

## No change is possible without collective effort: CM

**DIPR**

**Imphal, May 20:** Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has said that the new Government has a firm objective to bring a positive change in the State but this aspiration needs support and co-operation from every section of the society. He was speaking as the chief guest at the Anti-Terrorism Day function, organised by the State Government at the Banquet Hall of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Manipur Rifles today.

During his speech, he strongly condemned the IED attack that injured four police commandos near Kwath village yesterday. He said that hitting somebody from behind is an act of cowardice, and the State Government can't remain silent if such senseless activities continue to happen. Apart from looking into the activities of cadres of the organisations which are under Suspension of Operation, there is need for restructuring the rehabilitation package for surrendered cadres as well, he added.

He reiterated that the new Government came into being



with a message of peace and development and it is ready to sort out all the misunderstandings and problems through talks, but it will never compromise with any organisation at the cost of territorial integrity of the State and unity of the people.

In this regard the Chief Minister urged various civil society organisations of the State not to make unnecessary clarifications or claims/counter-claims on the media which may create enmity among the people of different communities.

The Chief Minister exhorted the public to live together and put in joint effort to bring equal development in all parts of the State.

Stating that holding 'Meeyangi Numit' on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of every month testifies the new Government's firm

effort of becoming a People's Government, the Chief Minister said that all sorts of miscommunication would cease automatically when the gap between the Government and people is reduced.

Regarding the alleged delay in the release of files by some bureaucrats and officers of the Manipur Secretariat, the Chief Minister said that he knows who are holding back the files because his (Chief Minister's) Whatsapp number is open to the public.

Stating that the Government does not have any desire to forcibly impose anything against any official/ Government employee, the Chief Minister urged them to discharge their duties without forgetting their responsibilities of serving the people.

N. Biren said that every citizen

and employee should inculcate discipline into themselves so that the State may take a leap towards advancement.

He further said that the new Government has a firm objective to bring a positive change in the State but this aspiration needs support and co-operation from every section of the society including bureaucrats and Government employees.

Speaking at the occasion as the functional president, CAF & PD Minister Karam Shyam said that nothing is more valuable than human lives. He added that observing the day assumes lots of significance in the States like Manipur where unwarranted killings and violence are happening every now and then.

The Minister observed that terrorism would not serve any purpose but it can only give hardships to the common people.

Later, the Chief Minister administered the Anti-Terrorism Pledge to the gathering.

The Anti-Terrorism Day is observed on May 21 all over the country every year. It was on this day in 1991 that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi died in a terrorist attack at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

## Lamkang observes Culture Day to fight back outside influence

**IT News**

**Imphal, May 20:** Lamkang Literature Society (LLS) and Lamkang Naga Kver Kunpun (LNKK) jointly organised Lamkang Culture Day 2017 at P Ralringkhu village in Chandel district.

D Shetwor, Literature Pioneer of Lamkang Naga Kver Kunpun (LNKK) hoisted the flag of LNKK to formally open the Culture Day function. Another major highlight of the celebration was the release of literature materials pertaining to different cultural tradition of Lamkang community namely "Jikkbul Laika", "Paumin Laika", "Phung Laika" and "Cultural DVD".

Secretary of the Lamkang Culture Day 2017 Lovesson Shilshi said the objective of



organizing the event is to take a step to protect the age-old culture of the community which is treading on the path to destruction due to the adverse influence of alien cultures from South India and Hindi.

He expressed faith that exhibition of songs and dances belonging to the

myriad culture of the Lamkang community will form the core element of the celebration. D Thamdok, President LNKK; Amaron Sankhil, Principal JNV Non Ministry of HRD, Government of India; Lera, Literacy Specialist; and John S.Shilshi former joint director NSCS (PMI) GoI, also participated.

## Tributes paid to fallen soldiers of Battle of Imphal



**IT News**

**Imphal, May 20:** The 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Imphal (WWII) was held at the two Imphal War Cemetery and Maibam Lotpa Ching's Japan War Memorial Complex at Nambol in Bishnupur district.

The event was jointly organised by World War II Imphal Campaign Foundation and Manipur Tourism Forum (MTF) in association with the state's department of tourism. Chief minister N Biren, Parliamentary secretary of Nagaland C Apok Jamir, ambassador of Japan to India

Kenji Hiramatsu, and chairperson of Burma Campaign Society, London, Akiko MacDonald attended the function as the main dignitaries.

It also witnessed the attendance of Sunichi Inove, staff of the political section of Embassy of Japan, colonel Kenji of Japanese Police of Embassy of Japan, and Gaurav Rai, country manager of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission.

Floral tributes to the fallen soldiers paid at Imphal war cemeteries this morning was led by Colonel Kenji, Gaurav

Rai, Apok Jamir and member of WWII Imphal Campaign Foundation and Manipur Tourism Forum.

A total of 41 officials from Japan including the ambassador of the country had arrived in the state to attend the commemorative function.

During a reception held at Hotel Grande, Kenji Hiramatsu felicitated the member of the WWII ICP, MTF.

Indo-Japan Friendship Association and Battle of Kohima with certificates and mementos among others.

## 2-day Barak spring festival kicks off on May 22

**Imphal; May 20:** Even before

the festive mood of the Shirui Fest dies down, the state is witnessing another big festival "The Barak Spring Festival" coming up in Senapati, the northern district of the state. Earlier held annually during winter, the Barak Festival comes up this year with a new nomenclature "Barak Spring Festival" along with a new schedule.

