

# Prof. Jagdish Mukhi sworn in as Governor of Manipur



DIPR Imphal, May 3

Prof. Jagdish Mukhi was sworn in as the Governor of Manipur at a ceremony held yesterday at the Darbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, Imphal. Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur Justice N. Kotiwar Singh administered the oath of office and secrecy to Prof. Jagdish Mukhi. He will take charge of the Manipur Governor in the absence of Dr. Najma Heptulla. It may be mentioned that Prof. Jagdish Mukhi is also the Governor of Assam.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar Singh, Speaker, Y. Khemchand Singh, Rajya Sabha MP Ksh. Bhabananda Singh, Council of Ministers, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, and other senior officials of the State Government, Police, Army and Senior citizens.

After the swearing-in ceremony the Governor also inspected a guard of honour commanded by Ningshem Vashum, IPS, CO, 5<sup>th</sup> IRB. During an interaction with the media persons, the Governor stated that he will discharge his duty as the Governor of Manipur in the absence of Governor of Manipur Dr. Najma Heptulla. He further said that he will try to fulfill all the requirements of the State as per the Constitution. He said that he will try to fulfill every possible welfare programmes of Manipur while in office.

On his arrival at Imphal International Airport, today, Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi was accorded a warm welcome by Dr. J. Suresh Babu, Chief Secretary and L. M. Khaute, DGP along with senior Government Officials. The Governor was accompanied by First Lady Smt. Prem Mukhi.

## Name Changed

I, the undersigned, Anuska Jain (New name), previously called Anusakha Jain Residence of Assembly Road, Sangeeta Hardwares, Thangal Bazar, Imphal that I expressly authorized and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular, at all times hereafter to designate and address me and remitter issue by such assumed name Anuska Jain.

Sd/-  
Anuska Jain

# Deadly snakebites and uniformed saviours

PROIGAR(S)  
Imphal, May 3

For 62 year old KhTonjaoba a resident of Nakhai village of Bishenpur District, April 20 this year brought a dreaded experience which he had feared all his life. He was bitten by a snake and soon realized its consequences when the snake venom immediately began to take effect. Fortunately, for him, a medical team from the nearby Army unit responded with speed and attended to him. Tonjaoba survived the life-threatening event much to the relief of his family and community members. Though a common occurrence in rural Manipur, fatalities from snakebites remains a constant threat for most locals who for their livelihood must venture into snake habitats into the countryside.

Manipur is blessed with an amazing variety of flora and fauna, its natural riches are home to a variety of reptiles including several species of snakes, many of which are venomous. Most lethal of these include the Monocle Cobra, the Common Krait and the Russel's Viper. Compared to other parts of India, the natural abundance of Manipur along with its climate and jungle terrain favours snakes extensively. Depending on their survival characteristics and food habits, habitat of snakes varies from jungles to fields and at times even extending in proximity to populated areas. Human settlements located on fringes of jungles witness comparatively higher instances of snakebites. The ever-expanding human footprint further exacerbates the situation increasing chance encounters with snakes often resulting in a fatality.

For many locals, their primary occupation being farming and

fishery requires them to work and move in paddy fields or fishponds, which are also favourable habitats for most snakes in Manipur. Based on available data, maximum snakebites occur in the months from April to October. This is attributable to the prevailing monsoons enforcing snakes out of their burrows into paddy fields and fishponds in search of prey. Due to cultivation of rice and fishponds filled to the brim in monsoons, the corresponding activity of humans also increases. This sharply raises the risk of snakebites. Notwithstanding their menacing credence, snakes are inherently extremely shy and avoid humans or other larger animals.

Most snakebites, however, occur when snakes feel threatened activating their defense mechanism to save itself. Fortunately, in most instances, the snake is either non-venomous or is unable to inject venom into the victim. For the other unfortunate few a venomous snakebite, becomes a life and death situation. Such cases of snakebite require immediate medical intervention to ensure survivability of the victim. While snakebites remain common, the corresponding medical care infrastructure in Manipur for treatment remains nascent at best with very few hospitals or medical centers capable of holistic management of a snakebite case. As a result, fatalities resulting from snakebites are unfortunately common. The paramount reason for this inadequacy has been the non-availability of appropriate Anti-venom without which assured survivability is suspect.

Under such circumstances, the Army & Assam Rifles units deployed in Manipur have

provided much relief to the local population. With their extensive presence in Manipur including in remote and desolate areas, primarily for conduct of Counter Insurgency Operations, units of Army and Assam Rifles often remain the only medical succor to ailing individuals. These units are essentially equipped with medical means to cater to their own personnel, however, very often, for humanitarian considerations; medical teams from these units provide medical assistance to civilian populations living in their proximity. Such medical teams often go beyond their call of their duty to treat locals including snakebite victims; as a result they have acquired extensive reverence for saving precious lives often from venomous snakebites. These medical teams have a credible 100% impeccable record of saving snakebite victims. A recent study indicates that out of the total 133 snake bite instances reported within Imphal Valley in the last year, only 34 victims reported to RIMS and the vast majority of 99 victims preferred being treated by Army or Assam Rifles medical teams.

