastructure and institutional capacity developed during the Games laid the foundation for the State's continued success in hosting major sporting events and nurturing elite athletes. Today, these facilities remain vital assets that support training, competition and talent development throughout the State.

## An Expanding Sports Infrastructure

Manipur today possesses one of the most comprehensive sports infrastructure networks in the North Eastern Region. Over the years, substantial investments have been made in the establishment of multipurpose indoor stadiums, athletics facilities, football grounds, hockey stadiums, cycling tracks, boxing halls, weightlifting centres, residential sports hostels and specialised training facilities. These institutions provide athletes with opportunities to train under structured programmes while creating the capacity to host national championships, coaching camps and international competitions. The availability of quality infrastructure, coupled with a vibrant sporting culture, positions Manipur as one of India's most promising destinations for sports development and high-performance training.

## Emerging as a Destination for National and International Sporting Events

Manipur possesses all the essential ingredients required to host major sporting events. Modern infrastructure, experienced sports administrators, trained volunteers, improving transport connectivity and expanding hospitality facilities together create an enabling environment for organising national and international competitions. The State's pleasant climate and enthusiastic sporting community further enhance its attractiveness as a venue for tournaments, coaching camps and sports festivals. Increased hosting of such events will not only maximise the utilisation of existing infrastructure but will also generate employment, stimulate local businesses and promote Manipur as a leading destination for sports tourism.

## Vision 2030: Transforming Manipur into India's Sports Capital

The Government's Vision 2030 envisages the transformation of Manipur into the Sports Capital of India. The vision proposes the establishment of ten state-of-the-art sports hubs, a Sports Science Centre of Excellence, an Olympic Training Centre, the One Village–One Playground initiative, annual Polo Heritage Festivals, Martial Arts Meets, Polo Breeding Centres and Traditional Sports Villages, Parks and Museums. It also aims to skill one lakh youth in sports and wellness, thereby linking sports with employment generation and entrepreneurship. This integrated vision seeks to position Manipur as a globally recognised centre for athlete development, sports innovation and cultural heritage.

## A Partnership for the Future

The transformation of Manipur into the Sports Capital of India requires a collaborative partnership among government institutions, private investors, corporate organisations, sports federations, educational institutions, research organisations, technology companies, and international development agencies. Investment in sports extends far beyond the construction of stadiums and training facilities; it represents an investment in youth development, public health, education, social inclusion, gender empowerment, innovation, tourism, and national pride. Every sports academy established, every athlete supported, every technological innovation introduced, and every infrastructure project completed contributes towards building a stronger and more competitive sporting nation. The Government of Manipur therefore extends an open invitation to all stakeholders to participate in this transformative journey and jointly create an ecosystem where talent is identified early, nurtured scientifically, celebrated internationally, and translated into sporting excellence that inspires future generations.

## Conclusion

Manipur has already demonstrated its extraordinary ability to produce world-class athletes who have consistently brought honour to India on the global sporting stage. Guided by Vision 2030, the State seeks to establish an integrated sports ecosystem that combines its rich cultural heritage with modern infrastructure, scientific innovation, sustainable economic development, and strategic public-private partnerships. As India aspires to emerge as a global sporting nation, Manipur stands ready to lead this transformation by serving as a model of excellence where sporting talent, technological innovation, cultural heritage, and investment converge to shape the future of Indian sports.

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# Artificial Intelligence and Governance

## Building an Inclusive, Ethical and Future-Ready Manipur

*Haobam Joyremba*
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As India celebrates Independence Day, we remember the extraordinary courage, sacrifice and determination that secured our political freedom. Independence, however, is not only about freedom from colonial rule. It is also about the continuing responsibility to build a nation in which every citizen can live with dignity, participate in development and access public services without discrimination.

In the twenty-first century, technology has become an important instrument for advancing this freedom. India's digital transformation has already changed the way citizens communicate, make payments, access information and interact with the government. The next phase of this transformation will be driven significantly by Artificial Intelligence, or AI.

Artificial Intelligence refers to computer systems capable of analysing information, learning from data, identifying patterns and assisting people in making decisions. AI is already being used to detect diseases, forecast weather, translate languages, improve agricultural productivity, prevent financial fraud and personalise education.

However, the true value of AI will not be measured by the sophistication of machines. It will be measured by the number of human lives it improves. For a geographically diverse and developing state such as Manipur, AI presents an opportunity to make

governance more accessible, transparent, efficient and responsive.

## From Digital Governance to Intelligent Governance

India has made remarkable progress in digital governance through initiatives such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface, DigiLocker, Direct Benefit Transfer and online citizen-service platforms. These systems have reduced paperwork, improved transparency and enabled public services to reach citizens more directly.

Traditional e-governance converts physical processes into digital services. AI-enabled governance goes a step further. It can analyse large volumes of information, identify delays, detect unusual patterns, forecast future requirements and support better administrative decisions.

For example, an online portal may allow a citizen to apply for a government certificate. An AI-supported system can guide the applicant in completing the form, undertake preliminary document scrutiny, identify missing information and alert officers whenever a service exceeds the prescribed delivery timeline.

AI can also help government departments understand where applications are frequently delayed, which services are in greater demand and which regions require additional administrative support. This does not mean replacing government officers with machines. Governance requires empathy, experience, legal accountability and an understanding of local realities. AI must support human decision-making, not substitute human responsibility.

## Manipur's Emerging Digital Ecosystem

Manipur has steadily developed the institutional and physical foundations required for digital growth. The Department of Information Technology, Government of Manipur, has played an important role in promoting e-governance, digital infrastructure, innovation, entrepreneurship and technology-enabled public services.

The establishment of the Information Technology Park at Mantripukhri has created an important platform for technology enterprises and professionals to operate from within the state. It has demonstrated that sophisticated digital solutions can be designed and delivered from Manipur instead of depending entirely on organisations located outside the region.

The development of the IT Special Economic Zone is another important step towards positioning Manipur as an emerging destination for software development, technology investment, business-process services and digital entrepreneurship. With reliable connectivity, suitable infrastructure, supportive policies and

active industry participation, the IT Park and IT SEZ can create employment opportunities and encourage qualified young people to build careers within the state.

Manipur has no shortage of talented young people. What they require are opportunities, infrastructure, mentoring and institutional support. The future growth of the state's digital economy will depend on connecting initiatives such as the IT Park, IT SEZ etc with schools, colleges, universities, start-ups and local industries.

## Locally grown IT companies and Manipur's Digital Transformation

The contribution of locally established technology companies must also be acknowledged in Manipur's digital journey. One such organization, CubeTen Technologies Private Limited, has emerged as one of the important technology enterprises operating from the state amongst others which are empanelled by Government of Manipur.

CubeTen was among the early companies empanelled, for the development and implementation of IT and e-governance solutions. Over the years, it has contributed to shaping Manipur's digital landscape by conceptualising, developing and implementing technology platforms for government departments and public institutions.

Its work has covered citizen-service delivery, online application systems, government process automation, management information systems, digital repositories, environmental monitoring, dashboards, ticketing platforms and other technology-enabled services.

These interventions have helped demonstrate that complex government applications can be developed, implemented and supported by a company based in Manipur. A locally rooted technology organisation understands the state's administrative conditions, connectivity challenges, linguistic requirements and the practical difficulties faced by citizens in both the valley and hill districts.

The empanelment and recognition of qualified Manipur-based technology companies should therefore not be seen merely as procurement decisions. They are investments in local intellectual capital, employment, innovation and digital self-reliance.

## Taking Manipur's Perspective to the United Nations

As the Managing Director of CubeTen Technologies and a professional engaged in technology and governance, I have had the privilege of participating in discussions and engagements connected with United Nations platforms in Geneva, Vienna and Bangkok.

These international engagements provided me with an opportunity to present perspectives shaped by the realities of developing countries and regions such as Manipur. Developing nations and smaller regions must have an equal voice in deciding how AI is designed, governed and deployed. Their priorities are often different. The real questions are whether AI can improve agriculture, make healthcare more affordable, expand access to education, reduce difficulties in obtaining government services and support communities in their own languages.

Among the issues I have emphasised are AI for Good, AI for All, ethical AI, data sovereignty and AI for good governance. These principles are deeply interconnected.

### AI for Good

AI for Good means directing technology towards solving genuine human and social problems. AI should not be developed merely because it is technically possible or commercially profitable. Its development should contribute to better health, education, agriculture, environmental protection, disaster management and public service delivery.

For Manipur, AI for Good could mean helping farmers detect crop diseases, assisting healthcare workers in remote areas, supporting teachers with digital learning resources, monitoring environmental changes or enabling citizens to access government services without travelling long distances.

Technology becomes meaningful only when it addresses the actual needs of people.

### AI for All

AI for All means that the benefits of Artificial Intelligence must not remain limited to wealthy countries, large cities, major companies or citizens who speak globally dominant languages. AI must be accessible to rural populations, women, young people, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and economically disadvantaged communities.

In Manipur, inclusion also has a linguistic dimension. If AI-enabled government services function only in English or Hindi, many citizens may be excluded. Public AI systems should support Manipuri and, gradually, other languages spoken by the different communities of the state.

### Ethical AI

AI is powerful, but it is not automatically fair, neutral or accurate. An AI system learns from data. If the data is incomplete, biased or unrepresentative, its recommendations may also be inaccurate or discriminatory.

Ethical AI requires fairness, transparency, accountability, privacy and human oversight. Citizens should know when AI has been used in a decision that affects them. They should also have the right to seek an explanation, request human review and appeal against an incorrect outcome.

Government officers must not accept AI-generated results blindly. AI can produce answers that appear confident but may still be wrong. Human judgment, verification and accountability must remain central to every important administrative decision.

## Data Sovereignty

Data sovereignty is one of the most important issues in the age of Artificial Intelligence. Data has become a strategic resource. Government records, health information, agricultural data, educational records and the personal information of citizens must be treated with the highest level of responsibility.

Data sovereignty means that a country or state should retain appropriate control over its important data and ensure that it is stored, processed and used according to applicable laws and public interest. Sensitive government information should not be transferred or exposed without proper safeguards.

For Manipur, this means strengthening the State Data Centre, adopting clear data-classification standards, implementing strong cybersecurity measures and ensuring that government departments understand where their data is stored and how it is processed.

## AI for Good Governance

AI can support good governance by improving efficiency, transparency, accountability and responsiveness. It can help departments monitor project progress, analyse expenditure, study grievance patterns and identify schemes that may not be reaching their intended beneficiaries.

AI-supported dashboards can provide senior officers with a clearer picture of service delivery across districts. Predictive systems can help governments plan medicine requirements, prepare for floods and landslides, manage traffic and allocate resources more effectively.

My participation in United Nations discussions strengthened my belief that Manipur should not consider itself to be on the periphery of the global technological revolution. Many issues being debated internationally—digital inequality, data sovereignty, language inclusion, ethical AI and responsible innovation—are directly relevant to our state.

Solutions developed successfully in Manipur may eventually serve as models for other developing, diverse and geographically challenging regions.

## Practical Opportunities for Manipur

AI can be applied across several priority sectors in Manipur. Platforms such as e-Seba Manipur are already making public services more accessible. AI can strengthen such platforms through multilingual virtual assistance, intelligent document scrutiny, automated grievance routing and service-delivery analytics.

In agriculture, farmers could upload photographs of affected crops and receive an initial assessment of possible diseases. Weather information, satellite images and agricultural records could provide location-specific guidance on sowing, irrigation and pest management.

These systems must be trained using data collected from Manipur. A model developed for another region may not correctly understand the crops, diseases and climatic conditions of the state. This creates an opportunity to develop Small Language Models and sector-specific AI systems that are affordable, efficient and locally relevant.

In healthcare, AI can assist medical professionals in interpreting diagnostic reports, identifying high-risk patients and detecting diseases at an early stage. Telemedicine platforms can extend preliminary assistance to districts where specialist facilities are limited.

In education, AI can provide personalised learning, career guidance and local-language support. It can assist teachers in preparing learning materials and identifying students who require additional attention.

## A Roadmap for an AI-Enabled Manipur

Manipur should develop a practical, inclusive and citizen-focused AI roadmap. It should begin with high-impact areas such as agriculture, healthcare, education, citizen services, environmental monitoring and disaster management.

Government departments must improve the quality of their data and create secure frameworks for responsible data sharing. Small pilot projects should be tested and independently evaluated before large-scale implementation.

The IT Park and IT SEZ should be strengthened as centres for investment, innovation and employment. Local universities, start-ups and empanelled technology companies should be encouraged to collaborate in developing solutions for the state.

