

## National Press Day Observed Freedom of the media necessary for development of the state: Minister Karam Shyam



**DIPR Imphal, Nov. 16:** Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Shri Karam Shyam today said a State cannot achieve development if the media is not allowed to function independently. He was speaking at the National Press Day cum One-Day Workshop on "Challenges before the Media" function held at 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Manipur Rifles Banquet Hall, Imphal organised by Directorate of Information and Public Relations.

Eight journalists were given the Manipur State Journalist Award 2017 by the Chief Guest of the function Shri Karam Shyam. The awardees for this year are—Editor Hueiyen Lanpao (Manipuri), Shri Hemanta Kumar Ningomba (Best Editor on National Integration and Communal Harmony); Senior Staff Reporter Sangai Express Shri Laishram Shamung Singh (Science and Technology); Political Chief Sangai Express Shri Ahongsangbam Dilipkumar Singh (Parliamentary Reporting); Reporter Hueiyen Lanpao Kumari Ashem Babycha (Art and Culture); Sub-Editor Poknapham Shri Daniel Chabungbam (Rural Reporting); Staff Reporter Sangai Express Kumari Sapam Aruna (Women and Children); Staff Reporter Poknapham Shri Ibochha Yumnam (Public Health and Hygiene) and Staff Reporter Sangai Express Shri M. Romen (Sports Reporting). Addressing the gathering, Minister Karam Shyam said State journalists face greater risks compared to their counterparts in other states. Stating that in conflict torn state like Manipur, it is difficult for media persons to carry out fearless and impartial reporting, the Minister said the Government recognises the contribution of journalists discharging their duties as the fourth pillar of democracy. Acknowledging the selfless service of journalists, Minister Karam Shyam said however there is a need for a more active and neutral media in the State. He also called upon All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) and Editors

Guild Manipur (EGM) to continue with their efforts to serve the people of the State. He said the Government, media and the common man must fight together to bring a positive change. Congratulating the eight recipients of the State Journalist Award 2017, the Minister said the recognition given to the awardees is the labour of their hard work. The Minister also called upon the journalists to continue to report news with accountability and abiding the ethics so that those involved in doing good service are not victimised due to inaccurate reporting. Shri K. Radhakumar Singh, Commissioner IPR, in his

presidential speech said that, the State media is in a transition stage due to rapid modernisation. Stating that the current media requires specialisation, K. Radhakumar Singh urged the journalist to be conscious of objectivity in their reporting. He also said the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) is being strengthened not only in terms of infrastructure but also in manpower. He also said suggestions are welcomed from the journalist and media persons to further strengthened department. During the One-Day Workshop on "Challenges before the Media", A.K.

Sanaton Former President of AMWJU was the moderator, resource persons Sunzu Bachaspatimayum, Member AMWJU, Yumnam Rupachandra, Secretary, Editors Guild Manipur and Sothing Shimray, Ex-President, Manipur Hills and Journalists' Union (MHJU) presented their papers. Shri Meghachandra Kongbam, Director, DIPR delivered the welcome and key-note address and Shri Chongtham Noyon Singh, Deputy Director, DIPR gave the vote of thanks. Officials and staffs of the DIPR and journalists from both the valley and the hills attended the National Press Day function.

## Problems face by media highlighted on National Press Day

**IT News Imphal, Nov. 16:** A one day seminar organised in connection with the National Press Day observance today highlighted issues and problems of the state media. The seminar organised by the Directorate of Information and Public Relation, Govt. of Manipur was attended by Yumnam Rupachandra, General Secretary, Editors' Guild Manipur, Sothing Sinray, Ex-President Manipur Hills Journalists' Union and Sanju Bachaspati Mayum, member All Manipur Working Journalists' Union as main speakers. Veteran Journalist AK Sanaton moderated the session. All the three speakers highlighted the issues and problems of journalist of the state due to the rampant threats from both state and non state actors. The issues of journalists still deprived of their right from getting minimum wage as approved by the Majitha Wage board as well as the non compliance of the Supreme Court order in providing appropriate wage for journalist. Former President of the Manipur Hill Journalists' Union, Sothing Sinray while reading his paper highlighted

on how the hill region are somehow deprived by the main newspapers in the state. He said like the Manipur felt neglected in terms of news coverage by the national mainstream media houses, the Hill people of the state somehow felt that the hill people are being neglected by the Imphal base newspaper as they hardly covered issue of the hill people. On the other hand Sothing Sinray also drew the attention of the Directorate of Information and Public Relation over non functioning of DIO offices at Hill districts. While presenting his paper Yumnam Rupachandra, General Secretary of Editors' Guild Manipur expressed apprehension about the fate print media particularly the local language newspaper which are being printed in Bangali scripts. He said that newspapers that are being published in Manipuri language using Bangali script is going to face serious problem as youths who have completed graduate are in no position to read in Bangali script as they have been taught and learnt in Meitei Mayek. The reviving of the Meitei Mayek is appreciated and should be done but when

it comes to the newspaper it is a great challenge, Rupachandra said. "No newspaper can published both in Meitei Mayek as well as Bangali script to enable both groups of people who are able to read in Bangali script as well as who are able to read in Meitei Mayek", Rupachandra said. He further added that as the process will take some times the government of Manipur should formulate a mechanism either in way of providing subsidies or grant to enable all the people access to the newspaper. Sanju Bachaspati Mayum elaborated on the threats to media houses and need to make sure that working journalist are secure while rendering their duties. President of Editor Guild Manipur A. M. M. in his observation appealed all government authority to accept criticism by the journalist as it would be another chances for correcting the wrongs. There is no such words as constructive criticism or non constructive journalism. Every criticism is for the welfare of the state, it should be accepted at any cost M. M. said.