Very often an extremely restricted view, confined to security dimension of the Army or the Assam Rifles comes to the fore. However, ask a snakebite victim saved by an Army or Assam Rifles medical team and he or she will vouch for so much more that these organizations do for the people of Manipur. Ask any of these medical teams, instead and they will simply shrug their shoulders and say, 'we are just doing our duty serving the citizens of India'. It is indeed only appropriate that they get their due and are recognised for their yeoman service to the people of Manipur.

# Craftsmen Training provides skill and self employment: Jt. Director

DIPR  
Imphal, May 3

The Craftsman Training department under ITI promotes self employment with various skills of trades by replacing various machineries. This was stated by S. Ibchoaba Singh, Joint Director, Capacity Building Section, Craftsman Training, at the press conference of HODs organised by DIPR for highlighting the activities and achievements of the GoM held at DIPR Complex, Moirangkhom, Imphal. The Directorate of Craftsman Training was set in 1980 with the Administrative Secretary as Ex-Officio Director. The Directorate General of Training, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GOI lays down various policies and vocational training standards. The Craftsman Training has two Joint Directors dealing in the ITI Section and Skill Development Section. The Nodal Agency for Manipur Skill Development coordinated under the Mission Director coordinated with the Department of Craftsman Training. The Craftsman Training department has 11 ITI centres in Manipur comprising of 103 units and total capacity of 1769 consisting 1402 trainees excluding the newly set-up 2 units at Kangpokpi and Sekmai. The new ITI construction under the scheme at Sekmai will be inaugurated and its session likely to begin in the month of August. The other ITI unit at Kangpokpi has already got the approval of the government. ITI Lilong which has been earlier established and handed over to Private partnership, Manipur Society for Skill

Development also partakes in the Craftsman Training like implementing central sponsored scheme, setting up vocational training project, enhancing skill development.

Various scheme such as Craftsman Training Scheme, Apprenticeship Training Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Yojana (PMKVY) have been launched to promote self employment. Craftsman Training Scheme trains young persons (14-40 years) in the Government Industrial Institute in Engineering and Non-Engineering trades. The period for engineering trades is 2 years and non-engineering is 1 years. The minimum educational qualification varies from classes VIII to X. In the apprenticeship training scheme, passed out ITI trainees are engaged as apprentices in various fields in the government establishment, public and private and central establishment undertakings. PMKVY is a central sponsored scheme via MSSD to the state government. P. Robindro Singh also said that theory classes were imparted to the trainees along with workshop sessions to familiarise with the concern trade. Beside, the department provides certain facilities like workshop, raw materials, games and sports, study tour, hostel accommodation etc. for the trainee. Several changes such as embroidery machine and computer have been replaced. National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT) also provides guidelines and syllabus for various trades. The press conference was attended by S. Ibchoaba Singh, Joint Director (Capacity

Building Section, Craftsman Training), P. Robindro Singh, Joint Director (Training Section), P. Mohendro Singh, Instructor, Amarjit Raj Kumar, Assistant Program Officer while W. Phajatombi Devi, Joint Director IPR moderated the press interaction.

## Awareness camp on diabetes held

IT News  
Thoubal, May 03

One-day awareness camp on "Diabetes Prevention and Treatment focusing on Diabetes foot care" was held today at Warukok village under Sugunu assembly constituency of Kakching District.

The camp was organised by Rural Development Society, Wangjing under the sponsorship of World Diabetes Foundation, Denmark.

Speaking at the awareness camp, project co-ordinator of RDS, Wangjing, Leishangthem Damu said that the main objective of organising this camp is to aware the people about diabetes, its causes, treatment and diagnosis and preventive measures to avoid the disease.

He further said that such awareness camps are organised by the society frequently in Thoubal and Kakching districts and will continue to organise and added that such awareness camps are organised in the schools to aware the students and quiz competitions relating diabetes was also organised.

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# Prison Diary of Late Lamyamba Nk Sanajaoba

He was shamed by herding to every room of the prison with two prisoners respectively pulling his long moustache from either side. One of the two who pulled his moustache really cried with shedded tears. While he pulled Sanajaoba's moustache, he wiped his own tears with the other hand. That day, Chief Warden hued and cried angrily with red-eye using the most degrading foul language. Sanajaoba doesn't utter any word other than, 'hujjur nangso Meitei machani ko', meaning Hujjur, You too are Meitei. These few words sum up the inner thought of them all. While Sanajaoba was publicly shamed by herding to each room, Tomchou was worryingly bothered to makeshift the concealed written papers. Finally, he properly seawrapped it with a plastic and kept inside a broken commode of the toilet. And some 'muk-matum'; (tr., ink), he put it inside an empty packet of the Panama and after squeezing it deposited among the waste piles in the jail yard. But one Mangi who was in the jail at Room no. 13 in connection with the murder related case from Poirou had picked it up and taken to his room. Tomchou went after him and

