

## Gaikhangam elected as Congress Working Committee member



IT News  
Imphal, Aug 7,

Former President of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee Gaikhangam has been appointed a member of the Congress Working Committee which is the highest decision making body of the Congress Party. Gaikhangam is perhaps the first person from the state of Manipur to be appointed as the member of the CWC.

A warm reception programme to the appointment of Gaikhangam as CWC member was held at Congress Bhavan. MPCC President TN Haokip appreciated the AICC for recognising the activities of the veteran congress leader Gaikhangam. While appreciating Gaikhangam, TN Haokip expressed hope that in the coming days representatives from the state may one day become a Cabinet Minister in the central government.

DK Korunghang and Dr. Chaltolien Ama were also inducted as member of the National Tribal Executive Committee Member. The two congress men are also the first to induct in the highest decision making of the Congress Party. Okram Ibobi Singh, Former Chief Minister said that Congress Party gives equal rights to all its members irrespective of big or small community.

Many other congress workers including Ithoibi, who was also inducted as the Chief of Seva Dal were also honoured on the occasion.

## Women group shouts slogan for protection of Manipur in front of Ministers' quarters



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Imphal, Aug 7,

Large number of womenfolk belonging to various civil society organisations continues protest in front of Ministers quarters. The United Committee Manipur (UCM), All Manipur United Club Organisation (AMUCO) and the Committee of Civil Society Kangleipak (CCSK) have been opposing any form of division among the people or land of the state while solving the issues of NSCN-IM. The recent report submitted to both the parliament which suggest extension of the Article 371(A) to the some part of the state of Manipur or granting of Sixth scheduled as special status had irked the Civil Society organisations of the state prompting them to

launch agitation urging the government to convene a special state assembly session to adopt a resolution for protection of the state.

Large number of womenfolk today storm to the residence of Deputy Chief Minister Y Joykumar, Works Minister Th. Bishwajit and Forest Minister Th. Shyamkumar and submitted memorandum urging the demand for a consensus resolution for protection of the Manipur's Integrity. While coming to works Minister Bishwajit Quarter, the women group were stopped at the entry of the Officers Colony at Sanjenthong and allowed only some few selected to submit the memorandum.

A leader of Kanglei Ima Lup, (KIL), RK Sanahanbi while talking to media said that they

have come to urge the Deputy Chief Minister and other Minister to convene an emergency assembly session to discuss about the issues arises out of the Frame Work Agreement between the government of India and the NSCN-IM.

"We come to submit memorandum urging the Ministers and all the 60 members of the state assembly to take a unanimous resolution for protection of Manipur", RK Sanahanbi said. She said that the MLAs and Ministers should be ready to resign if anything like extension of the article 371 A has been extended to the state of Manipur.

The Women group also shouted slogan for protection of the state in front of the three Ministers quarters.

## MU Community happy with the response August 6 rally participants

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 7,

An emergency meeting of the MUTA, MUSU and MUSA held today morning has resolved to demand the enquiry committee instituted by the MHRD against the allegations to the VC AP Pandey should be solely under the Constituted under the Commission of Enquiry Act 1952.

The meeting held at the office of the MUTA at 11.30 am which was chaired by Prof. I Tomba, President of MUTA deliberated on yesterday's rally organized by some vested interested people. Video footage of some of the response from some old lady taking part in the rally were also digested.

The August 6 rally was organized against the democratic and peaceful agitation by the University Community for the removal of Prof. A.P.Pandey. But the very purpose of the organizers was defeated and despite the support system provided by

the state forces, the counter movement intended primarily for causing moral and physical damage to the movement try the University Community, the various revelations from the participants establish that they were duped by the organizers by stating that the gathering was meant to demand removal of Prof. A.P.Pandey. The Members expressed that this proves the people of Manipur stand by the demand of the University Community. Further it also implies that the coterie of Prof. Pandey still indulge in telling lies and misleading the people through faulty and undemocratic means.

During the members of the University Community expressed acknowledgement with all humility and gratefulness the support and solidarity extended by the people of Manipur through the various civil society organizations, students' organizations, Ima-Ibens of Meira Paibis, NGOs and political parties for the removal of Prof. A.P. Pandey from the

VCship.

