



Tributes to Bir
Tikendrajit and
Thangal General on
Patriots' Day

Patriots' Day: Manipur remembered heroes of Anglo-Manipur war

IT News

Imphal, August 13: The 126th Patriots Day was observed today across the state of Manipur remembering the heroes and their sacrifices made during the Anglo-Manipur war of 1891.

Befitting tributes were paid to the memorial sites of Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General at Hicham Yaicham Pat, Moirangkhom and Thangal General Temple, Palace Compound.

Chief Minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh, Senior Congress leader Gaihankham, Ministers, MLAs and other top government officials jointly paid floral tribute to the patriots of Manipur.

As part of the observance, a contingent of 1st Manipur Rifles paid gun salute to the departed heroes of Manipur at Hicham Yaicham Pat.

Bharatiya Janata Party, Manipur Pradesh also observed the day at its state head office and other district and mandal offices across the state. The observance function held at BJP state office was attended by Thokchoma Satyabrata Singh, MLA of Yaikul A/C; Th Chaoba, Former President of BJP, Manipur Pradesh and Adim Panmei, Vice President of Pradesha BJP as presidium members.

During the celebration, the dignitaries and members of BJP, Manipur Pradesh along with officials of the different



merchors of the state BJP have also paid floral tribute to the patriots.

Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) also marked the day at its BT Road today with leader of the opposition in the Manipur Legislative Assembly, Okram Ibobi Singh, RK Imo Singh, MLA of Sagolband A/C and General Secretary (Admin) of MPCC and other leaders of the state Congress.

On the occasion of 126th Patriots' Day, Karyakartas of BJP Patsoi Mandal has vowed to follow the path of patriots, who have sacrificed their lives to protect sovereignty of Manipur from the hands of colonial British during the Anglo-Manipur war of 1891. Observing the day at the office premise of the Mandal,

Karyakartas paid floral tribute to the photographs of Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General, who were hanged to death on August 13, 1891, on the charge of waging war against the British. While addressing the gathering at the observance, Vistarak of BJP, Patsoi Mandal, Wahengbam Rorrrkyachand recalled the sacrifices made by martyrs and their courage to stand against those who challenge the freedom, integration and sovereignty of the nation.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Manipur Pranta has also observed the Patriots Day today morning at Lainingthou Esing Chaiba Sanglen, Nagamapal with A Brajkumar Sharma, Pranta Sangh Chalak and N

Joykumar Singh, Former HOD, History Department of Manipur University as President and Chief Guest respectively.

The Patriots' Day was also observed outside the state today at different places including a celebration at National Capital with Letpao Haokip, IFCD Minister, Government of Manipur as Chief Guest at Bir Tikendrajit Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

While, Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly, Yunnan Khemchand Singh also attended a 13 August celebration held today at Hojai, Assam. District Administration At Kangpokpi has also observed the day at the district headquarters today.

Blood donation camp held on Patriots' Day

IT News

Imphal, Aug 13: On the occasion of the 126th Patriots' Day various clubs and organization organized blood donation camps today.

Social Warriors Manipur (SWM), in association with IHBT, RIMS has organized 3rd Blood Donation Camp at Community Health Center, Yairipok.

Convenor of SWM, Keisham Kaminiukumar said that the state is facing scarcity of blood due to lack of donors and encouraging the people of Manipur to donate blood, he said that there is no harm and health hazard in giving blood.

He also informed that the



volunteers of SWM are ready to donate bloods and even asked the people of Manipur to contact SWM whenever and wherever blood donors are required. A total number of 61 people including 8 women donated blood at the camp

organized by SWM. Lions Club of Greater Imphal has also organized blood donation camp at Birmangol College, Sawmombung. Around 50 volunteers of the Lions Club participated at the blood donation camp.