told him that there was bomb in what he picked up. Poirou then with a shocking surprise gave it back to Tomchou with bewilderment. Then after collecting the ink, Tomchou returned the empty Panama packet to him. Inside the jail, empty cigarette packet was much sought after as the aluminum foil inside it were used for roasting 'Ngari' (Fermented Dry Fish). Mangi picked it up also just to take that aluminum foil. After Sanajaoba was publicly shamed, he then was kept in isolated cell without having contact with any other. His room was not so far from the one he earlier reside, but his compound was fenced with iron barbedware from the other. In the nightfall, he was seen troddling in his compound. They saw each other, but didn't have the chanceto talk. Sanajaoba no longer had pen and paper. They were left with no means to communicate with Sanajaoba. But he throws out a thing above the barbed wire passing over it. It turned out to be a squeezed empty panama Cigarette packet. Tomchou picked it up pondering there must be something in it. To his surprise, he found a letter neatly written with a bottom of the match stick at the

aluminum foil of the cigarette packet which was clearly legible. Seeing it, Tomchou was surprised at the presence of mind and wit of Sanajaoba. He writes: 'Let the outside world know, there is atrocities going on inside the jail'. But there were no means to fulfill what Sanajaoba decreed. Shortly after that incident, Manipur Government had enforced Orissa Preventive Detention Act. Under Preventive Detention Act, Sanajaoba, Pahari, and Dr. Manimohan, some RGM members were all relocated at the new jail situated at the back of the Nambul River where Jadonang was hanged. Major Akiojam Nilakamal, who was in the list of suspected RGM was also imprisoned along with them. Maybe because specific charges could not be framed against them, Tomchou and some four/five of them remained as ordinary undertrial prisoner. It had been lived so till the end of March 1970. Sanajaoba and others, who have been imprisoned under PD Act, after they have been shifted to new jail, enjoyed the status of 'B' class. And accordingly, it was heard that they were allowed to write and their quality of

food considerably improved. A get-together for the detainees was organised at the new jail on March 1970. Sanajaoba reminisced Tomchou and summoned him to attend by sending one warden. Tomchou also happily attended it. That was the last day for Tomchou to meet Sanajaoba and his other inmates in the jail. That programme was also attended by most of the jail staffs and wardens. The opening song was 'Khomlang laman ...' sung by Pahari without any orchestra. When, Pahari, in the climax, sang his heart out with the song, 'Chingleibakki Ema Manipur, Nadom ngallu, nadom satlu', everyone remain silent and unmoved. Most detainees also sang the song of their choice. Sanajaoba also showed his magical skills on the occasion. The magic he did was very simple. He took a 10 Paisa coin from someone and disappeared it. Afterwards, he claimed the disappeared coin was in the right pocket of the Chief Warden's coat, who was there among the guest. It turned out true. Then from among the crowd, started uttering that Sanajaoba engaged a young detainee to

insert coin to the Chief Warden's pocket in advance. Tomchou, after sharing the jail life of happy-sad moments with the other inmates, got eventually released on April 1970. Sanajaoba, along with others were still in detention. Tomchou then collected his scripts, and tried to meet and interview Sanajaoba before leaving. But unfortunately, he had heard that Sanajaoba had been relocated at Jiribam Jail and kept alone in solitary confinement. Later, it too was heard that, Sanajaoba was relocated at Jiribam Jail due to his keen sense of observation, sensitiveness and readiness to protest injustice and any wrongdoing. After a Long spell, Tomchou met Sanajaoba after he was released following the granting of general amnesty to all the political prisoners. In it he said, he was alone in Jiribam Jail. His only friend was a 'Mongba' sheltered there in a nest at a corner of the roof. After living together for long, that tiny bird came down and rested on his shoulder. At that, he remain silently still and unmoved so that the bird would not fly away. After releasing from Jiribam Jail and returned to the

societal stream, he again started penning for 'Lamyamba'. His journalism became more impactfully powerful. Sanajaoba was truly a revolutionary nationalist and an activist who coveted for nurturing and preserving the ancient cultural heritage of Manipur. He didn't reside in tin roofed or concrete structure but in thatched roofed traditional house. The roofing changes after a gap of two-three years and his friends from the hills and far and wide brought thatch in bullock carts for the purpose. His house and the traditional artifacts adorning it resembled a miniature museum. He very much loved the stories in the 'Puya' (tr., Ancient Meitei treatise), 'Chainarol' (tr., Laws Governing Combat). He scripted a play, 'Chainapung' (tr., Warfield) based on the story of combat between Khuman Chakha Moiremba and Heirem Kangbus which was aired from the Imphal Station of All India Radio.

(As told by Athokpam Tomchou, and also referred to his article, 'Jailgi Punsida Lamyamba NK Sanajaoba', 29-30 November 2005, Poknafam, Vernacular Daily, Imphal.)