Capacity building is equally important. Civil servants, teachers, healthcare professionals, police personnel and local representatives must understand both the potential and limitations of AI.

Every government AI project should be guided by clear principles: inclusion, transparency, accountability, privacy, security, local relevance and human dignity.

## Technology in the Service of Freedom

On Independence Day, we celebrate not only the freedom India achieved in 1947 but also the nation we continue to build. In the digital age, freedom must also mean freedom from exclusion, unnecessary administrative difficulties, lack of information and unequal access to opportunities.

For Manipur, AI offers an opportunity to overcome geographical barriers, improve public services, strengthen institutions and create meaningful opportunities for young people. The foundations created by the Department of Information Technology, the IT Park, the IT SEZ and various e-governance initiatives provide a platform upon which this future can be built.

The experience of CubeTen Technologies demonstrates that Manipur possesses the talent and capability to develop its own digital solutions. The state must not remain merely a consumer of technologies created elsewhere. It should become a creator of locally relevant applications and an active participant in shaping India's AI journey.

If AI helps a farmer protect a crop, enables a patient to receive timely medical attention, allows a student in a remote village to access quality education or saves a citizen from repeated visits to a government office, it becomes more than a technological achievement. It becomes an instrument of empowerment.

The true measure of intelligent governance will not be the sophistication of its machines, but the number of lives it improves. That should be our vision for an ethical, inclusive and AI-enabled Manipur—and for a stronger, more self-reliant India.

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# TRIPURA AND MANIPUR

## Two Ancient Friendly States

*Langoljam Birmangal Singha*
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Tripura and Manipur both were once ruled by the kings. In ancient texts, Tripura was named as Takhel by Manipuris while Manipur was known as Mekhli to the people of Tripura. Manipur has its own historical records called *Cheitharol Kumbaba* just like Tripura has its own Royal Chronicles named *Rajmala*. According to *Cheitharol Kumbaba a* total of 76 Kings ruled in Manipur from the first king of Manipur Pakhangba ascending the throne in 33 AD to the last King Budha Chandra in 15 October, 1949. According to *Rajmala* total 184 kings ruled in Tripura consecutively. The royal family of Tripura belongs to Lunar dynasty (Chandra Bansha). The deep connection between Tripura and Manipur from time immemorial has been mentioned in ancient manuscripts of Manipur including Cheitharol Kumbaba and *Rajmala* (Tripura). It's believed that King Trilochan , son of King Tripur used to rule in Tripura during the time of Yudhisthira of Mahabharata. He participated in Rajsuya Yajna held by Yudhisthira at Hastinapur as mentioned in *Rajmala*. Trilochan's son Dakshin and his son Taidakshin established nuptial ties with the princess of Mekhli or Manipur *(Sri Rajmala, Pratham Lahar)*

"King Dakshin passed away. He had a son. The son was then crowned and took the name Taidakshin who was peaceful and righteous, intelligent and noble. Ruled over his subjects for a long time. Married the daughter of Mekhli King ".

But there is no mention of these incidents in old manuscripts of Manipur. It's assumed that the word Takhel, the name by which Manipuris call Tripura was originated from the name Taidakshin.

On the other hand, according to an ancient Manipuri text, 'Khamlangba Khunthok' Khamlangba was an influential person during the reign of Manipur's first king Pakhangba. He was a smelter by profession. He happened to visit Tripura in search of iron ore deposits. King Manik Khomba of Tripura was so pleased by the bravery and heroic personality of Khamlangba that he married off his daughter princess Kalika to him. He returned to Manipur with his newlywed bride along with 32 men from Tripura and settled at Kakching, Manipur. But there is no record of such marriage nor was there any king named Manik Khomba in Tripura mentioned in Rajmala. Manikya is the title attributed to the Tripuri kings. The meaning of Manik Khomba is 'the collector or wearer of mani (jewel). It's assumed that Manik Khomba is another version of Manikya, the title of the Tripura kings.

In ancient Manipuri texts like Nongchup Haram Khunthok , Meitei Bamon Khunthoklon, Khetrilon, Lairikyengbamlon, Kumphilon, etc. it's written that people from Tripura came and settled in Manipur at different times. For example, the different clans who migrated from Tripura to Manipur were Takhelchangbam, Tekhellambam, Takhel Ayekpam, Takhel Phourungbakhanbam, Takhel Perekhongbam, Takhel Pungyeibam. Those who arrived Manipur with flower saplings from Tripura (Takhel) has been named as Takhel Lei (Dolon Champa in Bengali and Khumpui in Tripuri). Khumpui is regarded as the state flower of Tripura. The flower is deeply intertwined with the popular traditional folk tales of Tripura.

During the reign of King Lamkyamba (1521-1523 AD ) a pundit named Kabichandra from Tripura was taken to Manipur as depicted in Cheitharol Kumbaba and Lairik Yengbamlon. At that time, a Nawab from Bengal wrote a letter to King Lamkyamba of Manipur in Persian but as nobody knew the language in King's court, he sent for a scholar and scribe Kabichandra from Takhel (Tripura) to read and decipher the foreign text. Kabichandra came to Manipur and decoded the letter but he didn't return to Tripura, rather married a woman named Sabitri from Malem clan and settled at Imphal. His descendants later known as Lairikyengbam Yumlemmayum.

During the reign of King Khagemba (1597-1652AD) in Manipur, Tripura was being ruled by Yashodhar Manikya. Cheitharol Kumbaba mentions about Chanu Yangnu, a Manipuri girl from Akhoijam clan married to Tripuri King and known as Takhel Leima (Queen of Tripura) returned to Tripura.

"The year of Sharangthem Shatok 1531 Shaka era (1609 AD) Takhel Leima Akhoijam Chanu Yangnu returned …"

(Cheitharol Kumbaba, Page 34, 2nd edition, 1989) But there's no historical record in *Rajmala* of King Yashodhar Manikya marrying any woman from Manipur.

King Garib Niwaz (1709-1748 AD) conquered Takhel (Tripura) and was entitled as Takhel ngamba as mentioned in Cheitharol Kumbaba. Kailash Chandra Singha wrote in *Rajmala ba Tripurar Itihas*:-

*"When Dharma Manikya was deeply embroiled into conflicts with Muslims, just then, the Meitei (Manipur) King Pamheiba Garib Niwaz) attacked the North frontier military and extended his kingdom towards the south.The Meiteis were so elated after winning over the Tripuri forces that they spared no effort to show their king respect by bestowing upon him the title 'Takhel Ngamba' to commemorate his conquest." In regard to his glorious triumph a book was written by the Manipuris called 'Takhel Ngamba 'which means Conqueror of Tripura."* (*Rajmala* ba Tripurar Itihas, Page 75 )

Dethroned by his brothers, Garib Niwaz's second son, Ajit Shai (Chit Shai) fled to Tripura and spent a significant period at Kasba along with his pursuivants to seek assistance from King Krishna Manikya (1750-1783 AD) to regain his power in Manipur. Few of his followers settled at Kasba, Nalchhar, Khedabari and Toksha para. At present Manipuri settlement cannot be found in those areas, but there's a large field named Mughli Panthar at Nalchhar. The Manipuris who resided at Kasba later settled at Baidyardighi (Bishalgarh sub-division). Hence, the eastern part of Baidyardighi is still documented as Kasba.

In 1798, King Bhagyachandra stayed for a few days as royal guest at old Agartala on his way to pilgrimage. He married off his daughter and companion, princess Hariseshwari Devi to the King Rajdhar Manikya II of Tripura ( 1784-1806 AD). The king accommodated them by donating land nearby the palace . That

time the Tripuri people used to call Manipuris as Mekhli or Mughli. Later, that area came to be known as Mekhli para.

According to the historical accounts of Tripura Mekhli para was the first settlement of the Manipuris established in Tripura in 1798 and through the marriage between princess Hariseshwari and King Rajdhar Manikya II, the alliance between the two royal families was created. In later years, Tripura kings married many more Manipuri princesses.

The influx of Manipuri people in Tripura increased during the time of 'Chahi Taret Khuntakpa or Seven Years Devastation'. From 1819 to 1826, Manipur was captured by Burma. Persecuted by the Burmese, Manipuris took refuge in adjacent states like Assam, Cachhar, Sylhet and Tripura in large numbers. The Burmese captivated many Manipuri people and forcefully took them to Burma. During these 7 years Manipur became depopulated and turned into a deserted place. This incident is known in Manipur history as 'Chahi Taret Khuntakpa'. Kailash Chandra Singha wrote in his *Rajmala* , Page 100 :-

*"King Kashi Chandra was a pleasure -loving king. During the war, many Manipuris took shelter in the state. Young prince Kashi Chandra was bewitched by the beauty of Manipuri women and married Manipur princess Kutilakshi. In the ensuing years he tied the knots with three more Manipuri women from ordinary families".*

Manipuris settled from Dharmanagar, bordering Assam upto Nalchhar in Sonamura sub-division. Presently Manipuri people are inhabiting in six districts out of the total eight districts.

The Manipuri queens of Tripura played distinctive roles in early Manipuri settlement in Tripura. It's mentioned that the first Manipuri settlement established in Tripura was at Mekhli para through the matrimonial relationship between Manipuri princess Hariseshwari and Tripura King Rajdhar Manikya II. From King Rajdhar Manikya II (1784-1806 AD) to Radha Kishore Manikya (1896-1909), six consecutive kings of Tripura established matrimonial alliances by marrying local and royal Manipuri women. In total there were 17 queens in the royal family of Tripura. The names are given in chronological order :-

1. Rajdhar Manikya (1784-1806 AD) - Queen Hariseshwari Devi

2. Kashi Chandra Manikya (1826-1829 AD) - Queen Kutilakshi Devi. Kailash Chandra mentioned about her as Manipuri princess in *Rajmala* but it couldn't be known which royal family she belonged to. The three more Manipuri women whom Kashi Chandra married they remained unidentified too.

3. Krishna Kishore Manikya (1829-1849 AD) - He married three daughters of King Marjit of Manipur namely, Queen Chandrakala, Queen Akhileshwari, Queen Bidhukala.

4. Ishan Chandra Manikya (1849- 1862 AD)- The three Manipuri women he married were Queen Muktabali, Queen Jatiswari and Queen Chandreswari.

5. Birchandra Manikya (1864-1896 AD) - Queen Bhanumati, Queen Rajeshwari, Queen Manmohini (Tharoleima).

6. Radha Kishore Manikya (1896-1909 AD) - Queen Ratnamanjuri, daughter of Manipuri King Devendrajit, Queen Tulsibati ( local farmer's daughter) and Queen Manmanjuri .

## Queen Hariseshwari

Manipuri Queen Hariseshwari introduced the Manipuri Rasleela in Tripura after constructing the Radhamadhav temple at old Agartala. It's marked as the first ever Manipuri Rasleela held outside Manipur. During the Royal Regime, Rasleela at Radhamadhav temple

used to be organised under the patronage of the Tripura kings. According to the Tripura Merger Agreement it is observed every year by Devarchan Bibhag of Tripura govt. The descendants of king Bhagyachandra still reside at Briddha nagar known as 'Sanakhul' which means 'village of the descendants of the king'.

## Queen Muktavali

Queen Muktavali belonged to the Moirangthem clan of Srimangal, Bangladesh. King Ishan Chandra Manikya of Tripura brought the queen's brother Shobhananda to Tripura and provided him land at Dhaleswar to settle down. His son Moirangthem Babuni was a renowned dance master and sankirtana singer of Tripura. The king had his queen's name inscribed on the coins.

## Queen Bhanumati

Daughter of King Bhagyachandra's descendant, Queen Bhanumati who died at young age, was the chief queen of King Birchandra Manikya. Plunged into deep melancholy at the untimely death of his beloved queen, he wrote a grief- stricken elegy named 'Prem Marichika'. He read Rabindranath Tagore's threnody 'Broken Heart' (Bhagna Hridoy) during his mourning days and related himself with each line of Tagore's poem. He felicitated the young poet by sending his Private Secretary Radharaman Ghose to Kolkata. After this, a deep connection and lifelong friendship grew between Tagore and the Royal family. Prince Samarendra Chandra, son of Bhanumati held the position of Bara Thakur (heir presumptive) during that time. The rank of Bara Thakur was right after Crown Prince or Yuvraj (heir apparent). In absence of him, Bara Thakur Samarendra might ascended the royal throne of Tripura. Naradhwaj (Kokchau Sana), the elder brother of Bhanumati was an influential minister in King Birchandra's court.