## CorCom boycotts Indian President visit to Manipur; calls Genral Strike

**IT News Imphal, Nov. 16:** Conglomerate of rebel groups of the region Co-ordinating Committee while boycotting the visit of the President of India Ram Nath Kovind to the state of Manipur has called general strike across the state from 5 am of November 21 till 8 am of Novemehr 22. Indian President Ramnath

Kovind is arriving in the state on the said day the rebels' body called general strike to inaugurate the Manipur Sangai Tourism Festival here in Imphal. The statement of the outfit term the president of India as the head of the Indian state which colonised the state of Manipur. It also recounted the series of human rights

violation that occurred in the state of Manipur by the Indian Security forces under the shadow of the draconian act Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). The statement said that during the genral strike emergency services, medicals, religious activities media, electricity and Water Supply will be exempted.

## Chief Minister inspects groundwork progress for upcoming Sangai Festival

**DIPR Imphal, Nov 16:** Preparations are in full swing for the upcoming Manipur Sangai Festival 2017 which will be held at different venues viz. Hapta Kanjeibung, Lamboi Khongnangkhang and Keibul Lamjao etc. in the State. Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh today visited Hapta Kanjeibung and Lamboi Khongnangkhang venues to oversee the arrangements for the upcoming ten-day long Manipur Sangai Festival 2017 which is beginning from 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017. The Chief Minister inspected the progress of the groundwork at Hapta Kanjeibung, BOAT,

Keishampat to Airport road stretch and construction work being taken up at Trade & Permanent Exhibition Centre at Lamboi Khongnangkhang, Imphal West. He directed the officials of various officials to expedite preparations for successful conduct of the Festival. He further instructed the officials of Environment, PWD and Forest Department to make Imphal Clean and Green during the festival. Chief Minister further asked the officials to work day and night and deploy adequate number of machinery and work-force to complete various works before the festival.

MP Rajya Sabha Shri Ksh. Bhabananda Singh, Minister for Forest and Environment Shri Th. Shyamkumar, MLA and Chairman, Tourism Corporation Manipur Limited Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Principal Secretary (Tourism) Shri P.K Singh, Special Secretary (Tourism) Shri R. Sudhan accompanied the Chief Minister during the inspection. Mentioned may be made that the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the 8th Manipur Sangai Festival 2017. And the Curtain Raiser of the festival will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh at Keibul Lamjao on 19 November 2017

## Women football team from Mandalay to arrive at Imphal on Nov. 23

**IT News Imphal, Nov. 16:** Women Football team from Mandalay who will be playing exhibition match with Manipur team here in Imphal under the theme connecting through Sports as a part of the Manipur Sangai Festival is arriving on Nov. 23. A meeting of the Myanmar's authority

during a meeting exhibition match in January every year with India. RK Shivachandra, convener, Act East Policy Manipur assured the arrival of the Women football team from Mandalay. RK Shivachandra yesterday paid visit at the ground where the Women team of Manipur were

practicing under the Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar. He was informed that Npyytaw meet has finalised to convene exhibition match between Manipur and Mandalay every 27 and 26 of January every year. The exhibition match here in Imphal will be played on Nov. 25 and 26.

## CM visits Shija Hospitals, meets accident victims

**Imphal, Nov 16:** Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh announced that the government would provide Rs 20 lakh financial assistance to the next of kin of the deceased in the road mishap that killed three Manipur Rifles personnel when the escort vehicle fell into a gorge in the Tamenglong-Khongsang road near Khongsang yesterday. This was stated by him while meeting the family members of the deceased at JNIMS Morgue today. Speaking to the media persons, Chief Minister said that the security personnel had died in the line of duty on a special mission of the new government "Go to the Hills" mission so the government is taking the matter seriously. The government would also provide financial support of Rs 5 lakh each to

those injured personnel, he added. The proposal for providing financial aid would be placed before the Cabinet, he added. Expressing deepest condolences, Chief Minister extended his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families. Replying to a query about the recent ambush that killed 2AR jawans in Chandel district recently, Chief Minister said that violence will not bring any solution and it hampers in bringing peace and prosperity in the State. Political dialogue is very much needed to resolve any issues, he added. Chief Minister further stated that the State government is planning to have political dialogue with the insurgents/outfits if the Centre gives their approval for the talks. Earlier in the morning, Chief

Minister visited the injured victims of the road mishap to enquire about their health conditions who are undergoing treatment at Shija Hospitals, Langol. Shri N. Biren Singh gave some financial assistance to the families of the injured personnel. He assured that the medical expenses during the treatment will be borne by the government. He directed the doctors and paramedical staffs of Shija Hospitals to extend best-possible treatment to those injured in the accident. MP Rajya Sabha Shri Ksh. Bhabananda Singh, Minister for Forest and Environment Shri Th. Shyamkumar, Minister for Agriculture Shri V. Hangkhanlian, Parliamentary Secretaries, MLAs, and DGP accompanied Chief Minister during the visit.