

Manipur observes Patriots' Day remembering the martyrs

IT News
Imphal Aug 13,

Remembering the martyrs who laid down their lives fighting against the British empire during the Anglo Manipur War of 1891, Manipur today observed Patriots Day in every nook and corner of the state. Today morning as a morning event of the state function of Patriots' Day organised by state government, floral tributes to the martyrs were paid at Hicham Yaicham Pat and Thangal General Temple complex situated in Imphal where Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General were hanged to death by the British colonialist for waging war against them on August 13, 1981.



Three rounds of gun salutes to the martyrs were also paid to the martyrs by a contingent of Manipur Rifles. Speaking to media persons on the sidelines after paying tributes at Thangal General Temple, Chief Minister N. Biren stressed that the sacrifice the Patriots have done by the Patriots has made a place for the land in today's world and added that the

people should not forget the sacrifices they made.

"There is no value and meaning of being a people of Manipur if we don't love our Motherland or doesn't have any feelings and spirits to save and protect Manipur", Biren added.

He said that the love of the motherland cannot be shown by just mere words and added that such love could be

shown by the actions we did for the land.

Biren further stressed that following the footsteps of the patriots will the way to show utmost respect to the martyrs who have died for the motherland.

"The spirit of the patriots who fought bravely and died for their motherland even though they knew that they can't win the massive British colonialist should not be forgotten", he asserts.

He appealed the people to have such spirit and the love of the motherland.

The function was attended by Chief Ministers and his council of ministers, top civil and police officials among others.

Floral tribute paid to Bharat Mata along with martyrs on Patriots' Day;

JSSC boycotts RSS from organising events related with Manipur history

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For the first time on Patriots' Day observance, photo of Bharat Mata was seen among two martyrs Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General, when people pay floral tributes to the Patriots of Manipur.

The photos of it went viral on social media criticising the act of putting the photos together and bringing Bharat Mata on Patriots' Day of Manipur. The observation of Patriots' Day was organised by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Imphal Unit today remembering the martyrs who laid down their lives for Manipur fighting against the British colonialist in 1891.

Speaking to media persons Convenor of the organising committee said that the photo which was put between the two martyrs Thangal General and



Bir Tikendrajit was a photo of Bharat Mata. "The sacrifice by the martyrs is also a part of Bharat Mata", he stressed.

He said that Bharat according to their organisation RSS is not the geographical nation. He added that RSS is based on nationalism and when it comes to nation 'India' Manipur becomes a part of it though it wasn't earlier.

They believed to unite the minority groups without

destroying their unique identity, he added.

He further said that they observed the Patriots' Day remembering the sacrifice the martyrs did for Manipur.

Joint students Coordinating Committee in a press meet boycott RSS from organising events related to the history of Manipur.

JSSC further demanded a public apology for misleading the history of Manipur.

Justice Committee remembers the patriots of Anglo Manipuri War; urged the govt. to remember other martyrs also

IT News
Imphal Aug 13,

Justice Committee on Anglo-Manipur War 1891 Martyrs and Freedom Fighter remembers the brave soldiers who died defending the Manipur on August 13.

Speaking on the occasion Ibotombi Khuman, Chairman of Justice Committee, said that "the government

celebrates this day to remember only Tikenrajit and Thangal General." However, it stated that we should also remember those who were exiled after the war in Andaman Island, such as Chontham Mia who was never allowed to come back to Manipur and died in Tripura.

He added that there were other five soldiers who also

were hanged after the war. "Anglo Manipuri war consists of many battles and Khongjom is a site of just one battle and it is a battle of among other battles in this war", he added.

Justice Committee considers those soldiers who died in Anglo Manipuri war facing the three British columns who invaded Manipur as patriots. He highlighted that around

400 were martyred in this war at battle sites such as Machin Manao Ching, Thoubal Athokpam, Laimaton Ching and Mayangkhang.

The government has made no effort to built memorial sites and statues of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives at these battle sites. It is only at Kakching's Machin Manao Ching were memorial site is built.

Ibotombi urged the government to take necessary step to built the memorial sites for the martyrs and further appealed the people of Manipur that all those who laid down their lives must be remembered as patriots and not only remember just two martyrs.

The function was attended by the relatives of some of the patriots who were martyred as the presidium members along with the Chairman of Justice Committee.

Floral tributes were also paid to the martyrs of Anglo Manipuri War of 1981. Also various institutions, student bodies and civil society organization observed the Patriots Day remembering the martyrs who died fighting for Manipur against British Colonialist.

Joint Student Co-ordination committee also observed the patriots Day at Imphal College. Similarly Waikhom Leikai Government Upper primary School also observed it.

Executives and volunteer of MSAD manhandled by state police; demands apology

IT News
Imphal Aug 13,

In a fresh fiasco of tackling VIP culture in Manipur, a man who is later identified as Md Rajib Khan, Sub-Inspector, Imphal East Police Station along with his security guard manhandled two executives and one volunteer of MSAD on a petty issue of overtaking his luxury car. This was stated in a press statement signed by General Secretary of MSAD Chingheingnaba Saikhom. Reminding the incident he said that it took place at Yairipok Tuhlah, Kaina Road when the executive's car overtook the Rajib's car.