## Queen Rajeshwari (Kaboklei)

Queen Rajeshwari, the second wife of King Birchandra Manikya belonged to Panganbam clan of Manipur. After marrying off his daughter, Panganbam Prem Singh Thakur left his native city Sylhet and came to Agartala and the king provided him land to reside at Dhaleswar. He had three sons, Jugal Singha Thakur, Phola Singha Thakur and Rashomon Thakur. Renowned dance masters of Tripura namely Nabakumar, Kumud, Baikuntha and Jogendra Thakur were nephews of Queen Rajeshwari. College tilla at Agartala was owned by Rashomon Thakur and it was formerly known as Rashomon tilla. The area adjacent to Agartala was Jogendra Thakur's estate and thus named Jogendra nagar after him. Mother to King Radha Kishore, queen Rajeshwari introduced Lai Haraoba, a traditional Meitei festival in Tripura in 1897 after constructing the Pakhangba temple.

## Queen Manmohini (Tharo Leima)

Khumanthem Manmohini Devi was the youngest Queen consort of King Birchandra.

He granted an estate at the heart of the city, Banamalipur, in her name. The queen relocated her father Kirtidhwaj along with her brothers from Kasba to Banamalipur. She erected a pavilion as a memorial on her father's tomb. The river Howrah used to flow through the heart of Agartala. Later, the mouth of the river was diverted to the southern part of the city. The memorial pavilion was built on the southern bank of the river beside Assam-Agartala road. This place later named as Math Chowmuhani.

## Queen Ratnamanjuri

After being dethroned, King Devendrajit (Manipur) spent his rest of life residing at Tejgaon village in Dhaka along with his followers. Hence, queen Ratnamanjuri was known as Dhaka Leima (Dhaka queen) to the Manipuris. The Manipuri settlement in Dhaka is still known as Manipuri para. After the marriage of Tripura king Radha Kishore and Queen Ratnamanjuri, Prince Damanjit, Prince Chitra Gupta and along with their brothers shifted from Dhaka to Agartala and settled at Dhaleswar. After the partition of India most Manipuri people moved to Agartala, Dhakabari and Narayankhamar village. The Madanmohan idol worshipped by Manipuris in Dhaka had been transferred to Narayankhamar in 1950s and is still worshipped with great devotion after establishing it in a temple. At present, no Manipuri resides in Manipuri para, Dhaka. Where once there was a settlement, now only the name as its witness.

## Queen Tulsibati

Maharani Tulsibati was a prominent figure among all the Queens of Tripura. By the end of 19th century she established a renowned century old girls' school in 1894 which was named after her as Maharani Tulsibati girls school. It's to be mentioned that every queen spent from the revenues of Taluks. It's amazing that a queen saved from her expenses and used the money for the spread of Women's education a century and quarter ago. She spent for the welfare of the society too. She established a 10 -bedded maternity ward at Victoria Memorial Hospital at Agartala in 1905. Considering the difficulty of the people journeying to Agartala she also introduced a market at Nalgaria which was named as Ranir bazar in her honour. She wasn't institutionally educated but was a patron of literature and culture. She used to write songs spontaneously. A few of Holi songs composed by her became very popular at that time.

There were many Queen consorts who couldn't become Maharanis. Among them Queen consort Purna Kala, wife of king Krishna Kishore and Queen consort Surya Mani, Wife of king Birendra Manikya were significant.

## Queen consort Purna Kala

The name of Queen Purna Kala is lost to history. She played a vital role behind the establishment of new capital at Agartala. She was Queen consort of Krishna Kishore (1830-49 AD) but never could be the Maharani. Kailash Chandra Singha in this regard wrote "King Krishna Kishore was a pleasure-seeker and extravagant king. He was fascinated by his cook (Manipuri Brahman) Purna Kala and married her". (*Rajmala* ba Tripurar Itihas, page 102, Akshar Publication, 4th edition).

But it was not customary for a Kshatriya king to marry a Brahmin woman. So the orthodox Manipuri society didn't approve the marriage. They took it as a bad omen for the king and coincidentally the king died by lightning strike. Despite the refusal of his subjects, the king didn't do injustice to Purna Kala. Though he couldn't take her to the Royal Palace, he built a separate residence for her and her attendants at Dhaleshwar, Agartala. During that time Agartala was a deserted place. Subsequently, other Manipuri people also arrived and settled there. So it can be concluded

that the Manipuris were the first to reside at Dhaleswar, the eastern part of Agartala.

## Queen consort Surya Mani

Queen Surya Mani was the wife of king Birendra Kishore Manikya. He granted her the Suryamani nagar area as Taluk, therefore the area was named after her. A central university has been established there currently.

## Some prominent Manipuri Politicians of Tripura

Although the Manipuri population in Tripura is relatively small, it has played a significant role in the state's political development. Rajkumar Kamaljit Singh was a Member of the Tripura Territorial Council in 1963 and served as a Nominated Member of the Tripura Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1972. Swaraijam Kamini Thakur Singha was elected as a Member of the Tripura Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Khowai Assembly Constituency in 1978. Yelam Birajit Sinha is serving as the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Leader in the Tripura Legislative Assembly. He was elected six times as an MLA from the Kailasahar Assembly Constituency. He also served as a Cabinet Minister and President of the Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee. Dr. (Rajkumar) Prafullajit Sinha became the first Mayor of the Agartala Municipal Corporation when it was established in 2014.

*Yelam Birajit Sinha*

## Manipuri population in Tripura

19,210 Manipuris among 3,82,450 of total population of Tripura recorded according to Tripura State Census Report, 1930 led by Thakur Somendra Chandra Debbarma, MA (Harvard). Manipuris made up approximately 5 % of the total population of Tripura during that time.

According to the 2011 Census of India, the Manipuri population in Tripura accounted for 24,000; 0.7% of the state's total population of 36,73,917.

According to **Tripura: the Manipuris census Report 1981,** conducted by Tripura Manipuri Apunba Committee, the Manipuri population was 19,801 in Tripura. At present there are eight districts in Tripura among which Manipuris are residing in Six Districts. Manipuri census-1981 concludes that 3565 Manipuri families lived in 108 villages of North Tripura and West Tripura, two of the three districts of Tripura.

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# Traditional Games of Manipur
## Past, Present, and Future

"The history of games is the history of human culture; in their migrations from land to land, they carry the footprints of ancient civilization"

-E.B. Tylor

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## Introduction:

Traditional games of Manipur represent Manipur's rich cultural diversity and intangible legacy. They effectively showcased the ideals of unity in diversity and cultural consciousness. They have been inseparable parts of Meetei culture since ancient times. Despite historical challenges, traditional games have been passed down from generation to generation, reflecting the resilience of Manipuri culture. Traditional games flourished for centuries under the patronage of the Meetei kings. However, the popularity and vigour of most of the games were lost in the post-colonial period. We need to explore the historical background and evolving status of traditional games and to understand how to revitalise and preserve them for the future. Here, a survey of some selected traditional games may be discussed while analyzing their status in Manipur.

## Discussion:

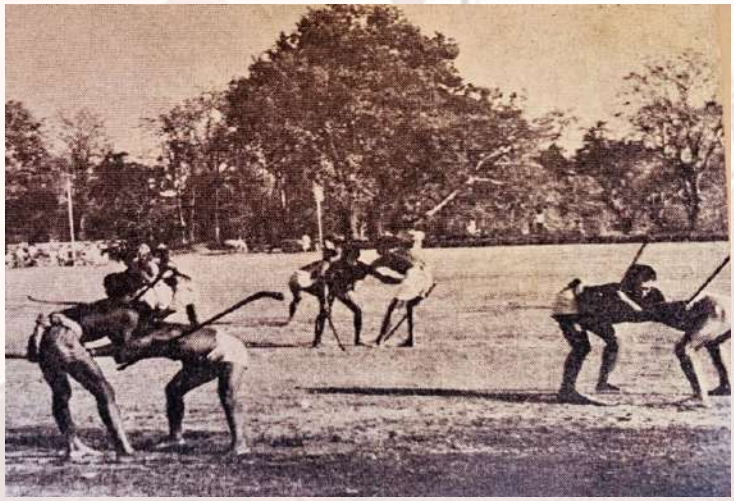
The Manipuris have a rich tradition of physical culture dating back to ancient times, featuring traditional games and martial arts that emphasize combat skills and defensive strategies. British anthropologist T.C. Hodson remarked that, physically a fine race, the Manipuris are devoted to sports and games. The traditional games played a vital role in Manipur's socio-cultural and political life. Major traditional games include *Sagol Kangjei*, Mukna, *Mukna Kangjei*, Yubi Lakpi, Heeyang Tanaba, Thang-Ta, and Kang Sanaba, etc. And games like Thang-Ta played an important role in the journey of Manipur state formation, particularly in safeguarding the kingdom against neighbouring kingdoms. Also known as Huyen Lalong, the game was reduced to a footnote when the colonial rule banned it under the Arms Act 1878. This had been a colonial design to disarm the native people. Under this act, weapons used in games such as Thang (Sword), Ta (Spear), Chung (elongated shield), and Chungoi (round shield) were banned. The martial art Thang-Ta, once used by Manipuri warriors in warfare, has evolved into a performing art that has garnered both domestic and international attention. At present, a sizable number of institutions in the valley teach Thang-Ta and have integrated it into the curriculum.

Even though Thang-Ta has lost its historical significance due to the change of mode of

warfare and weaponry in the changing political situation, the strong sense of love and passion of the Manipuris for this traditional martial art form, along with the policy of the state and central governments for preserving this rare and unique art form has been given a new lease of life not only for its preservation but also in its creative continuation.

The greatest gift Manipur has given the world of sports is the game of *Sagol Kangjei*. According to the ancient text Kangjeirol, Meidingu Kangba introduced the game of *Sagol Kangjei* to his courtiers. The terms associated with the game, like Kangjei (stick), Kangdrum (ball), and Kangjeibung (playground), were all derived from the name of the king Kangba. During the monarchical days, *Sagol Kangjei* was the national game of Manipur. The kings honored *Sagol Kangjei* players with Manaphi (cloth) and Thum Nama (a 100-round traditional salt cake). The regular weekly game, *Sagol Kangjei*, played during the kings' days, was discontinued. The game was popularised by Joseph Sherar (later known as the father of the modern Polo game), who came into contact with the Manipuris in Cachar and spread to other parts of the world as 'Polo'. The game was included in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1991. Manipur Ponies were famous for their extraordinary qualities, stamina, strength, skillfulness, and courage. Native ponies, which had honoured status in Meetei mythology, were gradually declining due to the absence of patronage, lack of grazing grounds, and shrinking polo grounds. Many of the polo grounds and the natural habitats developed by the kings of Manipur have been shrunken due to the faster rate of urbanisation and the expansion of human settlements. This forced the ponies to leave their habitats and move to the streets and markets for food and shelter.

Mukna and *Mukna Kangjei* saw the decline on the map, marked by a loss of patronage. Mukna, being one of the manliest traditional games, was considered the most disciplined martial art for an individual's self-defense against enemies in olden days. Also known as Hao Mukna Lengphaichan, it is a game in which two men, each holding a cloth band around the other's waist, wrestle and try to throw their opponent to the ground using different techniques called lou. There are sixty-four known lous used by the Mukna players. Played barefoot, players wore Ningri-Phijet/ningkri, Kaptreng,(introduced by King Kyamba), and Maang Kishi Tung Namei; sometimes players wore the 'Ningkham Samjin' at specific Mukna events graced by the King and nobles. Both games are now played mostly in a ritualistic manner. This is seen more prominently only during the festival of Lai Haraoba. The Pana *Mukna Kangjei*, organized under the Pana Loishang as one of the highest forms of games, has declined in the post-colonial period. Winners traditionally known as Muknalen or Jatra held a social status in Meetei society. Some of the worth-mentioning Jatras were: Loitongba Jatra, Thabi Jatra, Mayang Imphal Amu Jatra, Wangjing Khuman Jatra, Leishang Jatra, and Kakching Ningthou Jatra.


*Mukna Kangjei game in traditional ningri attire*

*Mukna Kangjei*, also known as Khong Kangjei, was an indispensable part of state

festivals such as Mera Mentongba, Mera Haochongba, Mera Chaorel Houba, and Mera Santuba. Played with Kangjei Kanghu (curved cane stick of 4 feet long) and Kangdrum (a hard bamboo root in the form of a ball), the game combined both hockey and wrestling. Though the Britishers were aware of the *Mukna Kangjei*, they preferred *Sagol Kangjei* because of the risk factor involved in the game. History shows frequent injuries among players of this game, including deaths during play. During the reign of Maharaja Churachand, the game reached its zenith. Honor and respect given to these players have become matters of the past. In both games, players used to chant "Nongmada Pokpa Machana, Nini Siba Hounade, Nahade, Jatrade," symbolizing courage, fearlessness, and an undying spirit.

signifies the multitude of people's fondness for this game at one time. Even the king used to participate standing in the prow in full regal dress. In this age of massive-scale road construction, the importance of rivers and water bodies as means of transport no longer holds.

