



New President of BJP Manipur Pradesh Bhavananda felicitated at Nityapat Chuthek office

## New BJP Manipur Pradesh President given warm reception

### Th. Chaoba shows loyalty to BJP Central leadership decision; appeals party worker to strengthen activities

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Former President of BJP Manipur Pradesh Th. Chaoba today showed his loyalty to the party's central leadership decision, saying that he welcome the central leadership decision to appoint Ksh. Bhavananda as the new state party leader.

During a reception party of the new President of BJP Manipur Pradesh at its party office at Nityapat Chuthek, Th. Chaoba said that Ksh. Bhavananda was chosen by the central leadership after thorough discussion by the party leadership for around 4 months.

Th. Chaoba said that BJP Manipur Pradesh has now become the only alternative political party for the people of the state. It has 2 MLAs in the Manipur Legislative Assembly and has successfully dominated in local election and Nagar Panchayat election held recently.

He expressed his hope that the new state leader will lead the party to more success in the coming Imphal Municipal Election (IME) as well as in the upcoming General Assembly Election. Speaking on the occasion Ksh. Bhavananda appealed the party workers and other leaders to work in team to strengthen the party. The new president of the BJP Manipur Pradesh talked tough against the mis-governance saying that the people of the state has now

sometimes asked themselves whether they are Indian or not. "This wrong perception is being implanted to the minds by the misgovernance and corruption of the government. If there is a good governance, 70% of the problem in the state will be solved". Bhavananda assured. He appealed the for former leaders and the leaders of the state BJP including the 2 MLAs to extend their helping hand in spreading the popularity of the party.

## 'Anjuman' landed in trouble after a person picked-up by them found dead in custody

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Anjuman, the organization which has been spearheading campaign against anti social activities in Lilong area today landed in trouble after a person picked up by them died in their custody today morning. Following the death of the youth large number of people in Lilong area condemning the incident urged law enforcers to take action against Anjuman. Report said, volunteers of Anjuman Lilong picked up a truck driver identified as Md. Imamuddin (age 35) son of Md Hajiruyajuddin of Lilong Heinou Makhong in connection with the missing of some gold belonging to an important member of Anjuman. The gold was reportedly shipped through his truck from Guwahati some days back. The truck belongs to one Hajir Raja of Lilong Haoreibi Makha leikai.

The report added that the deceased was kept in the custody of Anjuman for around 4 days and all of a sudden he was taken to Public Hospital at Hatta in Imphal East by the volunteers of Anjuman at around 7.30 am. However, doctors at Public Hospital declared the person to have been brought dead.

Following the death of the truck driver large number of people today organized a public meeting at Lilong Haji Masjid ground at around 4 pm. Details of the meeting could not be known at the movement, however, the air there smell unfriendly for the anti drug body. People are angry with the excess of the Anjuman and some had already demanded legal action against the organisation.

## BJP councillor joins Congress

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) welcomed BJP Y Ratikanta, sitting Councillor Ward no 19 of Yaikul A/C in joining India National Congress today. TN Haokip, President MPCC in a welcoming ceremony held at Congress Bhavan said, it is a pride moment for all of us that more and more people are joining the party with the realization of Party's Moto and ideology. He further said the party has firm believe in the new member that he will lead a productive political leadership journey for welfare of Manipur. While sharing his purpose of leaving BJP in the

## CM inaugurates two 33/11 KV Power sub-stations in Thoubal district

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4, 2016(DIPR):** Chief Minister Shri O. Ibobi Singh said that what is longed by the Government is not the inauguration but to provide the benefit to the people of the state.

This was stated by him while speaking as the Chief Guest at the inauguration function of 33/11 KV Power Sub-Station at Thoubal Leishangthem Thoudam in Thoubal District. Prior to this, another 33/11 KV Sub-Station at Lilong Ushoipokpi in the District was also inaugurated by him.

