

## Hornbill festival concludes

Kohima, Dec 11: The 10-day long annual Hornbill Festival 2017 culminated last evening with the lighting of the bonfire and 'Unity Dance' at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama. The Unity Dance performed by various cultural troupes symbolizes oneness, unity and strength in the state's march towards progress and prosperity. The bonfire was lit by Nagaland Governor P.B. Acharya as Chief Guest, Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang as Chief Host, Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism C. Apok Jamir, as Host and assisted by the reigning Miss Nagaland, Marina Kiho and the runners-up Puofuzhano Whiso and Pewe-Tunyi. Thousands of people thronged the Naga Heritage Complex to witness the grand finale. According to data released by the Statistical in Charge of Tourism Department, this year, over 2400 foreign tourists, 38,700 domestic tourists and over two lakhs local visitors from Nagaland visited the festival. The last day of the festival recorded the highest number of visitors this year, with a head count of over 66,400. Nagaland Governor, P.B. Acharya said the State has potentials to become the most populous eco-tourism spot in the North East region.

Addressing the concluding day of the 18th edition of the annual Hornbill Festival last evening, the Governor said we must take this advantageous position to address our unemployment problem because tourism can be one of the biggest revenue earning departments. He said this year's Hornbill Festival was attended by a galaxy of high dignitaries including the first citizen of our country, Ram Nath Kovind, which is a remarkable achievement for the Tourism department. The Governor said the Festival was designed to coincide with Nagaland Statehood Day and the celebration gives an opportunity to all Naga tribes, to converge at one location and show-case the best of their tribal costumes, songs and dances.

Nagaland Chief Minister, T.R. Zeliang said the annual Hornbill festival of the State has gained popularity despite the remoteness and lack of proper infrastructure. He said this was possible due to the collective efforts of the people. With regard to the much debated issue of reducing the hornbill festival to seven days, he said after seeing the response of the people, the tourist and the success of the festival, he prefers that the festival remain a ten day event.

## Rahul Gandhi is the new Congress Chief; elected as president unopposed

New Delhi, Dec 11: Rahul Gandhi has become the Congress President-elect with the deadline to withdraw nomination for internal polls ending at 3pm today. Gandhi, however, may officially take charge on December 16 when his mother and longest-serving party president Sonia Gandhi formally hands over the baton to him, marking a generational shift in the grand old party.

AICC spokesperson says the deadline for withdrawing nominations was 3pm today. All 89 nominations papers for Rahul Gandhi have been found valid. As the only candidate, Rahul Gandhi is declared Congress President. "This is a historic moment," says party leader MM Ramachandran.



Sonia Gandhi will formally hand over the reins of the party to her son on Saturday, December 16 at 11am, a party source said. The Congress' Central Election Authority chairman Mullanally Ramachandran, and CEA members Madhusudan Mistry and Bhubaneswar Kalita announced Rahul Gandhi as

the only nomination for the top job in a press conference held at 24, Akbar Road, New Delhi. Large numbers of Congress workers were seen celebrating outside the party headquarters in New Delhi. Rahul Gandhi, meanwhile, is busy campaigning in Gujarat.

## Stage set for Nupilal Day ; CM pays tributes to Imas

ITNews Imphal, Dec. 11: The Government of Manipur is organizing the Nupee Lal Day, 2017 on Tuesday the 12th December, 2017 at 9 a.m. at Nupee Lal Memorial Complex, Imphal. Chief Minister, Manipur N. Biren Singh and Hon'ble Minister, Agri., Vety. & Animal Husbandry V. Hangkhanlian will grace the function as Chief Guest and President respectively. With floral tributes to the departed freedom fighters of Nupee Lal Movements, artistes of Shri Shri Bal Mukunda Dev Government Music College, Imphal will

present the opening and the closing songs. Joint Artistes of Nupee Lal Memorial Association and Nupee Lal & Khongjom War Memorial Society will also present Nupee Lal Drama on the occasion. On the occasion Chief Minister N. Biren Singh pays his respect to the mothers of Manipur what had waged war against the colonial rulers. "I join the people of Manipur in paying tribute to the brave Imas of Manipur who fought against the monopolistic policies of the colonial rule and came to the fore for bringing socio-political reforms in the state", N. Biren

wrote in a statement. He further added that Nupi Lan is an unforgettable and one of the important movements of the womenfolk of Manipur which was carved a distinct niche in the history of Manipur. "It was an occasion in which Manipuri women exhibited to the world that they have the courage and spirit to challenge the then mightiest world power, the British and any wrong doing by the authority. The heroic struggle of the Manipuri Women against the British is a rare occasion in the history of Mankind," the Chief Minister wrote.

## Constable re-recruitment appeared candidates call-off total shut down ; tenders apology to High Court

ITNews Imphal, Dec 11: Total shut down called by the All Manipur DPC completed re-recruitment candidates of police constable (male) 2013 K. Jayenta Singh Batch from midnight yesterday has been called off.

President of the body Ahongsangbam Binoy Singh, speaking to media persons said that the bandh was called to highlight the grievances of the constable re-recruitment appeared candidates without going into details of the pending case regarding the matter. He also tender apology

to the Manipur High Court while requesting the state government to lift all the charges levelled against the 8 candidates who were arrested by the police in connection with the total shut down. It may be mentioned that a Court order regarding the matter has directed a four members enquiry committee headed by retired Justice Mutum Binoy to investigate over the matter and submit the report before the Court on or before January 22 next year. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had earlier stated that the government could not decide

anything on the demand of the constable re-recruitment appeared candidates as the matter is with the Court. The announcement for calling off the bandh was made by the President of the constable appeared candidates' body at around 1pm at the office of the IGP Administration Dr. Ibocha, at Manipur Police Head Quarter. The constable body's president Ahongsangbam Binoy also appealed the state government to lift all charges levelled against the 8 candidates arrested in connection with the calling of the total shut down.