**Yubi Lakpi** is an impressive, tricky, and manly game of Manipur in which Yubi means coconut, while Lakpi means snatching. The game of Yubi Lakpi was originally known as 'lu (head) lakpi' or 'kangdrum (dried bamboo root) lakpi'. W. Buddha opined that the origin of the Yubi Lakpi game during the reign of Meidingu Sameirang in the 6th century A.D., the game used a ball with different items, such as a ball made of seasoned bamboo roots,

*Crowds watching a Heeyang Tanaba game*

*Heeyang Tanaba*, once a major cultural event that attracted large crowds from all walks of life, has declined in recent decades. Regular boat races served not just as a display of skills but also as a training ground for a strong boat army in the Meetei military set-up. Heeyang Hiren (Chief Boat used by kings) and Tannahi (Race Boat) were used in the game. According to the text, Heejan Hirao, the game was first played in the Luwanglee River by the Luwangs. Rivers, lakes, and thangapats (moats) where this race took place have become shallow, and bridges have been built over rivers. The Manipuri saying 'heeyang kumheidu mangaire'

heigri (Eléphant Apple), and finally replaced by yubi (coconut) in the 17th Century A.D. To make it difficult for the players to grasp the ball, mustard oil was applied to coconut and the players' bodies. The rules of the game have undergone significant changes over time, and it is played by two teams of seven players each. Vanishing day by day, the present generation rarely witnesses the game in exhibition matches and special occasions. Villages such as Heirok, Khangabok, Wangoo, Lamshang, and Chingdongpok actively uphold this game and provide essential spaces for its continuation.

**The Kang Sanaba** game started as 'Kang Tharo Sanaba' by King Loitongba (1122 A.D.-1150 A.D.) as recorded in the Cheitharol Kumbaba. It was the most popular traditional indoor game among the Meeteis. Initially, the game was confined to the royal family and courtiers. The popularity of the game had increased in the 19th century under the patronage of Maharaja Chandrakirti (1850-1886 A.D.). Regular Kang tournaments were organized under the new rules laid down by the Manipur Kang Association.

*Players snatching a coconut in the Yubi Lakpi game*

The traditional games, which were once the foundation of traditional education among Manipuris, have been hard hit by the arrival of modern sports and the shifting patronage toward them. With the advent of the modern education system, children are stuck with the syllabus and are restricted from engaging in any physical activity. Moreover, the new education system fails to emphasise the importance of promoting physical activity through traditional games. Children are more attracted to the electronic gadgets of today's technological world. Population growth and urbanization increase the pressure on land, with traditional grazing grounds and playgrounds being converted into public buildings, which has given a huge blow to the available space for these games.

With the decline of traditional games, the treasured ballads associated with them have been gradually lost. Some important diminishing children's games include *Seboti Kaonabi, Tongdrumbi, Kei Yen Sanaba, Phibul Habi Sanaba, Uraobi, Laphu Phukpi Nom Nom Sagaitong, and Uchi Chi Chi Khangmeitat*. The cultural ethos and moral values embedded in these games are being lost.

However, some traditional games that had lost popularity began to be revived in Manipur with the formation of numerous associations and organizations for various games. These associations strive relentlessly to standardize and popularize the games in the national and international arena. Every year, numerous districts, state-level championships, and international tournaments are organized in a fitting and colourful manner.

## Conclusion:

In brief, it is imperative to allocate sufficient funding, leverage media promotion, and integrate traditional games into the educational curriculum to tackle these challenges effectively. By promoting competitions and events at all levels and establishing a dedicated research center for traditional games, we can impart their cultural significance to younger generations. A nation that champions traditional games demonstrates its strength and societal status. Manipur's efforts to revive traditional games extend beyond mere preservation; they signify a commitment to celebrating the region's rich cultural and sporting heritage, fostering sports tourism, and nurturing the skills of future generations. The present generation must uphold and safeguard these valuable cultural heritages to experience the richness of these traditions in their everyday lives.

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# Electric Vehicles Adoption Grows Rapidly in Manipur

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## Introduction

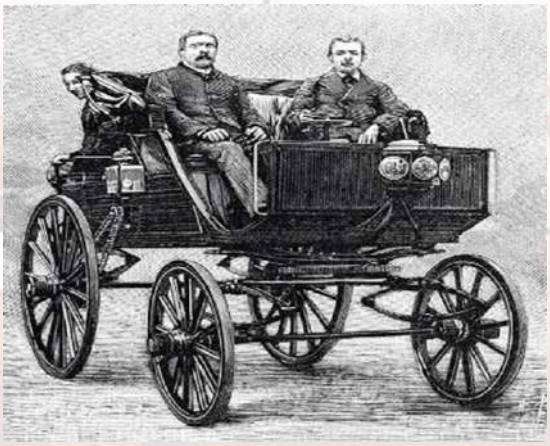
Transportation has played a fundamental role in human civilization. From horse-drawn carriages to steam-powered locomotives and gasoline-powered automobiles, every technological advancement has transformed society. However, conventional vehicles powered by petrol and diesel have become one of the largest contributors to environmental pollution and climate change. According to international energy reports, transportation contributes nearly one-fourth of global carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions. Rapid urbanization and increasing vehicle ownership have further intensified air pollution, especially in developing countries.

Electric vehicles provide an environmentally friendly solution by replacing fossil-fuel engines with electric motors powered by rechargeable batteries. Unlike conventional vehicles, EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions, offer higher energy efficiency, lower maintenance costs, and quieter operation. The growing concern over global warming, combined with remarkable advances in lithium-ion battery technology, has transformed EVs from experimental concepts into commercially successful products.

Today, almost every major automobile manufacturer including Tesla, BYD, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Mahindra, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, and Toyota, is investing billions of dollars in electric mobility.

## History of Electric Vehicles

Many people believe that electric vehicles are a recent invention, but their history dates back almost two centuries. The first experimental electric vehicles were developed during the 1830s. Scottish inventor Robert Anderson is credited



with creating one of the earliest crude electric carriages. Although these vehicles demonstrated the feasibility of electric propulsion, they relied on non-rechargeable batteries and were impractical for widespread use. A major breakthrough occurred in 1859 when French physicist Gaston Planté invented the rechargeable lead-acid battery. This innovation laid the foundation for practical electric transportation.

During the late nineteenth century, electric vehicles gained popularity because they were quiet, easy to operate, and did not require manual cranking like gasoline-powered automobiles. By 1900, approximately one-third of vehicles in the United States were electric. Electric taxis operated in New York and London. Wealthy families preferred electric cars due to their comfort and reliability.

Despite their early success, electric vehicles gradually disappeared from the market due to several reasons: the discovery of abundant petroleum reserves, low gasoline prices, mass production of affordable gasoline vehicles, limited battery capacity, and lack of charging infrastructure. The introduction of Henry Ford's Model T revolutionized automobile manufacturing, making gasoline vehicles significantly cheaper than electric cars. For several decades, electric vehicle development remained limited to research laboratories and niche applications.

Environmental concerns during the 1990s encouraged renewed interest in EV technology. Important milestones include: development of nickel-metal hydride batteries, California Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, launch of General Motors EV1, Toyota Prius hybrid vehicle, improvements in power electronics. However, battery costs remained prohibitively expensive.

The modern EV revolution began with significant improvements in lithium-ion batteries. Major milestones include: the commercial success of Tesla, rapid battery price reductions, government subsidies, expansion of charging networks, fast charging technology, advances in battery management systems, Artificial intelligence integration, and connected vehicle technologies. Today, EVs are available in almost every vehicle segment, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger cars, buses, trucks, and even construction equipment.

## Evolution of Electric Vehicle Technology

Electric vehicle technology has advanced rapidly over the past decade, driven by significant improvements in battery technology, electric motors, and power electronics. The battery, which is the core component of an EV, has evolved from conventional lead-acid and nickel-metal hydride batteries to advanced lithium-ion and lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, while emerging solid-state and sodium-ion batteries promise higher safety, longer range, and lower costs. The continuous decline in battery prices has made EVs increasingly affordable and commercially viable. Modern EVs are powered by highly efficient electric motors such as Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors (PMSM), Brushless DC (BLDC) motors, Induction Motors, Synchronous Reluctance Motors (SynRM), and Permanent Magnet-Assisted Synchronous Reluctance Motors (PMa-SynRM), offering high efficiency, excellent torque characteristics, quiet operation, low maintenance, and regenerative braking capability. Complementing these advancements, power electronic components including inverters, DC-DC converters, on-board chargers, Battery Management Systems (BMS), and Vehicle Control Units (VCU) ensure efficient energy conversion, battery protection, and optimized vehicle performance, making modern electric vehicles more reliable, efficient, and sustainable.

## Global Electric Vehicle Market

The global EV industry has experienced remarkable growth over the past decade. What was once considered a niche market has become one of the fastest-growing sectors in the automotive industry. Improvements in battery technology, declining battery prices, stricter emission regulations, and increasing public awareness of climate change have accelerated the adoption of EVs worldwide. According to the International Energy Agency, global electric car sales exceeded 17 million units in 2024, accounting for more than 20% of all new passenger car sales worldwide. This means that more than one out of every five new cars sold globally is now electric, highlighting the rapid transition toward sustainable mobility. The worldwide EV fleet has grown from fewer than one million vehicles in 2015 to well over 60 million electric vehicles on the road today. This extraordinary growth has been driven by government incentives, advances in battery technology, and increased investment from automobile manufacturers.

## Top Countries Leading the EV Revolution

Several countries have emerged as global leaders in electric mobility through strong government policies, advanced manufacturing, and extensive charging infrastructure. China dominates the global EV market, accounting for nearly 60% of worldwide EV sales,

supported by major manufacturers such as BYD, CATL, NIO, and XPeng, over three million public charging stations, and significant investments in battery technology and renewable energy integration. Norway has achieved the world's highest EV adoption rate, with almost 90% of new passenger car sales being electric, driven by tax exemptions, financial incentives, and a comprehensive charging network. The United States continues to lead EV innovation through companies such as Tesla, Rivian, Lucid Motors, Ford, and General Motors, supported by federal incentives and expanding charging infrastructure. Meanwhile, Europe, led by countries including Germany, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden, has accelerated EV adoption through stringent emission regulations, ambitious climate goals, and strong manufacturers such as Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo, Renault, and Stellantis, positioning the region as a major force in the global transition toward sustainable transportation.

## Growth of the Indian EV Market

India has witnessed rapid growth in EV adoption over the past few years, particularly in the two-wheeler and three-wheeler segments. Electric scooters, e-rickshaws, and electric buses are becoming increasingly common in cities due to their lower operating costs and environmental benefits. Key drivers of EV growth in India include: Government subsidies and incentives, rising fuel prices, expansion of public charging infrastructure, increasing consumer awareness, growth of domestic EV manufacturers, falling battery costs, and advances in lithium-ion battery technology. Electric mobility

is also creating new opportunities in battery manufacturing, software development, power electronics, charging infrastructure, and renewable energy integration.

## Government Initiatives Promoting EV Adoption

India is rapidly advancing electric mobility through supportive government policies, domestic manufacturing initiatives, and increasing industry participation. Key programs such as the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, PM E-Drive (PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement), and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme provide financial incentives for EV adoption, promote charging infrastructure, encourage advanced battery manufacturing, and strengthen the domestic EV supply chain. In addition, several states, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana, have introduced dedicated EV policies offering tax exemptions, purchase incentives, and manufacturing support. India's growing EV ecosystem is driven by leading manufacturers such as Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, MG Motor India, Hyundai Motor India, and BYD India in the passenger vehicle segment; Ola Electric, Ather Energy, TVS Motor Company, Bajaj Auto, and Hero MotoCorp in electric two-wheelers; and JBM Auto, Ashok Leyland, and Olectra Greentech in electric buses. These initiatives and industry efforts are positioning India as a major hub for electric vehicle manufacturing, innovation, and sustainable transportation.

