

IPR Day observed; Edn. Min. cautions media in reporting sensational news

IT News
Imphal, Nov 1: Education Minister, M Okendro, who is also the spokesperson of Manipur Government cautioned the media fraternity of the state from publishing stories that may provoke hate feelings to the various ethnic community of the state. Speaking as Chief Guest, at the 66th Information and Public Relation Day observed by the Directorate of Information and Public Relation at Moirangkhom, here in Imphal, Okendro said that media plays important role in maintaining peace and tranquility in the state. "Some vested interested people are trying to disturb



the harmonious relationship between the Hill and plain people and people in the media should know it", said the Education Minister. He said both print and electronic media should restrain from negative reporting which might provoke hate feelings to different community. He further added that the state government will soon come up with a new policy to monitor the news content of the state media. About upgrading the DIPR into a major department, Okendro said that the government has already approved for recruitment of 58 to 60 staffs to field the vacant posts in the department. He also added that process is on to procure equipments for the department. Parliamentary Secretary, IPR & MI, K. Meghachandra, who preside over the observance function also lauded the roles being played by the media in the state. "In

democracy media plays crucial roles, it bridge the gap between people and the government", Meghachandra said. The first Publicity Officer of Manipur Government was appointed on November 1 in 1949. Late Rajkumar Maipaksana Singh was the first Publicity Officer of Manipur. The Information and Publicity office became a Directorate in March 1974 with the appointment of Director and Ex-Officio Secretary. The Directorate extended its services to the district headquarters by posting Reporters and Information Assistants in districts in 1978. Manipur Information Centre (MIC) was opened at New Delhi in 1981. IPR Principal Secretary Lethogin Haokip, who was also present at the occasion stressed the need for bridging the gap between people of the hill and valley through DIPR.

On the occasion prize winner of the Photo completion organized by the DIPR were also conferred certificates, mementos and cash awards. The photo competition was held in four theme. Under the theme "Unity in Diversity", Arbind Sorokhaibam bags 1st Position, Devendra Hijam bags 2nd Position and R.K. Nepolian bags 3rd Position. On the theme "Manipur Marches Ahead", Oinam Deepak bags 1st Position, Kosygin Leishangthem bags 2nd Position and Bimal Thongam bags 3rd Position. On the theme "Environment, Ecology & Ecotourism of Manipur", Arbind Sorokhaibam agains bags 1st Position, Oinam Deepak bags 2nd Position and Longjam Himmat bags 3rd Position. In "Candid from the Streets of Manipur" theme, Ranabudhi Nongyai bags 1st Position, Nikhil Prasad bags 2nd Position and Soibam James bags 3rd Position.

CM, legislators meet APO, KVC over Gaidinliu project

Courtesy NP
Kohima, Nov. 1: Against the backdrop of opposition to the construction of the Rani Gaidinliu museum-cum-library legislators of Kohima district including parliamentary secretary planning and art& culture including officials led by chief minister T.R. Zeliang met with representatives of Kohima Village Council and Angami Public Organisations (APO) and department officials.

According to CM's media cell, the APO president maintained that APO opposed the project on the ground that Gaidinliu had opposed NNC and killed several NNC functionaries between 1960 to 1966 and also had not contributed anything to Nagas, as a whole. Parliamentary secretary (W&H) Er. Levi urged restraint over making such open statements with political overtones of NNC since a stadium near Kohima has been named as Indira Gandhi Stadium during whose tenure as prime minister, "many Naga insurgents were killed by the government of India." Minister of forest & environment Dr. Nicky Kire opined that the museum could be used for other purposes instead of dedicating it after a single person but appealed to APO to review its objection in the larger interest of Naga society. M.L.A. Vikho Yhosho felt that there could be an option of renaming the project in order to break the impasse between the APO and state government.

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MCPM terms Sangai Festival as looters fest.

IT News
Imphal, Nov. 1: Rebel group Maoist Communist Party, Manipur today said that if the Manipur Government fails to charted a long term policy to promote tourism industry in the state instead of looting public money in the name of organising Sangai Festival then the outfit will call general strike in all days of Sangai festival. In a press statement, the outfit said that some of the people in the government are looting

public money in the name of renovation works of roads and other infrastructures without caring to maintain quality control. The renovation works at Zoological Garden has also been criticised by the outfit saying that quality was not maintain. It said it will highlights the name of the contractors involve in the renovation works. "Every years the government alooted works

and renovation works of infrastructures but as the works are done to meet the deadlines, quality was never maintain", the Maoist statement said. It further added that the government till today has not taken up any plan to connect the Dzukou Valley, Siroi Lily or Kangkhui Cape. It said no tourist destination has been established in Tamenglong district where the Deputy Chief Minister was elected.