The 2-Day Festival, which begins on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, is being organized by Naga People's Organisation (NPO), the apex civil society organization of the district. This spring festival carrying the theme "Reclaiming Responsibilities" will not only celebrate the manifold blessings of the benevolent river but also showcase the rich traditions and culture of the various tribes who have been nurtured by the Barak. The festival will rejuvenate and revive the cultural heritage and values of the people and will instill a spirit to conserve and protect the environment of the river valley and the district as

a whole.

Barak, the gift of God, the biggest river in the state, has been a source of great blessing to the people of the state, particularly to those in Senapati districts since time immemorial. This river has been nourishing the different tribes dwelling in the district over the ages.

Under the banner of this gifted river, the different tribes in the district found a vital platform to promote fraternity, mutual respect and cooperation towards building up a common future.

The major highlights of the festival include Barak Run, Barak Nite, Barak Voice Hunt, Barak Special, Barak Melody, trekking, folk songs, demonstration cum competition of traditional practices and indigenous skills by the tribes, exhibition and sale of local produce, etc. The inaugural function of the festival will be held at the Senapati Mini Stadium, the main venue of the festival. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur Mr. N. Biren Singh will

grace the inaugural function as Chief Guest and will be accompanied by Mr. N. Kayisii, Hon'ble Minister, Tribal Affairs & Hills and Fisheries and Mr. L. Dikho, Hon'ble Minister, PHED, Printing & Stationery as the Chief Host and Chief Celebrant respectively

## Sit-in-protest held against IED attack near Kwatha

**IT News**

**Imphal, May 20:** A Sit-in-protest was staged at Khurai Lamlong Bazar to protest the attack on a road opening patrol party ahead of the arrival of Parliamentary secretary (home) L Susindro yesterday at a place on the Khundengthabi-Kwatha road. Four commando personnel including a sub-inspector were injured in the IED blast. Susindro was scheduled to visit Kwatha.

## Oil Project: Greater Loss for Manipur

**By: Jinine Lai,**

**Assistant Professor, University of Suwon, S Korea**  
After a private firm called Asian Oil Fields under Oil India Limited has started hydrocarbon exploration at Khaidem village, Imphal West, here comes again another noise from the locals. The authority concerned has not informed the public and civil societies properly with the documents of Environmental Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment and Detailed Project Report of the project. It may be a violation of the principle known as the Free prior and informed consent (FPIC) upheld by the United Nations.

Prior to this, we may remember that Jubilant Energy Private Limited was awarded two blocks of oil deposition that covers about 4000 sq. km. in the southwest Manipur after the eight round of bidding under the New Exploration License Policy by the Government of India. The production share contracts were signed by S. K. Srivastava, Director General of Hydrocarbons, and D. N. Narasimha Raju, Joint Secretary on behalf of the Minister of Petroleum and

Natural Gas, Government of India in July 2010. The Manipur Government granted the Petroleum Exploration License to Jubilant in September 2010. And not long before another Block of about 220 sq km in Jiribam was given contract lease to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, India (ONGC).

Now, the most critical concern is - a rationality of loss and profit of such so called developmental project. Why it will be trade-off calculation of the greater loss over smaller profit?

First, how far locals and peoples of Manipur will be benefited from the oil extraction is a key concern always. In fact, the royalty share for the state and community is around 10% of gross production; it is also possible only after hard bargaining. The state government has very little judicial strength to entertain the hydrocarbon production share on their own soils. The Association of Natural Gas and ... vs Union Of India (Uoi) And Ors. on 25 March, 2004 (Supreme Court) displayed a precedent with following terms

1. Natural Gas including Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

is a Union subject covered by Entry 53 of List I and the Union has exclusive legislative competence to enact laws on natural gas.

2. The States have no legislative competence to make Saws on the subject of natural gas and liquefied natural gas under Entry 25 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

Second, we know most of the oil extraction happens in the desert and offshore. But for us it is amidst the rich biological environment. During the course of extraction, the saline (formation) water will come out; accidental oil spillage and frequent leakages will happen; sewage, surface runoff, drilling cuts, and other hazardous oil contents will also be disposed. They will spread fast due to the monsoon rain and frequent flood then flow down to Loktaklake through small streams.

In general, hydrocarbon production and transport has a significant impact on the landscape and local environment. Contamination of soil and water is a common consequence of oil production. In Ecuador,

for example, oil and water separation stations in the Oriente generate more than 3.2 million gallons of liquid waste each day, most of which has been discharged untreated into the environment. Groundwater is particularly susceptible to contamination from the Formation Water, extracted along with oil during drilling. This is contaminated both with oil and heavy metals and is therefore toxic. Further impacts stem from the burn-off of excess natural gas which has had a devastating effect on water quality and biota there, most notably Nigeria. This burning releases methane, sulphur dioxide and toxic compounds. The dry winter can also exacerbate the risk of fires.

The Assessment of Ogoniland, Nigeria by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2011 revealed the tragic history of pollution and its severe hazardous impacts on people and the environment due to oil spills and oil well fires. The Ogoniland community is exposed to petroleum hydrocarbons in the air and drinking water, sometimes at elevated concentrations. (Contd. on page 2)