## Electric Vehicle Scenario in Manipur

Manipur is steadily progressing toward electric mobility as part of India's transition to sustainable transportation. The adoption of electric scooters and

three-wheelers is gradually increasing due to their low operating and maintenance costs, suitability for short-distance travel, and rising fuel prices. Manipur also offers significant opportunities for EV growth through reduced air pollution, lower dependence on fossil fuels, expansion of charging infrastructure, integration of renewable energy such as solar power with EV charging, employment generation in EV manufacturing and servicing, and the promotion of sustainable tourism. As the state's premier technical institution, Manipur Technical University (MTU) can play a pivotal role by advancing research and innovation in battery technology, electric machines, power electronics, smart charging systems, renewable energy integration, and intelligent transportation systems, while producing skilled professionals to support the emerging electric vehicle industry.

## Role of Manipur Technical University in Advancing Electric Vehicle Technology

The rapid growth of the EV industry has created a strong demand for engineers with expertise in battery systems, electric machines, electric drives, power electronics, charging infrastructure, embedded systems, and intelligent energy management. Recognizing this need, Manipur Technical University has introduced an M.Tech in Electrical Engineering with Specialization in Electric Vehicle Technology from the 2026-

27 academic session. This new programme reflects the university's commitment to developing skilled professionals and researchers capable of contributing to India's transition toward sustainable transportation.

The programme is designed to provide students with advanced theoretical knowledge and practical skills in key areas such as: Electric vehicle powertrain design, Battery technology and Battery Management Systems (BMS), Power electronics and motor drives, Charging infrastructure and fast-charging technologies, Renewable energy integration with EVs, Electric machine design and control, Smart grid and Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technologies, Artificial Intelligence and IoT applications in electric mobility, Energy management and optimization techniques. A distinctive feature of the Department of Electrical Engineering at MTU is its emphasis on project-based learning and innovation. Students are encouraged to apply theoretical concepts to real-world engineering problems by designing and developing electric mobility solutions. As part of their undergraduate project work, students have successfully designed and fabricated an electric solar vehicle and an electric bicycle (E-Bicycle). Through these activities, students developed practical skills in selecting electric motors, designing battery packs, integrating battery management systems (BMS), developing motor control strategies, and implementing safety and protection mechanisms.

*Prototype of an Electric Solar Vehicle (2020) designed and fabricated by Ginzalal, Laipubam Devshish Sharma, Monish Wakambam, and Wakambam Heera under the guidance of Haobam Jaillendro Khuman, Department of Electrical Engineering, Manipur Technical University.*

*Prototype of a Two-Wheel Electric Bicycle (2022) designed and fabricated by Gurumayum Hopeson Sharma, Nehru Arambam, Huidrom Pandia Singh, Lourembam Ishworchand, and Nongthombam Raju Luwang under the guidance of Dr. Oinam Manganleiba Meetei, Department of Electrical Engineering, Manipur Technical University.*

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# The Next Frontier

## At the Boundary of Exactness and Chaos

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## Introduction

### The Civilizational Engine

As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, this article proposes a promising scientific trajectory that could catalyse a paradigm shift toward regional excellence. Beyond traditional industrial models, the article seeks to lay the groundwork for nurturing the next generation of "intellectual warriors" from Manipur, capable of navigating the boundary between two languages of nature-exactness and randomness. Ultimately, the language of nature is realized as mathematics in its purest form. This vision rests on two biological truths: (i) the intense neuroplasticity cultivated by physical athletic training, which is the same engine required for deep intellectual endurance; and (ii) Manipur's comparatively low AQI, powered by its lush green mountainous sanctuary in a world choked by urban pollution, providing a high-focus environment necessary for deep, uninterrupted mental work.

Every great civilization in human history shares a distinct trait: a knack for inventing and mastering mathematics. When Isaac Newton developed calculus1 in the 17th century, he did not merely solve equations; he created a new language and vocabulary that became the backbone of the modern industrial world. But Newton also relied on Euclid's language of geometry, the exact mathematics of lines, curves, and planes, to support his arguments. Mathematics is not simply a tool for science—it is the supreme engine of human progress, driving everything from quantitative economics and condensed matter physics to the complex architectures of generative artificial intelligence. As India celebrates its independence, Manipur stands at a unique crossroads. National discussions often center on structural hurdles: the lack of heavy industrial mega-factories, multi-million-dollar cleanrooms, or massive technology parks. However, this perspective overlooks where global leverage is actually shifting. Development over the past decade is no longer dictated solely by who burns the most coal or stacks the most steel; it is commanded by the intellectual warriors behind the curtain: the theorists, algorithm designers, and computational scientists who build the invisible architectures of modern technology. Some notable individuals from our state, currently working in the field, include Dr. Ronaldo Laishram, who recently discovered the Loktak Protocluster; Haobam Joyremba; Manipur's innovative and visionary tech leader at CubeTen Technologies; Dr. Sapam Ranjita Chanu, a Marie Curie Fellowship recipient and Professor at IIT Kanpur working on quantum computation; and other inspiring people I have yet to meet. The remaining part of this article will present the need for long-term thinkers,

mastery in exact mathematics and randomness, and how Manipur may be the place for the sanctuary for this task at hand.

## Brewing Intellectual Warriors

## The Long-Term Thinkers

In this path to brewing intellectual warriors, we need resilient, reflective thinkers if we are to cultivate long-term thinkers. This reminds me of the story of Grigori Yakovlich Perelman5, the legendary Russian mathematician who solved the Poincaré Conjecture, one of the seven Millennium Prize Problems. When Perelman was ten, growing up in Leningrad, his mother, Lyubov, recognized his unique mind and enrolled him in an after-school evening math club run by Sergei Rukshin. Rukshin did not drill his students in timed speed contests; he taught them to contemplate single, deep problems for weeks, often working entirely in their heads. The family possessed no extravagant wealth or supercomputers; Grisha trained by walking through city parks, mastering the patience required for deep contemplation. Decades later, using nothing more than paper, pencil, and preprints shared across the internet, Perelman unlocked one of the greatest mysteries in modern geometry. In an era of global digital connectivity, the paradigm of scientific discovery has fundamentally shifted. Through initiatives like the Polymath Project, led by Fields Medalist Terence Tao and Timothy Gawor, world-changing mathematical breakthroughs are achieved collaboratively across borders through raw intellectual rigor alone. A mathematician in Imphal can operate with the same theoretical leverage as one in Cambridge or Stanford, provided they have developed the capacity for deep, sustained inquiry.

## The Sanctuary of Mind

## Green Air and Physical Agility

Far from being a handicap, Manipur's pristine environment and legendary athletic culture are its greatest strategic assets. Modern neuroscience shows a direct link between athletic conditioning and cognitive longevity: sustained movement preserves neuroplasticity, keeping the brain young, pliable, and sharp. If sports train the body to navigate physical space, mathematics can be called the ultimate sport of the mind. An athlete who instinctively reads a football pitch in a fraction of a second processes spatial geometry and predictive probabilities in real time. By channeling that same early instinct into solving logical puzzles, engaging in competitive mathematics, and honing abstract reasoning, this article proposes to build a generation of thinkers whose physical stamina fuels relentless, long-term mental endurance. So, in which areas do we expose these minds to? This question will be answered in the next section, where the bridge between randomness and exact mathematics forms the cornerstone of modern technologies.

## At the Boundary of Order and Chaos

Nowhere is this bridge between order and chaos more vital than in cutting-edge atomistic simulations, galaxy evolution, quantum error correction, generative machine learning using diffusion physics, and modern interpretations of consciousness as a state of matter. Let's understand why looking for structure inside randomness is something we must expose ourselves to. The language in which nature reveals herself to reality, quantum mechanics, rests on the framework of probability and randomness. This may be quite unfair to people who desire exactness, but this has been proven by all known experiments. Yet, we try to make sense of it as humans by building structures made out of exact mathematics developed by Newton and Leibniz. An immediate example might be: the motion of atoms in a liquid tracked by pollen grains sprinkled on the liquid

surface. A liquid particle undergoes chaotic thermal bombardment to pollen, described by a weird equation that encapsulates randomness for our understanding in the so-called Langevin equation:

$$m\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -\nabla V(x) - \gamma\frac{dx}{dt} + \sqrt{2\gamma k_B T}\,.\eta(t)$$

Here, the term η(t) represents the purely random contribution, which physically originates from the chaos of thermal collisions. Yet, this randomness is strictly bounded by exactness: the deterministic potential gradient ∇V(x) and the fundamental conservation laws of physics.

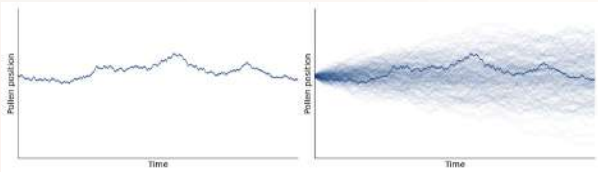


*Figure 1: Pollen position x(t) evolution with respect to time. It could have followed any of the blurred paths*

Randomness in fluids and in modern AI architectures: The 2026 Fields Medal awarded to Yu Deng highlighted how clever use of probability reveals breathtaking structure from the apparent randomness of chaotic, microscopic physics. Similarly, modern generative AI models are built upon the mathematics behind the diffusion of an ink drop in a clear glass of water. This works by systematically reversing the random mixing pathways of the ink molecule among the clear water molecules. For a mathematician reading this article, it is transforming random Gaussian distributions step-by-step back into exact, meaningful image or molecular structures via reverse stochastic differential equations:

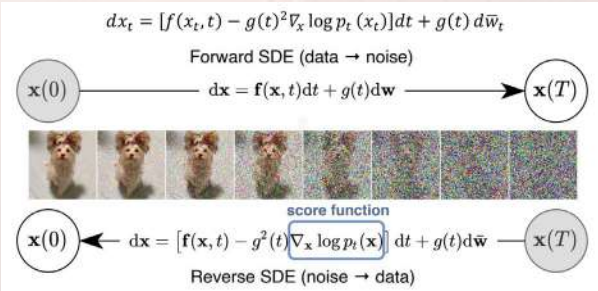


Figure 2: Transforming data to a simple random noise and generating images from random noise[7]

I have not attempted to describe the beautiful equation above, as it is intended to highlight the need for mathematical minds to push our civilizational engine. Manipur has long earned its reputation as the "powerhouse of sports8," producing athletes who have brought pride to the nation through resilience, discipline, and excellence. This article seeks to extend that identity further, positioning Manipur not only as a cradle of physical strength, but also as a "powerhouse of brains." As India celebrates its hard-won freedom, the thesis presents a radical direction, reflecting on the idea of intellectual freedom, the liberty to think, innovate, and create without boundaries.

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# Towards Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Manipur

## *Innovation, Convergence and Sustainable Farming*

*Birjeet Yanglem*
*Asst. Nodal Officer, NMNF/Digital Agriculture Mission*
*Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur*

## Introduction

Agriculture has long been the backbone of Manipur's economy and the primary source of livelihood for a majority of its rural population. Blessed with fertile valleys, diverse hill ecosystems and rich agro-biodiversity, the State possesses enormous agricultural potential.

Yet, increasing climate variability, declining soil fertility, fragmentation of landholdings, rising cultivation costs and dependence on external agricultural inputs have made farming increasingly vulnerable. Recognising these challenges, the Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur, has adopted a forward-looking approach that goes beyond implementing individual schemes. Through innovation, convergence and scientific planning, the Department is building an agricultural ecosystem that is productive, resilient and environmentally sustainable.

## National Mission on Natural Farming: The Foundation of Sustainable Agriculture

The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) has emerged as the cornerstone of Manipur's transition towards sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. Introduced during FY 2025–26, the mission promotes ecological farming systems that restore soil health, reduce cultivation costs, enhance biodiversity and strengthen resilience against climate change.

The mission is currently being implemented through 80 Natural Farming Clusters across all sixteen districts, targeting 10,000 farmers over 4,000 hectares across the state's Continuous capacity building, field demonstrations, Community Resource Persons and Model Demonstration Farms established by Krishi Vigyan Kendras are enabling farmers to adopt Natural Farming with confidence. Institutional support has been further strengthened through the establishment of 54 Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs), which produce quality biological inputs using locally available resources.

To ensure credibility and improve market opportunities for naturally grown produce, certification activities are being undertaken through the Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) and the College of Agriculture, Central Agricultural University, Imphal. As of July 2026, 2,450 hectares have been certified under Natural Farming. Certification activities have commenced in 49 clusters, with 33 Scope Certificates already generated while the remaining clusters are under different stages of certification.