## Meitei of Chachar wants Manipur Govt. to have more attention in Imphal - Jiri road



ITNews Imphal, Dec 11: Meiteis inhabiting at various part of Cachar district in Assam wanted the Manipur government to have extra attention to the condition of the Imphal Jiri road. Talking to the group of reporters from Thoubal and Kachching district who are on tour at Meitei inhabited areas of Assam, Somor Luwang, a social worker from Rongpur Village in Silchar said that if the state government have a

important route to connect with the ASEAN countries. The Trans Asian Highway is projected along the Imphal-Jiribam road and construction from Guwahati till Silchar has been completed. If the portion of the Imphal-Jiribam road could not be converted into four lane than there is a possibility that the Trans Asian Highway be shifted along the Imphal Dimapur Highway as conversion of four lane from Dimapur till Kohima has been almost completed.

## "Oranges" The Tamenglong's Pride

By: Anthony Gangmei

Reporter/DIPR Tamenglong, Dec. 11: With an aim to showcase the world the Unique taste of Tamenglong Oranges, Manipur's most backward albeit picturesque Zeliangrong community inhabited Tamenglong district which is said to be the state's orange orchard witnessed the 14th edition of state level Orange festival recently under the theme "Oranges" The Tamenglong's Pride. Tamenglong happens to be the largest producer of oranges in Manipur. Using oranges as a good reason to bring more business and boost the tourism of the district, every year the Orange Festival is held in Tamenglong during the month of December where participants come from the nook and corner of the Tamenglong district. The Orange Festival is organised every year with the aim of promoting the largest produced fruit of the district. Tamenglong contributes over 50 per cent of the state's annual total orange production of

nearly 10,000 to 11,000 metric tons. Around 3,838 hectares of land are under orange cultivation in Manipur. According to the experts, another advantage of the regular holding of orange festival in the region is that it helps in minimizing the large scale of jhumming cultivation in Manipur. The first ever Orange festival was held in 2001 as a district level festival to promote tourism and provide an opportunity for orange farmers to display their produce before potential buyers. The festival of the district became a state level fest in 2005. Unlike the previous year this year the 14th State level Orange Festival was held for 5 (Five) days long starting from 6-10 of December at Lower Ground in Tamenglong District jointly organised by the District Administration and the public of Tamenglong. "Tour de Tamenglong" 150km cycle rally, seminars, musical concert, indigenous games, orange eating competition and Orange

Queen contest were some of the major events during this 5(Five) days long festival. Minister of Horticulture and Soil Conservation Shri. Th. Shyam Kumar who also holds the portfolio of Forest and Environment inaugurate the opening of the 14th State level Orange Festival 2017 as a Chief Guest bringing with a whole lot of financial packages of nearly 90.75 lakhs from various government schemes and projects for the orange farmers of Tamenglong district and for the various development of infrastructure in Tamei and Tamenglong District area in particular. Three days witnessed the seminars which is first of its kind is conducted during the orange festival, in which it gives an insight knowledge to the farmers about the importance and potentials of oranges from various experts and government departments. On the first day of seminar Horticulture department of Tamenglong and a team of ICAR scientist talks about the

present orange status in Tamenglong and its perspective, potential and problems faced by the oranges farmers from Tamei and Tamenglong District. On the second day experts and government officials from DRDA, Disaster Management Authority and TAMBAC (Tamenglong Bamboo and Cane Development Centre) holds a serious discussion about the present status of development in the Tamenglong town area, disaster management and its preparedness and tourism perspective and its potential in Tamenglong area. On the final day of the seminar, 3-Ps (problems, projects and potentials) of various developmental projects and its impact were minutely discussed by the experts from Indian Railways Department, ADP (Group) HCC, National Highways and Industrial Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) also makes a presentation on the various projects being implemented in

the national highways of Tamenglong District. Rain Forest club of Tamenglong also make a presentation of Environmental impact in our day to day life. Padma Shri awardee, Kailash Kher an Indian pop-rock and Bollywood playback singer bring cheers to the crowd of Tamenglong by presenting his various hit numbers. In an exclusive interview with Kailash Kher, he said he is excited and happy to be part of this festival. He loves the people of Tamenglong and has an immense respect for the DC of Tamenglong Armstrong Pame. Apart from being a platform for traders to meet and improve trade relations this year the festival see various competitions and cultural extravaganzas, including orange eating competition, best orange competition, seminar for orange growers, indigenous games and sports. This year the organising committee gives a lots of importance to the orange farmers. The prize for the best orange producer carried a cash

reward of Rs. 2 lakh and a citation certificate, and Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 75,000 along with a citation certificate each, was awarded for the second and third position, respectively. Each participants also gets a sum of Rs 7000 as consolation prize. The prize money given so far is highest till date. This year due to bad weather most of the program was conducted at Indoor Stadium, and despite the bad weather huge crowd turned up on the closing function of the State level orange festival 2017. One of the major attractions of the festival is the Orange Beauty Queen contest where girls from all over the state come to participate but due to the bad weather condition the much awaited Orange Queen contest was postponed on 13th December. Today, the Orange Festival is one of the major tourist attractions of Manipur. So let us all celebrate this festival together to boost socio-cultural activity as well as to bring peace and unity in the state of Manipur.