

Team **Imphal Times** is proud to inform that our Imphal Times evening daily is completing 7 years of non-stop publication today. The newspaper begins with hopes to change the grotesque and corrupt system of the society by a group of likeminded journalist and **Imphal Times** despite being a small newspaper have succeeded in correcting some of the wrongs in the society if not all. It is with the support and trust of our readers and well wisher that we are able to render our duty without fear. We hope we will still get support from you all in the coming days.

Team **Imphal Times**

## 186<sup>th</sup> Death anniversary of Maharaj Gambhir Singh observed let us forget and forgive our past mistakes: CM

DIPR  
Imphal, Jan. 9

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that let us forget and forgive our past mistakes and put our collective efforts to uphold the integrity of the Nation as well as the State. This was stated by him at the 186<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Maharaj Gambhir Singh observed at the Samadhi of the Maharaj located at Langthabal, Imphal West today.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Chief Minister stated that there will be peace and prosperity in the State only when we commit ourselves to build unity and integrity among the communities living in the State.



Maintaining that there were absence of collective thought and unity among the communities in the past, Chief Minister lamented that identity politics had affected in the growth and development of the State. Lauding the sacrifice and courage of Maharaj Gambhir Singh, Nara Singh, Heerachandra and other unselfish heroes of the State, Chief Minister said that what we are today is because of the selfless sacrifices made by our forefathers. Patriotic and nationalistic feeling are inborn traits and should run high in our blood, he added. He further maintained that the supreme sacrifices made by our forefathers towards protecting the integrity of our land should also be included in the school syllabus. The Chief Minister affirmed that the territorial boundary and integrity of the State will remain intact. He continued that the long time demand for the implementation of Inner Line

Permit (ILP) system has been fulfilled by the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The implementation of ILP system will protect the indigenous people of the State, he added. Highlighting the demand of Manipur University Students' Union (MUSU) to shift the Assam Rifles (AR) post from Manipur University campus, Chief Minister said that the request is genuine and will urge the Central government to shift the AR post from University campus.

N. Biren Singh appealed the CSOs, student organizations, meira paibis, local clubs etc. to encourage groups to indulge in agricultural and horticultural farming for self sustained and self sufficient production so that the state would not need to depend on imported products. For such movement, the government will open a Special

Cell to provide financial and technical support to the groups, he added. He also urged the people to request the rebel groups to find an amicable political solution with the Centre.

While delivering his Presidential address, Minister for Art and Culture L. Jayantakumar said that the State has witnessed positive changes under the present regime. He maintained that it is our collective effort and responsibility to protect our 'priceless' culture and tradition. Chief Minister led others in paying floral tributes to the statues of Maharaja Gambhir Singh and Meidingu Narasingh and Sana Heerachandra. A contingent of Manipur Rifles offered a guard of honour and gun salute and sounding of last post as a mark of respect to Maharaj Gambhir Singh, Nara Singh and other unselfish heroes.

Minister for CAF & PD Karam Shyam, Chairman of Tourism Corporation of Manipur Limited Dr Ranjan Sapam, Chairman Manipur Pollution Control Board Shri L. Radhakishore, Chairman of Manipur Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board H. Dingo, MLA of Yaiskul AC Th. Satyabrata, DGP, top civil and police officials and large number of people attended the observance.

## AMSU demands regular VC, Dean and Academic council for DM University; warns agitation

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 9

All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) today warns serious agitation over inaction of the government to the agreement reached between the two sides in connection with the establishment of DM University.

"Since the establishment of DM University the government still has not appoint any regular Vice Chancellor (VC), Dean and never filled vacant post teaching and non teaching staffs", Bruce Pebam, HRD Secretary of AMSU told media persons today at AMSU head quarters.

He said that undergraduate students of the colleges

affiliated to DM University are having tough time as the syllabus that they are studying now fails to get approval due to non existence of Academic Council. Exams are not conducted on time and results of the examination are also kept pending. Because of this there are several drawbacks in applying scholarship either under the state or central government including the UGC. Bruce also said that notification for undergoing PHD to students issued on October last year remain meaningless as nothing has been taken up for converting it into action.