On the MPSC scam and the people defending it

By: Group of Aspirants

This article is in response to the write up by one Mr. Arshad Shah under the heading - 'Dangers of 'Trial by Media' and the MPSC', published at some newspapers on the 11th of August, 2017. In the article mentioned above, Mr. Shah mentioned some very misleading points regarding the MCSCC examination, 2016 conducted by the Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC) and our objective here is to dissect these points, lay the whole truth, and not just a sliver of it, before the public.

First of all, the writer raised doubts as to the authenticity of the RTI sheets circulated on social media. While a healthy sense of doubt in anything is a sign of an educated mind, the selective papers shown by our learned writer is rather unfortunate. Such a well-informed person would have read in the papers that the Government of Manipur served a legal notice to a local daily for publishing a fake news item 'Raksha Bandhan Pangthokkadour'. Would MPSC have remained silent if the Group of Aspirants had cooked up the entire narrative or had forged the images that 'character assassinated' it?

Mr. Shah mentioned in his article that the High Court-appointed independent enquiry commission had

dismissed the extra paper issue as some of the petitioners had taken extra papers in certain subjects. This smacks of a deep-rooted confirmation bias and is akin to saying that the Holocaust did not happen because some of the Jews survived! Moreover, the commission, in one of its reports, said '...this new decision (to issue extra answer sheets) was announced only orally through the invigilators to the candidates about 30 minutes after the actual commencement of the examination' and '...petitioners had enough time to mentally prepare himself/herself to write well with the availing of extra papers'. Why didn't the commission examine the opposing claim of the disgruntled candidates that no such announcement was made? Why weren't invigilators approached so that they, as independent witnesses, could reveal the truth? One also wonders where the writer got the information that there were more examiners this time. According to the affidavit submitted by MPSC itself, only 1 examiner corrected 1063 Essay papers (that too in 14 days, at the rate of 75.9 answer sheets/day!) Either our esteemed writer lacks basic arithmetic skill or he overlooked a glaring error in his hurry to present MPSC in hallowed light and discredit the Group of Aspirants.

It is an earnest request, not only to the writer of the

article, but to everyone in general, to read the fine print so that we are not subject to selective perception and selective exposure bias. It is known to all that 'revision of marks is the norm'. What is also the norm is that there should be signature of the examiner for each exam he/she revised the marks allotted. This process was skipped in a few instances, resulting in the doubt if the marks were tampered with or if these papers were not examined by proper examiners. In some cases, corresponding signatures are present, but these are different from the signature of the examiner on the front page.

Two significant clarifications need to be made before anyone brushes off the mark tabulation errors as 'isolated inconsistencies'. First of all, it appears isolated only because MPSC has handed out answer sheets of not more than 40 candidates out of the 200+ RTI applications filed. Secondly, this is not market research, where one can ignore a few inconsistent or contradictory data; this is a competitive examination, where every single mark matters.

Mr. Shah did rightly point out that this issue needs to be examined by a court of law. We felt the same and have filed a fresh case against MPSC in the High Court of Manipur. However, judging the Group for approaching the media is uncalled for. After the

perceived unfairness with which the so-called commission dealt with the issue, we are left with little avenue to continue our fight for the truth but to appeal to the public and its leaders. Yes, we could have waited till the case goes to a Double Bench in the High Court and then held our collective breaths as it goes to the Supreme Court. We could have waited, and watch our careers get effectively over. But we chose action, for where is the guarantee that this same fiasco would not happen the next exam, if the culprits go scot-free? We have seen in the case of Assam how an effective Government can, without having to wait for judicial intervention, bring the axe down on corruption and corrupted officials. Our intention was not to instigate a media trial but to bring to the attention of the government the irregularities that have crept into the MCSCC exam. For this unfortunate chain of events, we wish to convey our sincerest apologies to those who got selected genuinely despite all the perceived misdeeds in the MCSCC Examination, 2016. But any sort of movement to change something so deeply rooted in our system would have some unintended side-effects. If they feel their reputation has been tainted because of MPSC's transgressions, the reputation of our state has been tarnished thousand-fold.