

## Biggest river carnival of state kicks off CM announces sops, SI post for SFL hero Isaac

**IT News**  
**Senapati, May 22:** The two-day long Barak Spring Festival, tagged as 'the biggest river carnival of Manipur,' was opened by Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh at Senapati today.

At the opening function, Biren Singh officially kicked off the festival by lighting the holy fire at the Senapati Mini Stadium Ground, the venue of the event.

Chief minister N Biren stated that the invitation from the organizers to attend the event came as a very pleasant surprise as he is constantly worried about strain in relationship between people from hills and valley, between different communities in hills and those in valley. However, participating together in such festival is capable of easing past tension and help in accelerating the improvement of relationship between all communities, he asserted.

The chief minister made a proposal for making the Barak Spring Festival into a state festival and urged the organizers to accept the participation of the state government in hosting it in the future. He further announced a sum of Rs 50 lakhs for this year's festival from the state's



coffer. Biren also made announcement of several welfare measures for the hill districts during his address. Among them was the construction of a women market shed in Senapati for which the state government will be allocating a sum of Rs 10 crore. Biren promised the implementation of water supply schemes in the hill areas of Manipur to alleviate the issue of fetching drinking water there and intensive work to repair the Imphal-Mao national highway.

He also announced that martial arts fighter and champion of Super Fight League Kario Isaac who is a native of Karong in Senapati district will be rewarded with a post of sub inspector in the state police

department for his success. Deputy chief minister Yumnam Joykumar said the occasion was a very inspirational and emotional moment for him personally as he has fond memories of Senapati. Experiencing the local dances and music and folklores at the festival will bring emotional integration among different communities, he said and inferred that with the newfound understanding the state will be able to march forward.

Earlier in the day, soaked in the Barak Festival spirit, thousands of people of the district were seen in traditional attire anxiously waiting for the Chief Minister to arrive in the district headquarters to open the event. Upon his arrival, Biren Singh was presented

with traditional shawls of five main Naga tribes of Senapati and also different varieties of vegetables and fruits. Folk songs and dances were performed by representatives from the five Naga tribes during the opening event of the celebration.

PHED minister L. Dikho, Tribal Affairs and Hills minister N. Kayisii, Parliamentary Secretaries, MLAs and top civil and police officials were present on the occasion. The spring festival will showcase the rich traditions and culture of the different tribes nurtured by the Barak. Some of the highlights of the festival are comedy shows, Barak Melody, Talent Hunt concerned with ecological and environment, trekking and various contests.

## State observes International Day for Biological Diversity

**DIPR**  
**Imphal, May 22:** International Day for Biological Diversity was observed today on the theme 'Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism' organised by the Directorate of Environment. The function was held at the auditorium hall of the Manipur State Film Development Society (MSFDS), Palace Compound, Imphal.

Forests and Environment Minister Th. Shyamkumar, speaking as the Chief Guest of the function, said that, the day is observed across the world to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. He said that, the day is an opportunity to raise awareness of the important contribution of sustainable tourism both to economic growth and to the conservation of biodiversity. Exploitation of the nature by the humans has resulted in the ecological imbalance and that is why such other events are observed across the globe, he added.

Minister Shyamkumar urged the Directorate of Environment to organise the day at various locations of the State from next year, in order to create mass awareness. He further expressed his desire that, all the departments need to get involved for successful



implementation of the day. President of the function, Shambhu Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Forests and Environment, PHE, AR & DG-SAT) sharing his personal experiences, said that, Manipur was a bigger biodiversity hotspot when he first landed here, 32 years back. He termed the events of encroachments of water bodies over the years and gradual conversion into paddy fields as the "loot of the century".

Additional Chief Secretary said that, people in the State have played havoc with the beautiful gift of nature and citizens are solely responsible for destroying the biodiversity. He said that, ecotourism is a fantastic concept which will generate revenue, employment and help in maintaining the ecology. He cautioned that, the tourists

need to maintain ecology of the place where they visit. Giving message to the younger generations, Shambhu Singh said that, they have to carry the torch forward in future to ensure that the ecology of the place is kept in balance.

Resource Person of the function, Professor W. Vishwanath Singh, Department of Life Sciences, Manipur University spoke at length about the history and importance of the observance.

He said that, United Nations General Assembly declared 2011-2020 as the United Nations decade on biodiversity. This decade serves to support and promote implementation of the objectives of the strategic plan for biodiversity and the aichi biodiversity targets, with the goal of significantly reducing biodiversity loss, he added.

## Huge quantity of liquor seized from truck

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 22:** A team of Imphal West police led by Additional SP Priyadarshini Laishram confiscated a large amount of liquor during a raid conducted today at the thoroughfare in front of GP Women's College. Details are awaited but initial reports suggested that the apprehended items included a truck load of Indian Made Foreign Liquor.

## Community outreach programme at IPS

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 22:** All Manipur Students' Guardians organization and Singjamei police station conducted a community outreach programme today at Imphal Public School at Canchipur on Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act and POSCO Act. Teachers and around two hundred class X students of the school participated at the programme. The dais members were secretary of AMSGO N Ingocha, senior teacher of the school Henry Singh and the officer in charge of Singjamei Police Station.

## OT services reopened at Thoubal dist hospital

**IT News**  
**Thoubal, May 22:** Operation Theatre service at the District Hospital Thoubal began functioning again from today after a brief break of around 20 days.