He came in his civil dress in a personal car driven by an unknown lady along with his security guards in a separate gypsy in the lead. The executives' car was compelled to move at a slower speed than normal while it was honking at his car for about 1 km to overtake; his luxury car did not give the executive team a chance to overtake. At a time, the executive team got a space and overtook his car in a higher speed avoiding any mishap.

Some seconds later, his security forced the executive team to wait and started abusing them asking if they were using drugs. The man in the luxury car came out and manhandled our Vice-president, repeatedly shouting with slangs, despite apologies from the executive side trying to escape from the situation

considering his use of overpower. He began to physically humiliate the executive and threatened to shoot the executive saying "kaaphokaga sallaga taagera?" The Executives were not given a chance to clarify the matter. Finally, after repeated apologies, he and his guards allowed the team to leave. MSAD condemns it in the highest capacity. He further said the matter comes out in the limelight as the victims are strong enough to raise their voice.

This non-ethical practice of ego-play by police personnel using his position always happens and it is a clear manifestation of state giving excessive power to the police

force. This is one of the main reasons hampering the police-public relationships and trust deficiency always exists.

How did he use his personal luxury car with official guards? And how could he, in civil dresses, misuse his uniformed official security guards to overpower and threaten the public outside his jurisdiction. It is also learned that the lady driving his personal car is not an officially authorized driver of Rajib. MSAD demands an apology from Md Rajib Khan and complete follow up action on him and draws the attention of concerned authorities to initiate a departmental enquiry to ensure it does not happen again to anyone, he concluded.

Participation of NER Craftpersons in 2nd edition of India International Hospitality Expo – 2019 the premiere hospitality event of South Asia

Maibam Surjamala Devi (Designer)
August, 13,

The 4 day one of kind hospitality event held from 7-10 August 2019 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida Expressway becomes the most powerful networking forum by witnessing an astounding line up of trade discussions, knowledge sessions, gastronomic

demonstrations, master classes, awards night and more. With an unparalleled patronage from industry stalwarts, government institutions and state ministries coming together at one platform to address the successful growth of hospitality sector. The second edition of India International Hospitality Expo (IHE) has become the biggest hospitality hub where exhibitors, students, audience come from pan India.

Also speakers from across the world and MSME company owners from North East showcased their work as part of Make in India initiative. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) with the support of O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles has arranged participation of 10 (ten) entrepreneurs/artisans from NE States in IHE – 2019

in the 4 days Mega Event held from 7-10 August 2019 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida Expressway. The participation of artisans provided an unparalleled opportunity for marketing and selling as well as to generate awareness in the market of the various crafts produced by the craftspersons from the North Eastern Region Craft Clusters. (Contd. on page 4)

Cong observes Patriots' Day "What happened in Jammu and Kashmir is also a threat to Manipur and other north-eastern states" - Gaikhangam

IT News
Imphal Aug 13,

Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) today observes the patriots' Day at Congress Bhavan, Imphal.

Speaking to media person of Patriots' Day observed in Congress Bhavan, President of Gaikhangam of Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) said that on this day that the warriors sacrificed their lives for the freedom of Manipur.

He further said that freedom is not determined by success or failure and added that freedom was my birthright, and added that they were honouring the spirit of freedom that no one can take away our birthright from us.

"This day makes us think that even after we fought against and thrown away the British rule, are we free or not", he added.

Gaikhangam further said that it was a duty of the people to uphold our freedom and also a duty of the government to ensure our freedom is intact.

Regarding the case of Babysana's death, he said that congress party condemns every crime against women and children. Since the investigation is going on, we do not want to comment much, but we demand to bring the truth out and serve justice as soon as possible according to the law of the land.

Responding to a question on the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, Gaikhangam expressed that what happened in Jammu and Kashmir is also a threat to Manipur and other north-eastern states. The message central government is sending out with this event is that the voices of the minorities will not be heard.

Reducing its statehood to Union Territory and dividing it into two can only mean

that the central government will do whatever as they please. It implies that there is no guarantee that such events will not happen in smaller states like Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, etc. We, Manipuris, both in hills and valleys, will always be minorities in context of India. It seems to impose the idea that our voices will not be heard and the central government will do whatever they want regardless of what the people want.

As a part of the event, the members paid a floral tribute to the martyrs of Manipur freedom struggle against British rule.

The volunteers and members of the party paid floral tributes to the martyrs Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General.

Border Areas Skill Development By A R Growth Engine For The Act East Policy

IGAR (South)
Imphal Aug 13,

Moreh, the border town on Indo - Myanmar Border with multi ethnic composition, plays a pivotal role not only in Indo Myanmar relationship but also in the ambitious 'Act East Policy' of the Government of India. The town is already seen as the commercial capital of Manipur and India's gateway to South East Asia. However, a significant portion of economy of Moreh depends on illegal trade and large scale smuggling of Drugs, Gold and Teak Wood. The state barely has any industry. Agriculture in Manipur is restricted to single crop and it is almost negligible in areas along the Indo Myanmar Border adjoining Moreh Town.

The recent trends with positive developments show that situation is rapidly changing. Regular meetings are being held at multiple levels to include the meetings by various departments within the government both at the level of State and Centre, meetings by the government officials with the stakeholders as also meetings at the levels of Government of India and Myanmar, the latest being the Inter Ministerial meeting between both the nations organised last month. The aim of these meetings has been to resolve all challenges being faced in implementing government policies meant to enhance cross border trade and expedite infrastructure development under progress.

(Contd. on page 3)