Saying that such a function is not a political platform to give public speech CM Shri O. Ibobi continued that what is being done is to discharge the duty of a government at the best level to meet the necessities of the public. So, he even told the Managing Director of the Manipur State Power Company Limited (MSPCL) to carry out the inaugural function along with the representatives of the Local Bodies like Zilla Parishad and Panchayat. He expressed that with inauguration of the power sub-station at the area there will be no more inconveniences of bringing power supply from distant sub-station and at the same time the voltage profile will be



more consistent. He also thanked the MSPCL for the completion of the sub-station within a short time.

The inauguration functions organised by MSPCL were attended by Md. Fazur Rahim, MLA Wabagai A/C, Zilla Parishad Members and Pradhans of the area, Shri N. Sarat Singh, MD M S P C L . D e p u t y

Commissioner Thoubal, Superintendent of Police Thoubal and officers and staff of MSPCL.

It may be mentioned that the 33/11 KV Sub-station at Thoubal Leishangthem Thoudam was taken up with the approval of the Planning Commission under SPA. The project cost is Rs. 1086.96 Lakhs and the date of award

is 13/12/2013. The objective of the project is to give reliable supply of electricity to the surrounding villages like leishangthem kelimakhong, Keibung, Keibung Wangmataba, Khekman, Thoubal Moijing, Sabal Tongba, thoubal Ningombam, Leishangthem, Thoudam, Irong Thokchom, Maibam konjil, Iram siphai, etc. The 33/11KV Sub-station at Lilong Ushoipokpi was taken up under 10<sup>th</sup> Plan RGGVY (Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana) with an estimated cost of Rs. 3.50 crs.

With the installation of 33/11 KV Sub- Stations access to electricity to all the rural households will be enabled and which in turn bring about rapid development of agro based industries in the District.

## JACs of Prasanta's death call 48 hours general strike from today midnight

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** JAC formed against the suspicious death of S Prasanta from Kakwa Nameirakpam Leikai and JAC formed against the unfortunate death of S Prasanta at Lilong Haoreibi had agreed to go hand in hand to bring justice to the deceased and his family. A meeting of both the JAC was convened under the initiative of United Committee Manipur (UCM) and All Manipur United Club Organizations

(AMUCO) at the head office of UCM at Lamphel.

In a press meet held today, the two JACs called 48 hours Manipur Bandh from today midnight to midnight of May 6 against the government failure to produce the culprits involved in the killing of the youth by today evening. Speaking to media persons at UCM office at Lamphel, both convenor of the JACs - Ashem Sunil and Md Tajuddin urged people of Manipur to support the ongoing agitations.

Md Tajuddin appealed people specially facebook users not to spread anti-social statement or comments which may create disturbance to the communal harmony of society.

Elangbam Johnson, UCM President, while speaking on the occasion said that most of the unwanted crimes are rooted from drugs and other intoxicants. He appealed both the JACs and other CSOs to launch intensive drive against drugs and other anti-social elements

## Manipuri students demand probe over police excess at Silchar

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** All Assam Manipuri Students Union (AAMSU) has condemned Assam University VC Prof PR Dhamala's irresponsible reaction on Students' sentiment and demanded resignation of University higher authorities over police excess to female agitators at University Gate on the mid night of May 2. AAMSU HQ Vice-president Phanjoubam Lokenath said

that students of the University residing in a nearby village called Irangmara staged protest demonstration demanding postpone of their Semester Examination which was scheduled to commence from May 2 as there were no electricity in their village for around two weeks.

When the agitators addressed their problem to VC, the VC instead of listening to their problems

blamed the students for staying at Irangmara, said Lokenath.

On that midnight, the student agitators including girls were lathi charged by intoxicated male police personnel led by Cachar Police SP Rajeev Singh without any lacy police at around 1.30 am of May 3.

Lokenath said the student body strongly condemned the inhuman act of Cachar Police and demanded

concern authority to conduct departmental inquiry.

Volunteers of ABVP Silchar unit had also extended support to the demand of the AAMSU.

Irangmara is the most nearby village to the University where a large number of University students from Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Kolkata, and others are residing in rented houses.