A distinctive feature of Manipur's implementation is the integration of scientific soil health management within the Natural

Farming programme. Soil samples are systematically collected from participating farmers and analysed under the Soil Health Management programme, enabling the issuance of Soil Health Cards containing field-specific nutrient information. Simultaneously, the Department is developing a baseline soil nutrient database for Natural Farming clusters. This scientific approach will enable long-term monitoring of improvements in soil fertility, generate evidence on the impact of Natural Farming practices and support informed policy decisions in the years ahead.

Encouraged by the positive response from farmers, the Department has initiated the next phase of expansion by bringing another 80 Natural Farming Clusters, covering an additional 10,000 farmers and 4,000 hectares, under the mission during FY 2026–27 including an additional 16 Bio-Input Resource Centres.

## Agriculture Model Village Initiative: Demonstrating Integrated Rural Transformation

Recognising that sustainable agricultural transformation requires integrated interventions rather than isolated activities, the Department has conceptualised the Agriculture Model Village Initiative as an innovative departmental intervention. The initiative serves as a practical demonstration of how convergence among multiple agricultural programmes, scientific technologies and community participation can transform agriculture at the village level.

During the first phase, nine villages across nine districts have been selected to showcase integrated agricultural development under diverse agro-ecological settings. Each Model Village begins with a comprehensive baseline assessment to identify available resources, existing farming systems and development priorities. Based on these findings, village-specific development plans are prepared, integrating water resource development, soil health management, quality seed distribution, scientific crop planning, farm mechanisation,

Integrated Farming Systems, Natural Farming, digital agriculture, post-harvest management and market linkages.

The initiative also promotes digital crop mapping, farmer registration, Bio-Input Resource Centres, vermicompost production, Community Custom Hiring Centres and value chain development. Convergence with flagship schemes such as SMAM, PDMC, NFSM, RKVY and NMEO-OS ensures that multiple interventions are implemented in a coordinated manner, thereby creating resilient, productive and self-reliant farming communities.

## Biofertiliser Validation Initiative: Advancing Sustainable Nutrient Management

Complementing the implementation of Natural Farming, the Department has launched the Biofertiliser Validation Initiative in collaboration with Green Biotech Eco Solution Pvt. Ltd. to evaluate sustainable nutrient management practices under farmers' field conditions across Manipur's diverse agro-ecological settings.

The initiative covered 50 hectares during FY 2025–26 and has been expanded to 126 hectares during FY 2026–27. Demonstrations follow an integrated nutrient management approach, wherein 75 per cent of the recommended nutrient requirement is supplied through conventional fertilisers such as Urea, Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP), while the remaining 25 per cent is supplemented through the biofertiliser formulations Green Classic NPK and Rice Care.

The initiative is designed to scientifically evaluate nutrient-use efficiency, soil biological activity and crop response while gradually reducing dependence on synthetic fertilisers. The findings generated through these field demonstrations are expected to provide valuable scientific evidence for future nutrient management strategies and complement the broader objectives of sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.

## Towards a Resilient Agricultural Future

The National Mission on Natural Farming, the Agriculture Model Village Initiative and the Biofertiliser Validation Initiative collectively reflect the Department's vision of creating a productive, resilient and environmentally sustainable agricultural ecosystem. By integrating innovation, scientific validation and convergence, the Department of Agriculture, Government of Manipur, is laying the foundation for climate-resilient agriculture that conserves natural resources while improving farmers' livelihoods.

These initiatives represent more than the implementation of programmes—they signify a long-term commitment to transforming agriculture into a resilient, knowledge-driven and sustainable sector. As these interventions continue to expand, they are expected to serve as replicable models for promoting ecological sustainability, enhancing food security and strengthening the resilience of farming communities across Manipur.

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# DISTRICT HOSPITAL THOUBAL, MANIPUR

## (Achievement for the year 2025-26 )

*Dr. Kh. Robindro Singh*
*Medical Superintendent*
*District Hospital, Thoubal*

The District Hospital, Thoubal is the only Government District Hospital in the district of Thoubal. The District Hospital is NQAS (National Quality Assurance Standards) and LaQshya (Maternity OT and Labour Room) Certified Hospital. It is also three years consecutive Kayakalp Winning hospital of the state. It caters to a large number of patients residing in the Thoubal, Kakching, Chandel, Tengnoupal, Imphal East and Kamjong districts and it is the only referral hospital of CHCs, PHCs, PHSCs located in these districts. It is located at Khangabok opposite to SP Office, Thoubal District. Total population of Thoubal District is around 3,34,229 as on 10th July, 2026 (HMIS report).

| PERFORMANCE INDICATOR FOR THE YEAR 2025-26 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | CASUALTY | OPD | T.IPD | GEN. WARD IPD | LSCS-DELIVERY (OT) | NVD-DELIVERY (Maternity) | TELE-ICU | NO. OF EYE CATARACT OPERATION |
| Total | 37,315 | 1,51,929 | 2644 | 1122 | 556 | 777 | 189 | 98 |

| PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OF 1ST QUARTER FOR THE 2026-27 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL | 9,431 | 43,566 | 645 | 327 | 121 | 151 | 46 | 26 |

## Achievement for the year 2025-26 & 26-27

1. Construction of "50 bedded Critical Care Block "under PM-ABHIM (2023-26) is going on, to be completed by 2026.

2. Construction of "Laboratory of Pathology, Microbiology & Biochemistry" under IPHL (Integrated Public Health Laboratory) is going on which will provide 24x7 services.

3. Installation of "Oxygen Booster Pump" at District Hospital Thoubal is completed. Expert Engineers visit & check up to start the "Booster Pump" is pending. Refilling & storage of Oxygen cylinders can be done once it is functional, under the Ministry of Health & Family welfare (MoHFW).

4. Started/Initiation of "ABHA " scheme under ABDM ( Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission ) from 14th March 2024.

5. Number of Haemodialysis bed has been increased from 3 beds to 6 beds( under PM National Dialysis Programme).

6. Comprehensive Abortion Care Centre, a training Centre for Abortion Care (from 2022-23) is on full swing and 24 nos. of Medical Officers from different districts have been trained so far.

7. FMG (Foreign Medical Graduate – MBBS)-Rotary Internship Programme initiated with an induction session.

# ACHIEVEMENT OF BLOOD BANK & TRANSFUSIONS UNIT, DISTRICT HOSPITAL THOUBAL

| SL | Activities | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Blood Collection | 435 units | 481 units | 556 units |
| 2 | Voluntary Blood donation | 221 units | | 274 units |
| 3 | Blood donation Camp | 13 Camps | 14 Camps | 26 Camps till date |
| 4 | Blood issue to Outside Institutions | 67 units | 132 units | 154 units |

## Dialysis Unit District Hospital, Thoubal

| | April, 25 | May, 25 | June, 25 | July, 25 | August, 25 | Sept. 25 | Oct. 25 | Nov.-25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of Patients | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 20 |
| No. of Dialysis slot | 165 | 163 | 157 | 159 | 173 | 155 | 168 | 165 |

| | Dec-25 | Jan-26 | Feb-26 | Mar26 | April-26 | May-26 | June-26 | July26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of Patient | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 31 |
| No. of Dialysis slot | 163 | 157 | 159 | 241 | 248 | 239 | 246 | 265 |

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) treated cases in Thoubal district as on 22nd June, 2026 is 40874. And patients treated under CMHT is 34168.

*New Construction: 50 bedded '' Critical Care Block" at District Hospital Thoubal under PM-ABHIM*

*Installation of "Oxygen Booster Pump" at District Hospital Thoubal under the MoHFW GoI.*
*( Refiling & storage of Oxygen Cylinders )*

# BISHNUPUR

## A District Reimagined Through Sports, Tourism, Arts and Literature

### How the District Administration is building a new identity for Bishnupur

Bishnupur district, with the Loktak Lake at its heart, has always been known for its rich cultural heritage, scenic landscapes and sporting talent. Yet, in recent years, the district has begun to witness a remarkable transformation—one that goes beyond conventional administration.

Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Smt. Pooja Elangbam, the District Administration has adopted an innovative approach to governance by placing equal emphasis on sports, tourism, arts, literature and youth empowerment alongside developmental initiatives.

Rather than viewing culture and sports as standalone activities, the administration has integrated them into the district's broader vision of inclusive development, peace-building and community participation.

Through landmark initiatives such as the 1st Bishnupur District Olympic Games, Bishnupur Girls Football Tournament and the Loktak Literary and Art Festival, Bishnupur has emerged as a centre of athletic excellence, creativity and cultural revival. These initiatives have not only brought positive attention to

*Loktak Lake*

the district but have also continued to project Bishnupur onto the cultural and sporting map of the region.

## Creating History Through the 1st Bishnupur District Olympic Games

The 1st Bishnupur District Olympic Games 2026, organised under the inspiring theme "One District, One Spirit – Khello

*Ceremonial lighting of the Olympic flame by Naorem Roshibina Devi, Arjuna Awardee*

Bishnupur," marked a defining chapter in the district's sporting history. More than a sporting event, the Games became a celebration of unity, aspiration and collective identity.

It was inaugurated on 8 July 2026 by the Hon'ble Minister for Home and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Govindas Konthoujam.

## Uniting the District Through Sports

The opening ceremony at DSA Ground, Bishnupur featured a grand torch rally culminating in the ceremonial lighting of the Olympic flame by some of Manipur's finest athletes, including Arjuna Awardee Naorem Roshibina Devi, Commonwealth Games Medallist Laisharam Monika Devi, and Indian Super League footballers Moirangthem Thoiba Singh, Moirangthem Givson Singh, Moirangthem Dhiraj Singh and Kumam Udanta Singh from the district.

Jointly organised by the District Administration and the Bishnupur District Olympic Association, the Games reaffirmed Bishnupur's long-standing sporting tradition while strengthening community participation and district-wide unity.

More than a thousand athletes competed across 16 disciplines, including athletics, football, boxing, wrestling, volleyball, gymnastics, rowing, canoeing and kayaking, making the Games one of the largest district-level sporting events ever organised in Manipur.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Shri Govindas Konthoujam highlighted Manipur's extraordinary sporting legacy of producing Olympians and international medallists. He emphasised that district-level competitions are essential for identifying young talent, nurturing discipline and teamwork, and preparing athletes to compete at national and international levels. Stressing that sports transcend barriers of caste, creed and religion, he described them as a powerful force for peace, unity and inclusive development.

Welcoming the athletes and spectators, Deputy Commissioner Smt. Pooja Elangbam described the Games as the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream realised through the collective efforts of the Government, elected representatives, sports associations, security forces and the people of Bishnupur. Beyond competition, she noted, the Games were intended to cultivate discipline, teamwork and leadership while strengthening a shared district identity.

*Traditional Hiyang Tannaba at Loktak Lake*

Competitions were conducted simultaneously across multiple venues over four days, drawing enthusiastic participation and public support.

## Harnessing Loktak's Sporting Potential

Among the highlights were the canoeing, kayaking and rowing competitions at the Takmu Water Sports Complex, where sixty-two athletes showcased remarkable skill and determination. The inclusion of the traditional Hiyang Tanaba boat race celebrated the unique cultural connection with Loktak Lake while highlighting its immense potential for water sports.

The Deputy Commissioner observed that Loktak Lake offers Bishnupur a natural advantage in nurturing future champions in canoeing, kayaking and rowing, making water sports an important component of the district's long-term sporting vision.

*Dignitaries at Closing Ceremony of the 1st Bishnupur District Olympic Games, 2026*

## A Grand Finale

The Games concluded on 12 July 2026 at Chengei Lampak, Moirang, in the august presence of Hon'ble Governor Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Hon'ble Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Secretary of Manipur Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel and senior officials.

Congratulating the organisers and participants, the Governor described the Games as a remarkable initiative that embodied the Olympic ideals of excellence, perseverance, friendship and respect.

The Chief Minister observed that the District Olympic Games had created an invaluable platform for healthy competition, talent identification and athlete development, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening sports from the grassroots level.

The successful conclusion of the Games laid a strong foundation for an enduring sporting culture in Bishnupur and established a model that other districts can aspire to emulate

## Football for Peace and Women's Empowerment

Building on the momentum created through grassroots sports, the District Administration organised the Bishnupur Girls Football Tournament 2025, reaffirming its commitment to women's empowerment and youth development through sport.

Jointly organised with the 08 Battalion CRPF, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Manipur Police, NHPC and NHIDCL, the tournament was inaugurated on 30 October 2025 by the then Director General of Police, Manipur, Shri Rajiv Singh.

Held under the theme "Sports for Peace and Development," the tournament celebrated football not merely as a game but as a platform for confidence-building, leadership and gender equality. Every participant received football jerseys and boots, while attractive cash prizes encouraged excellence and healthy competition.