On the other hand, the meeting also acknowledged the public announcement by the VC-in-Charge, that he had accepted in Principle the appointment. The University Community would particularly record in appreciation his statement that he is going to write to the MHRD to institute an Independent High Power Committee under the Commission of Enquiry Act 1952 instead of the present Fact Finding Committee to probe into the charges of administrative and financial irregularities of Prof AP Pandey during his tenure as VC of Manipur University. The Members also expressed appreciation of his statement that he would enquire into the nature and status of leave granted to Prof AP Pandey. Further the statement of Prof. W. Vishwanath Singh to the effect that he would enter office only after reaching a consensus with the Constituent Units of the University Community was appreciated.

## Prof. Pandey whom the Govt. claims to have given leave for enquiry is inspecting colleges as Chairman of a UGC team

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 7,

Professor AP Pandey whom the state government claimed to have been given leave for 30 days for enquiry of the allegations leveled against him is busy inspecting college in Nagaland as a Chairman of the University Grant Commission (UGC) team. As reported in many of the Nagaland based daily newspaper The team of the UGC headed by of Prof. A.P. Pandey, Vice Chancellor,

Manipur University, as Chairperson is in Nagaland inspecting the St. Joseph's College, Jakhama since August 5. The inspection was completed yesterday. The team also consist of Prof. Ashok Sharma, School of Chemical Sciences, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya and Dr. Swami Kamalasthananda, Principal, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda members, informed a press release issued by the College.

On seeing the report some of the academicians from the

state while talking to Imphal Times suggested that Pandey was not given leave for conducting a fair enquiry. His visit to Nagaland for inspection of college in Nagaland representing UGC showed that the so called fact finding committee will not be able to deliver justice to the demand of the MU Community. The news report about his visit went viral in social networking site as with comments of the central government attitude towards the state of Manipur.

## 4th National Handloom Day celebrated

DIPR  
Imphal, Aug 7:

Textiles, Commerce and Industry Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh has informed that Mission for Economic Empowerment of Traditional Artisans/Craftsman (MEETAC) will be launched very soon in the State. He stated that the main objective of the mission is to attain the goal of self-employment and inclusive development and economic empowerment to traditional artisans/craftsman of the State as well providing market place for the finished products.

The Minister was speaking at the 4th National Handloom Day celebration held at MSFDS, Palace Compound at the function organised by the Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Manipur.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Th. Biswajit Singh highlighted the significance of observance of the National Handloom Day which commemorates the Swadeshi Movement of 1905. He said the Day is observed to promote the products of the weavers, artisans and craftsman of the State. Stating that the State has 3.09 lakhs weavers, he said the handloom industry is inherited tradition of our State. He announced the Central Government will start giving integrated cluster scheme from this year, acknowledging the performance and activities of our weavers.

Assuring to the weavers that the handloom industry will not be declined with the launch of powerloom, he said the products of both the handloom and powerloom are different items. Speaking on empowerment of women, he said the Central schemes Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) were launched with an objective to empower the women of the country.

*Mission For Economic Empowerment of Traditional Artisans/ Craftsman (MEETAC) will be launched very soon - Minister Biswajit*



He opined that handloom delivery scheme will enable the weavers to save time and increase their production thus helping them to increase their income which will further lead to the development in the society. Asking the weavers to work harder and focus on innovative ideas, he announced that the Government will give design and excellence awards from the next year.

Stating that Manipur is abundant with medicinal plants and herbs, he said we should promote natural dye in the State to boost our income. He said Start Up Policy is launched to solve unemployment problem. He said the Policy focuses on educated unemployed youths and asked the youths to avail the opportunity. The Minister asked the officials of Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles to properly screen the cards for weavers and while giving MUDRA loans. He also advised the officials to provide trainings to the untrained weavers.

As part of the function, a logo of Handloom and Handicrafts was launched as part of the function. A reference book 'Manipur Handloom Development Programme' and a book authored by Shri Mutua Bahadur were also released.

Three National awardees were also honoured with cash prize of Rs 4.40 lakhs each. Two State and two Merit awardees were given Rs 1 lakh each and Rs 50,000 each respectively. A documentary film 'Chara Lyong - Looms & Life' was also released and screened at the function.

S. Rajen Singh, Chairman, Manipur Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., O. Lukhoh Singh, Vice Chairman, MIDA, S. Subhaschandra Singh, MLA, Naoriya Pakhanglakpa AC, P. Vaiphei, IAS, Principal Secretary (Textiles, Commerce and Industry), Govt of Manipur, K. Lamlee Kamei, Director, Handlooms & Textiles, Govt of Manipur along with Directorate officials and weavers of the State attended the function.