On the first day of restarting business, a LSCS and an orthopedic patient were successfully operated upon by a team of medicine experts comprising of health director Dr K Lokendro, Additional

health director H Ranjit, P Shyamsunder and OT in charge of the district hospital Dr H Subhashchandra. Operation facility at the district hospital was opened for the patients on August 28, 2013 and 100 operations were performed in a month on an average at the hospital. However, the facility was closed at the hospital from May 1 last after essential equipment including those for

applying anesthetic broke down. The machines were ultimately repaired and the two operations listed today were performed successfully. The long consumption of time before the reopening of operation facility was attributed to absence of engineers to fix the dragger machine after the broken parts were procured from markets outside the state.

## Industrial growth to be enhanced to promote income generation: Th Bishwajit

**DIPR**  
**Imphal, May 22:** Commerce & Industries Minister Th. Bishwajit has said that the State Government has been trying to promote industries to generate income in the State. He was speaking at the inauguration of Banana Fibre Development Centre and Opening of 5-days Training Programme on Novel Products based on Ethnic Designs and Fabrics of North East India at CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology Branch Laboratory at Lamphepat, Imphal today.

He said Industries is very important Department and therefore there is the need to encourage our entrepreneurs to solve unemployment problems in the State. Inauguration of Banana Fibre Development Centre will help farmers in increasing productivity. He also urged farmers to cultivate Stevia- a medicinal plant in large scale so as to meet its demand



outside the State. Bishwajit has further said that the Government will revive Bamboo Chipping Mill and Government is trying to promote cultivation of Dragon Fruit in the State as the fruit has high content of anti oxidant and it is also anti cancerous. Citing in connection with PMGPY scheme Th Bishwajit said sanctioning will take place only after proper screening of the applicants. Revenue Minister Karam Shyam while speaking at the function said, the trainings conducted by CSIR will be very helpful to the people and

it will help to increase productivity and sustain livelihood. He hinted to vacate the illegal encroachers at the CSIR premises once the court verdict comes.

Inconnection with the function, pamphlet of CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology Branch Laboratory was also released. Director CSIR-NEIST Jorhat, Assam Dr. D Ramaiah also highlighted the scientific intervention extended to the people such as development of Agro-Technology in the region. Around 80 trainees participated among others in the inaugural session.

## Shed of 9 CCPur martyrs torched

**Chongthu News Service**  
**Imphal, May 22:** Unknown miscreants torched the "Salpha Pumbuk", the shed where the dummy coffins of the nine 'tribal martyrs' was being kept, at Hiantgam Lamka in Churachandpur in the wee hours today. The arson was reportedly committed by the miscreants at around 2 am this morning. Nearby residents called out for help after they noticed the fire at Salpha Pumbuk. Subsequently the fire was put

under control. This is the second attempt to torch down the symbolic coffins following the agreement reached between the JAC-ATTB and the state government on May 10 to bury the bodies on May 25. The bodies are presently being kept at the morgue of the district hospital since September 2015. It may be recalled that unknown miscreants set the same place on fire a few days back.

The shed was constructed by the JAC-ATTB. Some sections of tribal communities in Churachandpur still strongly oppose the May 10 agreement between the state government and the JAC. Women bodies of Churachandpur and Manipur Tribal Forum Delhi had expressed strong reservation over the May 10 agreement. Two earlier attempts to vandalise the Salpha Pumbuk could not be ascertained yet.

## Tree plantation drive on Guru Purjah

**DIPR**  
**Imphal, May 22:** 'Clean and Green' Cleanliness and Tree Plantation Campaign on the occasion of Guru Pujah was organised today at Raj Bhavan by the Governor of Manipur Dr. Najma Heptulla and the staff of Raj Bhavan. Altogether 210 numbers of saplings of different species were planted at the Raj Bhavan park. While planting the first sapling, the Governor said that she returned her obligation to mother earth and dedicated the second sapling (Bokul - Mimosops Elengi) to (Late) Anil Madhav Dave, Minister of State (IC) Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Government of India who was working for cleaning the Loktak Lake whom the Governor was working with to make the Lake the largest Lake in the north east region and requested everyone to plant tree in his memory. The Governor stressed the

importance of planting trees and appealed to every individual to plant trees on special occasion. Manipur is endowed with rich culture and bio diversity; mother earth has been very beneficial to Manipur because there are various species of orchids and trees. The state recorded as number 10 in the whole world in terms of bio diversity and said we are thankful to mother earth for creating such a beautiful place. Manipur is not being discovered by the rest of the country and so, decided that Manipur will be a Clean and Green state and these words are the slogan of our Hon'ble PM also and we should respond to it and encourage each and everyone to keep a clean environment in every locality. The Governor further added that by planting trees we create something and we return something to Mother Nature

and that's the way we can do Guru Pujah and declared that on this day, we keep these objectives.

The Governor has a plan to develop the park as a Children Park and the reason she choose the park is because children can come and enjoy, it may not be as good as the Mughal Garden, but it should be a place for children to come and see the plants, it may be beginning of some movement where children can learn different varieties of trees and able to identify them and learn to respect them because every tree, every bush, every plant gives us something. The state has more than five hundred varieties of medicinal plants and orchids which we are not aware of and our children should be told to love and live with nature which is the objective of today's programme and the Governor declare that this Raj Bhavan will be open to children