

Editorial

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Tourism Potential of Manipur

Finally! the much anticipated extravaganza conceptualized to showcase and promote the diverse socio-cultural heritage and the rich traditional wealth of the state has kicked off without a glitch.

That the State Government spared no expenses and efforts to make an impression to the visiting tourists would be an understatement. The Imphal city has been transformed within an incredibly short span of time into one which can be compared to any other mid-sized or tier II cities in the country- well almost. Despite the best efforts and undoubtedly noble intentions which had made tremendous improvements in the public facilities and certain infrastructures, a closer look into the activities brings to light various clear indications of the haphazard and rushed nature of it all.

A huge portion of the work initiated has remained unfinished. Now that the Sangai Festival will continue till November 30, one cannot help feeling apprehensive about the longevity of the commitment the State Government initiated towards beautification of Imphal City.

If previous instances are any indications, we will be seeing a change in inertia and a visible drop in enthusiasm making the whole efforts an exercise in futility. The incredible potential for attracting tourism in the State has been well known and even documented. From the enchanting misty mountains to the incredibly beautiful ethnic handicrafts and crafts, from the inherently hospitable people to the excellent climatic condition, the unbelievably beautiful and mysterious caves and lakes- this small state has it all, and in no small measures.

This naturally endowed land has been wasted and neglected for centuries, our inability to see the big picture, occupied as we are in finding ways to secure our own personal lives through means fair or foul being the main reason.

With the air connectivity with our neighbouring Asian countries are at the verge of becoming reality, it would be an act of utter foolishness not to cash in on the euphoria and enthusiasm such a development has created. Without going into the details of the nitty-gritty of tourism and it's pros and cons, it is an undeniable truth that with proper planning, timely and effective checks and due diligence, tourism would only improve the economy, change the perceptions of the local people towards the visitors and their way of life, adopt a more tolerant view of things and most importantly help in propagating our cultures and traditions throughout the world. For all these to happen, basic infrastructures and basic amenities must be put in place and make the whole state a tourist friendly one.

A lot more needs to be done to be where we want this State to be from where we are now. Only a dedicated, committed and sustained effort can make things possible. Working in fits and starts will get us nowhere.

Original Admit Card lost

I, the undersigned, Sapam Ronita Devi, studying class-XI at Ibotonsana Girls' Higher Secondary School, Imphal, have lost my original Admit Card, registration No. 9709, bearing Roll No. 14259 of 2017 issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur, on the way between Uripok to Yurembam on November 17, 2017.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Sapam Ronita Devi

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
(Moirangkhom, MSRTC Complex, Imphal - 795001)

TENDER NOTICE

Imphal, the 20th November, 2017

No. 5/13/96-DIPR(Pt-HDA): Sealed tender are hereby invited from the reputed Firms for the Printing and Supply of Multicoloured and Black & White Magazines, Manipur Government Wall Calendar and Diary, 2018. The tenders will be received upto 2 p.m of 25th November, 2017 and the same will be opened at 3 p.m of the same day by the undersigned in his office room in the presence or absence of the tenderers as the case may be. For details kindly visit websites www.dipr-manipur.gov.in/ www.manipurenders.gov.in/ or the DIPR, Manipur during office hours.

Sd/-
Meghachandra Kongbam
Director
Information & Public Relations, Manipur

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President Ram Nath Kovind arrives

IT News

Imphal, Nov. 21: President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Imphal today to inaugurate the North-East Development Summit and the annual Manipur Sangai Festival.

The Indian Air Force Plane carrying the President touched down at the Bir Tikendrajit International Airport at 11:30 am. The Hon'ble President was accompanied by Assam Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal in the aircraft.

Ram Nath Kovind was accorded warm welcome led by the Governor Dr. Nazma Heptulla, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, DGP L.M. Khaute, IGAR South Major General Virender Singh, Deputy GOC 57 Mountain Division Brigadier SK Chouhan, Chief Secretary RR Rashmi, Imphal West. DC, Ningthoujam Geoffrey, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Y. Joykumar Singh, Work Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, Health Minister L.