"Earlier too we have submitted memorandums to the government to field all

required staffs, regular dean and vice chancellor besides installations of all required equipments that is necessary for running a University and after reaching an agreement with the Education Minister we had suspended agitation", Bruce said adding that as the government had failed to fulfill our demand even after two years and as the career of the under graduate students under the DM University is at risk, the AMSU along with other students' unions of colleges affiliated to DM University – DM Arts, Science, Commerce and GP Women college will left with no choice but to launch a, intense but democratic agitation.

## Yashwant Sinha begins nationwide anti-CAA yatra from Mumbai

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai Jan. 9

NCP Chief Sharad Pawar flagged off former Union minister Yashwant Sinha's 3,000 km, long nationwide "anti-CAA/NRC/NPR" yatra from Gateway of India in South Mumbai on Thursday. BBM leader and Dr B R Ambedkar's grandson Prakash Ambedkar, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and present MLA Prithviraj Chavan (Congress) and others were present.

Speaking to media, Sinha said that his yatra has been organised to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR), under the banner of "Rashtra Manch". In fact it is 'Gandhi Shanti Yatra', which will culminate at Raj Ghat in New Delhi on 30 January, 2020 and added that during the yatra the people will be urged not to give information to enumerators for NPR. Sinha, said that the figure of 5 per cent GDP given by the Union government is questionable, budgetary figures are manipulated, agro and rural sectors have been ruined. Now the US-Iran strife is going to seriously affect oil economy and eventually our balance of payment.

He accused the BJP-ruled States of using violence to suppress protests against the CAA and blamed the government for disturbing peace. He said that he is



going to demand a judicial probe into the recent violence at JNU. He also demanded that the CAA be repealed and an announcement made by the Union Government that CAA-NPR-NRC will not be implemented. Calling the police crackdown on UP's "state sponsored terrorism" he said that the yatra is specifically going to UP to protest the police high handedness. "We are not scared, we will see," he said. The yatra will pass through Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi and would end at the Raj Ghat in Delhi on January 30, Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary.

The former Gujarat Chief Minister Sureshbhai Mehta has endorsed Sinha's view and appealed to the people and organisations from Gujarat to take the lead in making the Yatra successful. Besides actor and former Union Minister Shatrughan Sinha is supporting the cause.

In a press conference held earlier this week, Shatrughan

Sinha had said that "We have suffered so much that now we are embarking on a 'safar' (travel)". We are against the government's policies. Other organisations should also take out similar Yatras converging at the Raj Ghat at 11 AM on January 30, he had said.

"We are against the government's policies, we are standing up for the Constitution. The CAA provides citizenship to persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries, but excludes Muslims, Sinha said, adding that it "seems to be a ploy to distract attention from the issues the country is facing. The CAA would be as bad as demonetisation, he said, asking what was the need to bring in such a law without consulting experts or even senior leaders of the BJP and opposition", he had said.

NCP Chief Sharad Pawar, Yashwant Sinha, Prakash Ambedkar, Prithviraj Chavan and others at the Gateway of India.

## Silver Jubilee Celebration of Kanankhu Baptist Church held at Chandel

IT News  
Chandel, Jan.9

Kanankhu Baptist Church Celebrated its Silver Jubilee under the theme "Growing Stronger, Deeper and Reaching Higher" at Kanankhu Village in Chandel today.

As part of the celebration, a memorial stone for the silver jubilee was unveiled and

Souvenir Released in the morning session, after which First Pastor of Kanankhu Baptist Church, Ts. Beton pronounced the Invocation Prayer.

Rev. K. I. Tangthu Executive Secretary of ANBA attended the programme as Speaker. Local Pastor Hb. Shangmay delivered the welcome address. During the evening session, several artistes and local youth

presented cultural songs and dances for the audience.