Addressing the young footballers, Deputy Commissioner Smt Pooja Elangbam highlighted that sport nurtures discipline, resilience, humility and teamwork-qualities

*Players and dignitaries 1st Bishnupur District Olympic Games, 2026*

essential for responsible citizenship. She encouraged every participant to pursue excellence with determination while embracing both victory and defeat with grace.

Beyond the competition, the tournament reinforced a powerful message—that girls deserve equal opportunities to excel in sports and leadership.

## Reviving Culture Through the Loktak Literary and Art Festival

While sports have become one pillar of Bishnupur's transformation, culture and creativity have formed another.

The 1st Loktak Literary and Art Festival, held on 14–15 November 2025 at the Loktak Development Authority Complex, Sendra, marked a significant milestone in the district's cultural renaissance.

*DC addressing the gathering at Loktak Lake*

Conceptualized and curated by Deputy Commissioner Smt. Pooja Elangbam, the festival brought together literature, music, visual arts, folklore and intellectual discourse in an inspiring celebration of Manipur's cultural heritage.

Organised in collaboration with the Loktak Development Authority, Imphal Art Gallery, Book Club of Imphal and Eta Foundation, with support from NHIDCL and NHPC, the festival transformed the scenic shores of Loktak Lake into a vibrant centre of creativity and dialogue.

Over two days, eminent writers, poets, historians, artists, filmmakers and scholars explored subjects ranging from Poetry in the Age of Generative AI and Gender and Society to Cinema, Memoir Writing, Mental Health, Folklore and the History of Northeast India, creating meaningful conversations that connected tradition with contemporary thought.

More importantly, the festival created an inclusive cultural space where students, young writers, artists and community members engaged directly with distinguished scholars, fostering creativity, critical thinking and intergenerational learning.

It also served a humanitarian purpose by providing Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with opportunities to participate in storytelling and collaborative art, demonstrating how literature and culture can become powerful instruments of healing, reconciliation and social integration.

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# RESILIENT & RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

## The Churachandpur District's Model of Administration

*"Together in crisis, Together in peace and prosperity"*

(Reporting period: 16th August 2025 - 3rd August 2026)

### 1. Prime Minister's Visit

In the backdrop of sensitive law and order situation, District Administration, Churachandpur earned a feather in its cap on 13th September 2025 with successful coordination of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's maiden visit to the district, ensuring seamless interdepartmental coordination, security arrangements, logistics, public facilitation, and protocol management. The visit marked a significant milestone in restoring national attention to the district and accelerated developmental initiatives and confidence-building measures in matters concerning Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

*Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with IDP girl students of Kendriya Vidyalaya-PM SHRI School, Churachandpur District*

### 2. Jan Jatiya Garima Utsav & Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan:

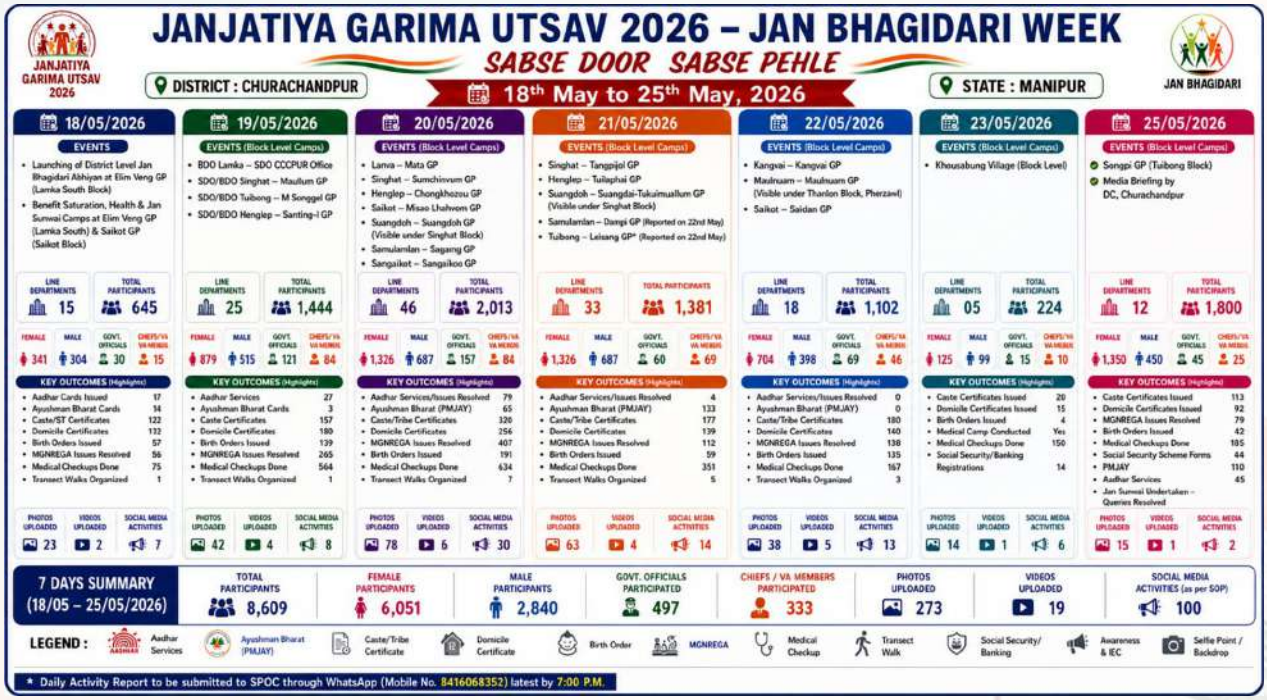
Under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Hills, Government of India, District Administration Churachandpur conducted one of Manipur's largest district-wide 'Information, Education & Communication (IEC)' campaign known as the **'Jan Jatiya Garima Utsav & Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan' from 18th May 2026 to 25th May 2026** covering all 89 DAJGUA villages with th theme **"Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle"** through multi-departmental outreach camps and Jan Sunwais, delivering doorstep government services, grievance redressal, health camps and awareness programmes. Achievements include:

#### i. A total of 8609 citizens participated in the health and Jan Sunwais.

a. Nearly 2,000 beneficiaries availed government services during the Utsav.

b. Hundred of Aadhaar services, caste/tribe certificates, Ayushman Bharat Cards, PM-KISAN registrations, PMJDY bank accounts, PMJJBY, PMSBY, Atal Pension Yojana enrollments and Poshan benefits delivered.

#### ii. Extensive-awareness through wall paintings, hoardings, poster, selfie points and village-level IEC activities



JANJATIYA GARIMA UTSAV 2026 – JAN BHAGIDARI WEEK

SABSE DOOR SABSE PEHLE

JANJATIYA GARIMA UTSAV 2026 | DISTRICT : CHURACHANDPUR | 18th May to 25th May, 2026 | STATE : MANIPUR | JAN BHAGIDARI

**18/05/2026**

EVENTS
- Launching of District Level Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan at Elim Veng GP (Lamka South Block)
- Benefit Saturation, Health & Jan Sunwai Camps at Elim Veng GP (Lamka South) & Saikot GP (Saikot Block)

LINE DEPARTMENTS 15 | TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 645

FEMALE 341 | MALE 304 | GOVT. OFFICIALS 30 | CHIEFS/VA VA MEMBERS 15

KEY OUTCOMES (Highlights)
- Aadhar Cards Issued 17
- Ayushman Bharat Cards 14
- Caste/ST Certificates 122
- Domicile Certificates 132
- Birth Orders Issued 57
- MGNREGA Issues Resolved 56
- Medical Checkups Done 75
- Transect Walks Organized 1

PHOTOS UPLOADED 23 | VIDEOS UPLOADED 2 | SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES 7

**19/05/2026**

EVENTS (Block Level Camps)
- BDO Lamka – SDO CCCPUR Office
- SDO/BDO Singhat – Maullum GP
- SDO/BDO Tuibong – M Songgel GP
- SDO/BDO Henglep – Santing-I GP

LINE DEPARTMENTS 25 | TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 1,444

FEMALE 879 | MALE 515 | GOVT. OFFICIALS 121 | CHIEFS/VA VA MEMBERS 84

KEY OUTCOMES (Highlights)
- Aadhar Services 27
- Ayushman Bharat Cards 3
- Caste Certificates 157
- Domicile Certificates 180
- Birth Orders Issued 139
- MGNREGA Issues Resolved 265
- Medical Checkups Done 564
- Transect Walks Organized 1

PHOTOS UPLOADED 42 | VIDEOS UPLOADED 4 | SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES 8

**20/05/2026**

EVENTS (Block Level Camps)
- Lanva – Mata GP
- Singhat – Sumchinvum GP
- Henglep – Chongkhozou GP
- Saikot – Misao Lhuhvom GP
- Suangdoh – Suangdoh GP (Visible under Singhat Block)
- Samulamlan – Sagang GP
- Sangaikot – Sangaikoo GP

LINE DEPARTMENTS 46 | TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 2,013

FEMALE 1,326 | MALE 687 | GOVT. OFFICIALS 157 | CHIEFS/VA VA MEMBERS 84

KEY OUTCOMES (Highlights)
- Aadhar Services/Issues Resolved 79
- Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) 65
- Caste/Tribe Certificates 326
- Domicile Certificates 256
- MGNREGA Issues Resolved 407
- Birth Orders Issued 191
- Medical Checkups Done 634
- Transect Walks Organized 7

PHOTOS UPLOADED 78 | VIDEOS UPLOADED 6 | SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES 30

**21/05/2026**

EVENTS (Block Level Camps)
- Singhat – Tangpijol GP
- Henglep – Tuilaphai GP
- Suangdoh – Suangdai-Tukuimuallum GP (Visible under Singhat Block)
- Samulamlan – Damgi GP (Reported on 22nd May)
- Tuibong – Leisang GP* (Reported on 22nd May)

LINE DEPARTMENTS 33 | TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 1,381

FEMALE 1,326 | MALE 687 | GOVT. OFFICIALS 60 | CHIEFS/VA VA MEMBERS 69

KEY OUTCOMES (Highlights)
- Aadhar Services/Issues Resolved 4
- Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) 133
- Caste/Tribe Certificates 177
- Domicile Certificates 139
- MGNREGA Issues Resolved 112
- Birth Orders Issued 59
- Medical Checkups Done 351
- Transect Walks Organized 5

PHOTOS UPLOADED 63 | VIDEOS UPLOADED 4 | SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES 14

**22/05/2026**

EVENTS (Block Level Camps)
- Kangvai – Kangvai GP
- Maulnuam – Maulnuam GP (Visible under Thanlon Block, Pherzawl)
- Saikot – Saidan GP

LINE DEPARTMENTS 18 | TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 1,102

FEMALE 704 | MALE 398 | GOVT. OFFICIALS 69 | CHIEFS/VA VA MEMBERS 46

KEY OUTCOMES (Highlights)
- Aadhar Services/Issues Resolved 0
- Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) 0
- Caste/Tribe Certificates 180
- Domicile Certificates 140
- MGNREGA Issues Resolved 138
- Birth Orders Issued 135
- Medical Checkups Done 167
- Transect Walks Organized 3

PHOTOS UPLOADED 38 | VIDEOS UPLOADED 5 | SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES 13

**23/05/2026**

EVENTS (Block Level Camps)
- Khousabung Village (Block Level)

LINE DEPARTMENTS 05 | TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 224

FEMALE 125 | MALE 99 | GOVT. OFFICIALS 15 | CHIEFS/VA VA MEMBERS 10

KEY OUTCOMES (Highlights)
- Caste Certificates Issued 20
- Domicile Certificates Issued 15
- Birth Orders Issued 4
- Medical Camp Conducted Yes
- Medical Checkups Done 150
- Social Security/Banking Registrations 14

PHOTOS UPLOADED 14 | VIDEOS UPLOADED 1 | SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES 6

**25/05/2026**

EVENTS (Block Level Camps)
- Songpi GP (Tuibong Block)
- Media Briefing by DC, Churachandpur

LINE DEPARTMENTS 12 | TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 1,800

FEMALE 1,350 | MALE 450 | GOVT. OFFICIALS 45 | CHIEFS/VA VA MEMBERS 25

KEY OUTCOMES (Highlights)
- Caste Certificates Issued 113
- Domicile Certificates Issued 92
- MGNREGA Issues Resolved 79
- Birth Orders Issued 42
- Medical Checkups Done 105
- Social Security Scheme Forms 44
- PMJAY 110
- Aadhar Services 45
- Jan Sunwai Undertaken – Queries Resolved

PHOTOS UPLOADED 15 | VIDEOS UPLOADED 1 | SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES 2

**7 DAYS SUMMARY (18/05 – 25/05/2026)**

| TOTAL PARTICIPANTS | FEMALE PARTICIPANTS | MALE PARTICIPANTS | GOVT. OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED | CHIEFS / VA MEMBERS PARTICIPATED | PHOTOS UPLOADED | VIDEOS UPLOADED | SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES (as per SOP) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8,609 | 6,051 | 2,840 | 497 | 333 | 273 | 19 | 100 |

LEGEND : Aadhar Services | Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY) | Caste/Tribe Certificate | Domicile Certificate | Birth Order | MGNREGA | Medical Checkup | Transect Walk | Social Security/ Banking | Awareness & IEC | Selfie Point / Backdrop

* Daily Activity Report to be submitted to SPOC through WhatsApp (Mobile No. 8416068352) latest by 7:00 P.M.