Jayantakumar Singh, CAF and PD Minister Karam Shyam, IFCD Minister Letpao Haokip, Tribal and Hill Areas Minister N. Kayisii, Forest and Environment Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar, Social Welfare Minister Smt. Nemecha Kipgen, PHED Minister Losii Dikho, Agriculture Minister V. Hangkhalian and Education Minister Th. Radheshyam.

Also present were Rajya Sabha MP Ksh. Bhabananda Singh, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) J. Suresh Babu, Secretary to CM Shri Ashok Kumar, CO of 6th Sikh Light Infantry Col. Mukesh Verma and other top police and civil officials.

The 6th Sikh Light Infantry commanded by Major Anjum Gorke presented the Guard of Honour to the President. After inspecting the Guard of Honour, the President left the airport heading for Raj Bhavan.

The President is visiting Manipur to inaugurate the North East Development Summit and the annual Manipur Sangai festival. He will visit the INA War Memorial at Moirang on November 22 before returning to Delhi.



Sangai Festival: Foreign tourist may be double this time comparing last year

IT News

Imphal, Nov 21: Foreign tourists expected to visit the state in Sangai Festival this year is expected to be doubled comparing to last year, an independent survey conducted by Imphal Times base on the information collected from State Tourism Department, CID and

major hotels in Imphal suggested. As per source from the major hotels here in Imphal almost all rooms have been booked by individuals from outside the state and abroad who are visiting Sangai festival.

"At present 14 Foreign national are staying at Imphal Hotel and there is no vacancy as all rooms have been booked", a source from the hotel said.

Similar is the situation with other hotels like Classic Hotel, Classi Grande, Sangai Continental etc. In 2016, as many as 491 foreign tourists from across the globe visited Imphal during last year Sangai Festival. Govt. record showed a total of 184 foreign tourist visited Imphal to attend the Sangai festival and around 307 foreign

tourists visited the state for their own personal purposes.

Last year govt. record said -72 Myanmar, 41 from Thailand, 22 from Bangladesh, 16 from Japan, 7 each from United Kingdom and Australian, 6 from USA, 4 from China, 2 Bhutanese, 1 Norwegian, 1 French, 1 Danish, 1 Indonesian, 1 Lesotho and 1 Nigerian attended the festival on the invitation of the state government. Those visited the state during last Sangai Festival on their own numbers around 307, mostly from European, South East Asia and USA.

This year, state government has invited more number of foreign visitors officially, a state government source said. Till today number of foreign national who had arrived in the state has reached 200 and the number will be rise in the coming two or three days, a source from the Festival enthusiast said. Hotels, in Imphal have been booked by various visitors both from the foreign as well as domestic tourists from outside the state.

Normal life in the state affected during 26 hours General Strike called by CorCom

IT News

Imphal, Nov. 21: Normal life in the state has been seriously affected during the ongoing 26 hour general strike called by the rebel body CorCom since 6 am today against the visit of Indian President Ram Nath Kovind.

Almost all shops and business houses in Imphal as well as at other valley districts of the state including the Khwairambandh Ima Keithel remain shut since early morning today. Schools, colleges and other private offices were closed and inter-district buses including those of the Manipur State Transport as well as all commercial vehicles suspended services. Except some government vehicles including those of the security forces, roads in Imphal city witness less traffic. At Imphal East and Imphal West

security has been beefed up since yesterday evening. Intensified security measures have also been taken up along the Tiddim road in between Imphal Tuliha Airport to Keishampat as well as the roads leading to Hapta Kangjeibung from Raj Bhavan. This is the route the President of India Ram Nath Kovind will be travelling to inaugurate the Manipur Tourism Festival. Security has also been beefed up in and around INA Moirang area as well as Sendra Tourist spot of Bishnupur district as the president is expected to paid visit to pay his respect at the place where the first tri-colour flag of India was erected.