MP of Rajya Sabha Dr. Rk. Ranjan, Former Minister Dr. Khasim Ruiva, Member of ADC Chandel Willingson Tongmin, Executive Member of ADC Chandel Ts. Kanlun and chiefs of several Village also took part in the celebration among others. A grand feast was also prepared for all.

## 6 music bands to represent Manipur and Sikkim at Ukhrul auditions for Rhythms & Aromas of Northeast on January 10

By a Correspondent  
Guwahati, Imphal Jan. 9

Total 6 music bands from Manipur and Sikkim will perform during the fourth leg of Rhythms & Aromas of Northeast at the Town hall in Ukhrul on January 10 to compete and get selected and further perform at 4th Guwahati International Music Festival 2020 in Guwahati. The bands who will be competing on January 10 are Salt and Light Travelling Band, Echoes of Mercy Band, Oking Band and the Antic Molecule Band from Manipur and Granite Yard Band and solo artist Ridgex from Sikkim. Selected artists will also undergo

intensive mentorship by industry experts and the chance to perform with music legends of Asia.

The first State-level music audition for artists from Assam and Nagaland was inaugurated in Dimapur on December 30, 2019. After Nagaland, auditions were held in Aizawl on January 4, Shillong on January 7, 2020. Eastern Beats Music Society – a prominent socio-cultural organization working for promotion of NE culture and establishment of new vistas with other countries, especially Asia – has announced the launch of its highly ambitious and a first-of-its-kind Pan-Asian music project 'Rhythms and Aromas of Northeast

India'. Under the project which is being held with the support of North Eastern Council, Shillong, the society is calling for auditions from talented artists and musicians from the 8 states of Northeast India to be a part of a unique exercise which will culminate with the 4<sup>th</sup> Guwahati International Music Festival 2020.

'Rhythms & Aromas of Northeast India' is being held in multiple stages across the entire region where local talents will be identified, mentored, groomed and provided a stage to perform alongside celebrated artists of the region and other parts of the country. The mammoth three months long exercise also includes a unique music

conference where stakeholders of the music industry will be invited to deliberate on latest musical trends as well as the business side of music.

To be held in the format of a festival promoting Northeast India through its rich and diverse music traditions, the objective of the project is to nurture and celebrate the rich musical talent and ethnic cuisines of the region, and use it as a means to foster people-to-people connectivity with ASEAN and other Asian countries. In the grand finale to be held in the last week of February, the artists will perform alongside music legends of Asia, and the best of the selected Northeast

artists/ bands will also walk away with prize money of Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand.

A brainchild of Northeast-based writer and cultural activist Aiyushman Dutta, the initiative will have multiple-pronged benefits as it will help identify and groom upcoming musical talents of the region, document the musical landscape of the region and also establish new cultural relations with our neighbouring countries and countries in Far-east Asia through music and food. The project also seeks to look at music as an industry and focus on the creation of a vibrant musical eco-system, says Dutta.

The Society's Founder Secretary Aiyushman Dutta said that a team of co-ordinators from all the northeastern States have been working tirelessly to identify new progressive musical talents and groups. "Once the artists and bands are selected, they will get the unique opportunity to interact and get mentored by the veterans of the Indian music industry and learn about the latest trends in the industry. We are also inviting a few journalists and news channels from our neighbouring Asian countries to our final event. As such, this will definitely be a big platform for the artists, besides helping create positive stories in the global

media about Guwahati, Assam and the Northeast as a whole." The Guwahati International Music Festival was mooted way back in 2010 in order to provide a platform wherein musical maestros from across the globe can share stage and collaborate with our indigenous music and cultural practitioners. The Society's President Peter Todd Baruah said, "In the first three editions, the festival has helped create new vistas for cultural collaborations of our topmost northeastern folk exponents with the finest of musicians from Goa, Nepal, UK, US, Germany, China, Bangladesh, Thailand, etc. (Contd on page 2)