## WESTERN FRONT PILGRIMAGE 2016

# A British family pays respects to their Fallen and to those from Manipur in France and Belgium during the Great War 1914-18

Every evening since 1928 (except during WWII) at precisely eight o'clock at the Menin Gate in Belgium, the Buglers from the Ypres Fire Brigade play the Last Post and Reveille in memory of those who died in the Great War of 1914-18. Myself and four other members of my family travelled from the UK to be present on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April this year to honour those of our family who fought and those who died during those terrible four years. In addition to our family pilgrimage we also had other acts of Remembrance to perform on behalf of our Manipuri friends. As members of the Manipur based World War II Imphal Campaign Foundation we sought to find the graves of some of those men of the Manipur Labour Corps killed in the Great War who lay in cemeteries dotted throughout France. The Corps was raised in 1917 by the King of Manipur Maharaj Churachand when an official request from the Political Agent was sent out to all the villages in Manipur asking for two thousand labourers. These men would have the vital job of digging trenches, clearing battlefields and moving supplies, allowing the fighting troops to concentrate with fighting rather than doing all the mundane work of war as well. Official documentary evidence shows that around seventy men from Manipur

were killed in action or died of sickness in France and an untold number wounded. Others were lost in Italy, Egypt and Yemen.

The second day of our pilgrimage took us to the site of the battle in which my great uncle James Rowe was killed in 1915. He has no known grave and may still be lying under the field where I planted a poppy cross in his memory. From there we visited various museums about the Great War and the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in the world at Tyne Cot. In this vast cemetery lay the remains of nearly twelve thousand soldiers of whom only three thousand six hundred are identified. In addition to this the names of a further thirty five thousand men with no known graves are carved on the walls around the cemetery. All these men were killed just within the area of Ypres alone. We finished the day in the area where my brother in law's grandfather Richard Westgate was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in 1917.

The next day was spent visiting other memorials and in particular the huge and impressive Canadian monument at Vimy Ridge where again thousands of men were lost in fierce battles. We visited and paid our respects at the graves

of two more of my family members, James Latimer and George Wardell, before going in search of the first of our Manipuri men. This was at Barly cemetery, a combined French and British cemetery that was quite isolated. Here, because we believe he maybe the first Manipuri to be specifically visited (certainly no family member has been), we placed a poppy wreath in memory of all Manipuri's at the grave of ArkhillPukhini who was killed on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1918. He is the only Manipuri buried in this cemetery but he lay's alongside some of his Indian brothers.

The next stop along our route was the cemetery at La Chapelle British and Indian cemetery in Perrone. This beautiful cemetery has nearly six hundred British and Indian burials and in amongst them are three from the Manipur Labour Corps. We soon found KapaniAshio (killed 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1917) and Shishil.Limu (6<sup>th</sup> December 1917) as they were buried side by side and a poppy cross was placed on each grave. Beautiful purple irises were in full bloom and stood out in contrast to the deep green of the short grass surrounding the burial plots. A few more rows of Indian graves away stood the headstone of ThurmVung (19<sup>th</sup> December 1917) and a poppy cross was placed for him too. It is thought that

they may have died of wounds as this was the location of the Lucknow Casualty Clearing Station at the time of their deaths.

On the last day (a very busy one!) we saw the Lochnagar Crater, the largest crater on the Western Front, caused when British miners placed a huge charge of explosives under the German trenches to signal the start of the Battle of the Somme on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. This battle is remembered as the British Army's worst day when twenty thousand men were killed and a further thirty or forty thousand wounded. My grandfather Nathaniel Rowe was only a mile or so away when this went up, with the explosion being heard in London it is said. A few miles further north we visited the Thiepval Memorial where another family member is commemorated. Sadly the monument was being repaired in time for this year's hundredth anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and we could not get to see his name carved there. However, we went to DeWille Wood where Ernest Smith was killed and still lays there with thousands of soldiers from both sides as their bodies were never recovered because of all the unexploded ordnance making it too dangerous.

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