The general strike is being called by the CorCom- the conglomerate of various rebel groups operating in the state which includes PREPAK, PREPAK (Pro), UNLF and RPF, terming the visit of the president of India as another mission to strengthen the

colonial rule in the region. Meanwhile, state force claimed arrest of two bail-out PLA cadres during search operation at Kongpal in Imphal East yesterday evening. One foreign made 9.m.m.pistol mark as RUGER P85 was reported to have been recovered from the possession of the two bail-out PLA cadres. The arrested bail-out cadres are being identified as Thongam Gyanendro @Ibomcha Singh (57) S/O Th. Yaima SinghofThangmeiband Polem Leikai and Kabrabam Lele Singh (52) S/O (L) K.Gourabidhu Singh of Thangmeiband Kabrabam Leikai. Some Mobile handsets along with SIM cards allegedly used by them for communication with their group has also been recovered from their possession.

Till the filing of this story, there are no reports of any unwanted incidence.

MRI investigation resume at RIMS

IT News

Imphal, Nov. 21: Ch Arunkumar, Medical Superintendent of RIMS Hospital in a notification said that the MRI Machine which remained suspended for the last few days due to technical failure has resumed investigation from November 20. The Medical Superintendent did not mention for how long the MRI investigation remain suspended and did not give any details of the number of patients referred to private clinic for the investigation during the period MRI investigation at RIMS remain suspended.

CM inaugurates Manipur Trade and Expo Centre

DIPR

Imphal, Nov. 21: Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated Manipur Trade and Expo Centre at Lamboi Khongnangkong, Imphal today. The inauguration ceremony was organised under the supervision of Department of Textiles, Commerce and Industries, Government of Manipur.

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Ksh. Bhabananda Singh, Chairman of MANIDCO Dr. Y. Radheshyam, Chairman of Manipur Pollution Control Board L. Radhakishore Singh, MLA L. Rameshwar Meetei, Chief Secretary R.R. Rashmi, Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Suhel Khaitar, officials of Commerce and Industry attended the inauguration function. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Commerce and

Industries, RD & PR, Power and IPR Th. Biswajit Singh said that it is dream come true to host the first ever NorthEast Development Summit and to inaugurate Trade and Expo Centre within such a short time in the State. It is the biggest achievement of the new government, he added. Th. Biswajit mentioned that the essence of organising such Business Summit is to showcase and explore our potential in various aspects such as human resource, natural resource, tourism etc. to the outside world. Stating the importance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of Act East Policy and to bring inclusive development in the country, Minister said that such Development Summit would be a platform to exchange the ideas and opportunities between the Business Delegates, Investors, Entrepreneurs and the educated youths of the State for better

opportunities and to bring all round economic development in the State. Mentioning that more than 800 stalls have been set up in the Trade and Expo Centre this year, Th. Biswajit stated that the government and concerned departments had already permitted to open stalls to each and everyone who have applied for opening their stall during the Sangai Festival 2017. Stating that under the supervision of Governor of Manipur Dr. Najma Heptulla, the government has launched a new mission "Mission on Economic empowerment on Traditional Artisans and Craftsman" to provide livelihood and to promote the traditional artisans and craftsman of the State and to create the demands of their handicrafts and handloom products in the market.

Corrigendum

This is to make a correction in the "Letter to the Editor" entitled "Open letter to Shri. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Manipur" written by me and published in the Imphal Times on 19/11/2017 at page No. 1, 2, 3 & 7 that the name S.A. Halim has been wrongly written as S.A. Salim. That, the name S.A. Salim that appeared at para. No. 1, 2, 3, & 7 or wherever appeared has to be read as S.A. Halim. The inconvenience is deeply regretted.

Sd/-
(SOREIWUNG HUNGYO),
Convener, FPS Agent,
Phungyar-43 A/C.