*Summary of activities under Churachandpur District during Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan*

## 3. Strengthening Good Governance

i. Regular District Level Officers' and District Co-ordination Committee Meetings chaired by Shri Krishna Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Churanchandpur ensures time bound implementation of Central and State flagship programmes. During such meetings, improves convergence, is often stressed among line departments for effective service delivery with a focus on transparency, grievance redressal and citizen centric administration.

*Glimpses of DLOs/DCCs meetings chaired by Shri Krishna Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Churachandpur*

ii. Spot Inspection & On-site review of projects and Field verification

iii. Conducting impromptu visits to government and aided schools to ensure quality education

*Shri Krishna Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Churachandpur and District Officials review construction of BSc. Nursing College.*

*Efficient monitoring of NEET-UG 2026 re-exam at Churachandpur College (Autonomous)*

*Surprise inspection at Gandhi Memorial Govt. High School*

## 4. Digital Governance & Innovation

i. Expansion of e-Governance service including e-District, Aadhaar service, digital certificates and online public service delivery.

ii. Promotion of Digital governance, video conferencing and ICT-enabled administration.

## 5. Women & Child Empowerment

District Administration, Churachandpur launches the innovative BBBP Mentorship Connect online plateform, providing a digital mentoring plate-from for girls and women under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Initiative.

*visit: https://www.bbbpmentorshipccpur.com*

## 6. Public Service Delivery

Special camps for issuance of certificates, Aadhaar enrollment, welfare scheme enrollments and social security benefits and improves accessibility of essential government services in remote areas through outreach programmes such as 'Jan Kalyan Shivir' at regular intervals for door-step delivery of services to the public.

## 7. Disaster Response & Humanitarian:

*Shri Krishna Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner at the lauching programme of Jan Kalyan Shivir*

District Administration, Churachandpur ensures continued relief, rehabilitation and restoration measures in affected areas with inter-departmental collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

## 8. Public Health:

With the active support of DC/ Chairperson, the District Health Society, continues to make strides and achievements in public health domain.

*Shri Krishna Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner providing immediate relief assistance to victims of heavy rains and flash floods*

## 8. Public Health:

With the active support of DC/Chairperson, the District Health Society, continues to make strides and achievements in public health domain.

STATE HEALTH SOCIETY, NHM
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
Certificate of Appreciation
This certificate is awarded to
Churachandpur District
for achieving the
"Best Treatment for Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C"
under National Viral Hepatitis Control Program
for the state for FYs 2025-26.
Dr. R.K. Rosie
State Nodal Officer, NVHCP
SHS, NHM, Manipur
Dr. M. Dinesh Singh
State Mission Director
SHS, NHM, Manipur

*Certificate of Appreciation under National Viral Hepatitis Control Program*

*District Hospital, Churachandpur achieved notable milestone in strengthening specialized healthcare service by successfully performing 3 Total Knee Replacement (TKR) and 1 Total Hip Replacement (THR) surgeries under AB-PMJAY and CMHT schemes.*

## 9. Conclusion:

District Administration under the dynamic leadership of Shri Krishna Kumar, IAS believes in transparency, inclusiveness, and last mile delivery of government services, a 'Resilient & Responsive Governance' Model that stands with the people in crisis to build a peaceful and prosperous 'Churachandpur District'.

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# UKHRUL FOREST DIVISION

## Official Achievement Report (2025-26) & Independence Day Special Feature

*Divisional Forest Officer, Ukhrul*

## From Seed to Stewardship: A People's Movement for a Greener Ukhrul

During 2025–26, the Ukhrul Forest Division transformed environmental conservation into a district-wide public movement by fostering strong partnerships between government institutions, security forces, community bodies, and citizens. Integrating afforestation with springshed management and climate resilience, the Division achieved milestone successes in biodiversity conservation and community-led natural resource management.

## Key Highlights & Achievements

### 1. State Award for Highest Plantation under EPMKN 3.0

The Division created history under the flagship "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (EPMKN) 3.0" campaign by planting 4,31,493 saplings within a 57-day span (5th June - 31st July 2026) - the highest across all Forest Divisions in Manipur.

- State Recognition: Conferred the State Award for Highest Plantation during the Green Finale of the 77th Van Mahotsav Celebration, 2026.
- Massive Sapling Distribution: Promoted household and institutional planting by holding large-scale indigenous sapling distribution drives at various locations of the District

### 2. Integrated Springshed & Water Resource Management (COSFOM–KfW)

Demonstrating that forests and water resources are inseparable, the campaign actively integrated afforestation with watershed

management and groundwater recharge:

- 23 Water Resource Conservation Groups (WRCGs) under the COSFOM–KfW Project spearheaded community-based restoration.
- Contributed 2,27,170 saplings toward the

district total.

- Target areas included degraded catchment zones, critical springsheds, and community forest areas to ensure long-term water security and ecological resilience.

## 3. Campaign Launch & Mass Mobilisation

- Inauguration at Eden Home Orphanage: Launched on World Environment Day (5th June 2026) with a focus on youth stewardship and environmental literacy.
- District-Wide Participation: Executed extensive plantation and awareness drives across government offices, schools, colleges, village forests, roadsides, and public lands.
- Collaborating Partners: District Administration, Line Departments, Assam Rifles, Village Authorities, Educational Institutions, Churches, Youth Organisations, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs), NGOs, and local citizens.

## Awareness

- Legal & Conservation Literacy: Conducted targeted programs on forest fire prevention, wildlife protection, legal frameworks, and climate change adaptation.
- Media Partnership: Partnered with the Ukhrul District Working Journalists' Association (UDWJA) to promote responsible environmental journalism and maximize public outreach.
- 77th Van Mahotsav: Celebrated district-wide mass plantation drives and institutional participation, reinforcing collective ownership of green spaces.

## At a Glance: EPMKN 3.0 Campaign Snapshot

| | |
|---|---|
| Campaign Period | 5th June – 31st July 2026 |
| Total Saplings Planted in Ukhrul | 4,31,493 (State Record) |
| COSFOM Villages Involved | 23 WRCG Villages |
| COSFOM Contribution | 2,27,170 Saplings |
| State Level Award | 1st Rank (Highest Plantation amongst all Districts in Manipur) |

## Impact & Strategic Outcomes

- Landscape & Springshed Rejuvenation: Restored degraded eco-zones and reinforced critical water catchments across 23 targeted villages.
- Inter-Departmental Convergence: Built a synchronized administrative network combining government line departments, civil society, traditional village governance, and security forces.
- Grassroots Ownership: Shifted the conservation paradigm from state-led drives to sustainable, community-owned environmental stewardship.

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# NEWS IN PICTURE

## Launching of PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) was facilitated on June 19 at NIELIT Hall, Akampat in Imphal. Governor of Manipur Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla along with Chief Minister Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Home Minister Shri Konthoujam Govindas Singh, senior officials and employees witnessed the live streaming of the central event held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi

## Launching of Nasha Mukt Bharat Saptah.

The campaign forms part of nationwide efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and a drug-free society ahead of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

# NEWS IN PICTURE

## Imphal Hosts Durand Cup 2026 As Football Fever Returns

Imphal once again rolled out as one of the five host cities for the 135th IndianOil Durand Cup 2026, from July 30 reaffirming Manipur's status as one of the country's premier football destinations. The historic Khuman Lampak Main Stadium is hosting Group D league matches and a quarter-final of Asia's oldest football tournament, bringing top domestic clubs and football enthusiasts together in the State.

## District Administrations Launches VB-G RAM-G

The District Administrations in the state launches the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM-G) to strengthen rural livelihoods and employment opportunities. The programme introduced guaranteed wage employment, enhanced daily wages and village-based planning, with work orders distributed to beneficiaries during the launch. Officials urged active community participation to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

# NEWS IN PICTURE

## Special Electoral Roll Revision Conducted across the State

The District Election Offices launched the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls, 2026. The exercise includes house-to-house verification by Booth Level Officers, publication of the draft electoral roll, claims and objections, polling station rationalisation, voter awareness programmes and dedicated help desks to facilitate electors. The initiative aims to ensure an accurate, inclusive and transparent electoral roll.

## Vartalap Workshop Highlights Government-Media Coordination

Director, Information and Public Relations, Dr. Th. Charanjeet Singh, stressed the importance of effective coordination between the Government and the media during the "Vartalap" media workshop organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) on June 25 at Imphal. The workshop focused on government outreach, media engagement, the National Education Policy, economic reforms and responsible dissemination of public information to strengthen democratic governance.

# NEWS IN PICTURE

## IEC Campaign Takes Government Services to Remote Areas

The District Administrations in the state conducted the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign under "Jan Bhagidari – Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle" to improve access to government welfare schemes in remote areas. The outreach included awareness sessions, Aadhaar enrolment, ration card services, PM-JAY, PM-KISAN, Jan Dhan accounts, social security schemes, livelihood programmes, health check-ups, immunisation, grievance redressal and beneficiary registration, ensuring direct delivery of essential public services to rural communities.

## Women's Commission Organises Yashoda AI Awareness Programme

The Manipur State Commission for Women, in collaboration with the National Commission for Women, organised a one-day awareness programme on "Yashoda AI" to promote artificial intelligence literacy, digital awareness and cyber safety among women. The programme highlighted the opportunities and challenges presented by AI while encouraging safe, responsible and productive use of digital technologies.

# NEWS IN PICTURE

## Manipur Gets First Aadhaar Seva Kendra

Manipur's first UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) was inaugurated on July 30 at Wahengbam Leikai, Imphal West, to strengthen Aadhaar enrolment and update services. The facility offers residents a dedicated centre for Aadhaar-related services and is expected to improve enrolment, particularly among children, while supporting the delivery of citizen-centric government services across the State.

## Jan Kalyan Shivir to Facilitate Access to Welfare Schemes

The District Administration and Departments across the state organised Jan Kalyan Shivir camps to facilitate registration under various Central and State welfare schemes. Conducted as single-window service centres, the camps enabled eligible beneficiaries to access multiple government services under one roof. DIPR also organised similar welfare camps for journalists under the Manipur State Journalists' Welfare Scheme and the Manipur Working Journalists' Pension Scheme.

# NEWS IN PICTURE

## DIPR Launches Official Fact-Check Facebook Page

The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Manipur, on April 30 launched the "DIPR Manipur Fact Check" official Facebook page to verify government orders, notices and circulars and curb the spread of misinformation. Awareness programme on journalists' welfare schemes, accreditation, press identity cards and State journalist awards was also organised for media personnel. The Directorate also organised a one-day workshop on "Application of Artificial Intelligence in Journalism and Media Fact-Checking."

## State Joins 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 3.0' Campaign

Manipur joined the nationwide "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 3.0" plantation campaign launched on World Environment Day. The Forest Department initiated statewide plantation drives with a target of planting around 85 lakh saplings during 2026–27, encouraging citizens, educational institutions, government departments and community organisations to actively participate in environmental conservation and climate resilience.

# NEWS IN PICTURE

## Media Seminar Promotes Responsible Journalism

A one-day seminar on "Media for Communal Harmony and Responsible Journalism" was jointly organised by the Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM) and the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on June 8th at Hotel Imphal. The seminar deliberated on responsible reporting during communal tensions, media ethics, misinformation, and the role of journalism in promoting peace and social harmony. Technical sessions focused on media advisories, digital misinformation and conflict-sensitive reporting, with participation from journalists, editors, media professionals and students.

## Jan Aushadhi Kendras Opened; ABHA Camp Launched in Jiribam

Two Jan Aushadhi Kendras under the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) were inaugurated on May 26 at District Hospital Jiribam to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. An ABHA ID generation camp was also launched to promote digital health records under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, improving access to affordable and digitally connected healthcare services.