'India must respect Irom Sharmila's 15 years of struggle'

IT News
Imphal, Nov. 1: Today marks the completion of 15 years of the selfless and unparalleled protest of Irom Sharmila, 42 year old poet and human rights defender from Manipur, India. She has been on hunger strike since 2 November 2000, demanding the repeal of the draconian Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) which has been criticized by several national and international bodies. The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Human Rights Alert (Manipur), Amnesty International India and Naga People's Movement for Human Rights urge Indian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Irom Sharmila and repeal AFSPA. "Irom Sharmila's 15 year hunger strike is a symbol of a brave struggle against injustice. The AFSPA has caused widespread human rights violations like enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, torture and sexual violence," said Henri Tiphagne, Chairperson of FORUM-ASIA. In particular, "AFSPA has been used to justify killings on mere suspicion as well as granted virtual immunity through a clause prohibiting legal proceedings

without sanction from the federal government, which is virtually never granted." Irom Sharmila started her hunger strike on 2 November 2000 demanding the repeal of AFSPA. However she was arrested four days later and charged with attempted suicide, a crime under Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code. "According to Section 309, a person convicted of the crime of attempted suicide may only be imprisoned a year. Since then Sharmila has been arrested, released and rearrested to be released after a year of judicial custody where she is forced fed through a nasogastric tube," said Babloo Loitongbam, Director of Human Rights Alert Manipur. "Sharmila has never been convicted of charges of attempted suicide. Sharmila has repeatedly rejected the allegation that she is trying to commit suicide and maintains that she is on hunger strike demanding the repeal of AFSPA". On 19 August 2014, a Manipur court ordered Sharmila to be released stating that her hunger strike was a "political demand through lawful means". On 10 December 2014, the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs said the Indian government had decided to repeal section 309 which would decriminalize

attempted suicide. Most recently, on 23 January 2015, a district court in Imphal rejected the charges of attempted suicide and ordered to Sharmila's release from custody. However, she was re-arrested on the very same charges a day later. Sharmila has been facing this farcical cycle of arrests and re-arrest and has been subjected to force feeding since she began her hunger strike in November 2000. "A hunger strike is not an attempt at suicide. Irom Sharmila is being detained by the government only for her inconvenient activism," said Aakar Patel Executive Director of Amnesty International India. "She is a prisoner of conscience, using her freedom of expression to protest against an unjust law. And her shameful detention leaves a stain on India's commitment to human rights which grows harder to remove with every passing year." The criminalization of Irom Sharmila's peaceful protest also goes against the spirit of Article 1 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which guarantees the right of human rights defenders to promote and protect the realisation of human rights.

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IPR Director Somorjit Salam delivering speech on 66th DIPR Day



IED found

IT News
Imphal Nov. 1: A powerful IED was found at the roadside, about 50 meters away to the Southern side of 109 Bn CRPF post located at Mongsangai at around 6.30 am today. Locals of the area first noticed the IED and later reported the matter to the CRPF post. A Bomb Disposal Squad Team of the Manipur Police later rushed the spot and defuse the IED safely.

Mushroom Cultivation

IT News
Imphal, Nov 1: 3 days skill development program on Mushroom Cultivation was held at Khurai Thongam Leikai. The skill development program which began from October 29 was jointly organized by NCUI-Women Co-Operative Education Project OF Imphal West and Rama foundation. Gram Panchayet of Khurai Thongam leikai, Wahengbam Romesh singh, Chair Person of NCUI Jeena Potsangbam and Director of ICM Imphal were grace the closing function as chief guest, president and guest of honor respectively

KCP-MC supports MCPM Gen. Strike

IT News
Imphal, Nov.1: The proscribed outfit KCP-MC (liberation) in a press statement issued today said the outfit will support the all Manipur General Strike called on Maoist Communist Party Manipur on the first day of Sangai Festival, 2015. The statement further said the outfit will fully support any step for the upliftment and development of Kanglei (Manipur) Tourism taken up by Maoist Communist Party Manipur. Meanwhile the party also appealed Maoist Communist Party Manipur to take a leading role in uniting among all the communist parties established to bring structural equality, justice and cordial social relationship in Manipuri society.

KUT celebrated with cultural flavour

IT News
Imphal, Nov. 1: Chavang KUT, the post harvest festival of Kuki-Chin- Mizo was celebrated today with cultural flavour at 1st MR Parade ground. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh appealed the people of the state to celebrate the spirit of KUT festival with traditional flavour to spread communal harmony in the state. He said that understanding the significance of KUT festival in promoting peace and unity in the state, the state government had celebrated the festival at state level declaring the day as state holiday. He appealed the people to preserve the culture and traditions of every community in the state. Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam in his speech elaborated on the significance of celebrating the festival saying that the festival brings us kindness and prosperity to the people. He said the various kind of festivals being observed by different communities of the state showed that we are people who admires peaceful co-existence among various people of the state.



"We all know that Naga, Kuki, Meitei, Pangal etc. have been living together from the time immortal. Our forefather may not get formal education but they are more educated as they know the art of living peacefully", said Gaikhangam. The function was also attended by Law and Forest Minister Devendra, Health and Family Welfare Minister Phungzathang Tonsing, Industry Minister Govindas Konhoujam, RD&PR Minister Franchis Ngajokpa, Edn. Minister M. Okendro, IJCD Minister Gnamthang Haokip, PHED Minister I Hemochandra, Social Welfare Minister AK Mirabai and MLA O. Landhoni graced the occasion as dignitaries on the dais.

AR Brigadier visits family of slain rifleman



IT News
Imphal, Nov. 1: Brigadier Rajiv Chhibber, Commander, 26 Sector AR and Mrs Vandana Chhibber, President, Assam Rifles Women's Welfare Association, 26 Sector Assam Rifles visited the family of Late Rifleman Paokholet Baite at Moreh on Saturday and shared the

grief with family members. Rifleman Paokholet Baite of 24 Assam Rifles was killed in militants attack at Satang area near Kwatha in Chandel district on October 25. Rebel group MPA had claimed the attack. The Assam Rifles provided all possible assistant to the widow of the Rifleman.