



MANIPUR THIS MONTH

A MONTHLY DIGITAL NEWSLETTER



N BIREN SINGH CONTINUES AS THE CHIEF MINISTER FOR THE SECOND TERM

The 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly elections were held on 28th February and 5th March 2022 in two phases, to elect 60 members of the Manipur Legislative Assembly for the 60 Assembly constituencies spread across 16 administrative districts.

The Manipur State Election Commission counted and announced the result on March 10, 2022. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won by a landslide, winning 32 seats out of the 60 seats, winning the majority and forming the Manipur State Government.

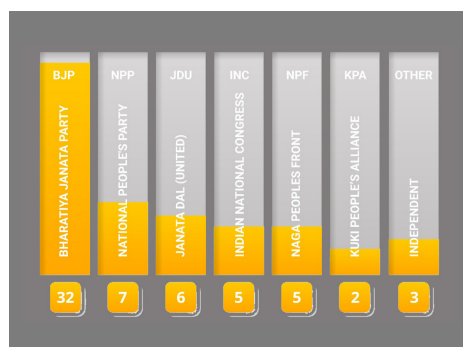
The National People's Party (NPP) came second winning 7 seats, Janata Dal (United) won 6 seats, Indian National Congress (INC) won 5 seats, Naga People's Front (NPF) won 5 seats, Kuki People's Alliance (KPA) won 2 seats and the remaining 3 seats were won by 3 Independent candidates.



Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur for the second consecutive term as the leader of the BJP's legislature party. He took the oath of office by Governor La Ganesan at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal on March 21, 2022. Followed by the sworn-in ceremony of Five MLAs into Ministers on recommendation by the Chief Minister namely BJP's Thongam Biswajit Singh, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Govindas Konthoujam and Nemcha Kipgen, and Naga People's Front's Awangbow Newmai as part of his cabinet ministers.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by BJP National President JP Nadda, Assam's CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Tripura's CM Biplab Kumar Deb, newly-elected MLAs from different parties, BJP leaders and senior bureaucrats, among others.

Shri N. Biren Singh said his government's first target would be to turn Manipur into a corruption-free state. "I would work day and night to wash out corruption from the state. The next step will be to wash out any kind of drug-related issues from the state," he said.



TH. SATYABRATA ELECTED AS THE NEW SPEAKER

Thokchom Satyabrata Singh was elected unanimously as the new Speaker of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly on 24th March 2022.

Satyabrata was a former cabinet minister in the previous BJP led government in the state. He was re-elected from the Yaikul constituency. The newly-elected speaker Satyabrata thanked the house members that he will act without bias.

CM N BIREN SINGH LAUNCHES JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN: CATCH THE RAIN CAMPAIGN 2022

Chief Minister Shri N Biren Singh launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' Campaign 2022 at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on 29 March, 2022. The campaign intends to implement aggressive water conservation measures in the country's identified water-stressed blocks and districts.

The campaign will run from March 29 to November 30, 2022, throughout all districts, with the subject "Catch the Rain, where it Falls, When It Falls." Rainwater harvesting methods will be installed in all government offices, schools, and universities, and the harvested water will be stored and purified for use in the specific area. The Water Resources Department would serve as the campaign's nodal department. As part of the effort, Jal Shakti Kendra's will be established in all districts, which will serve as knowledge centres for sharing information on water conservation practices.



Water conservation and the Green Manipur Mission should be pursued at the same time as both are interconnected. The mapping of springs and spring sheds, as well as their rejuvenation and maintenance, would be prioritized.

The Sarpanches, Zila Parishads, Pradhan's and ADC Members among others are to be included for the successful implementation

of the campaign. Programmes and events to create awareness among the students of universities, colleges, schools about water conservation and rain water harvesting will be organized throughout the year. Besides, community mobilization through NYKs, KVKs, NGOs and PRIs will also be done. DCs/DMs have been tasked to lead the campaign in their respective districts.

Public Grievance Redressal and Anti-Corruption Cell



PHONE NUMBERS

- CM DA HAISI: **95347 95347**
- Anti- Corruption Cell: **1800 345 3877**
- Dedicated Mobile No. of Anti-Corruption Cell: **9402150000**



WATER PLEDGE

I take this pledge to conserve and use water judiciously.

I also take this pledge to use water in an appropriate manner.

I will also harvest every drop of water and will extend my wholehearted cooperation towards taking the "Catch the Rain" Mission forward.

I will consider water a priceless resource and bearing this in mind, will use it accordingly.

I take this pledge that I will inspire members of my family, friends, and neighbors to use water judiciously and not waste it.

This planet is ours and we alone can save it to secure our own future.

"Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls"



The festival of Yaoshang is considered one of the major festivals of Manipur. People from different communities come together to take part in the celebrations. A five-day event celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Lamta (February-March), the festival is generally celebrated at the same time as holi. But unlike Holi, the celebrations go far beyond just colours. The festival is celebrated with singing, dancing and many other traditional performances. It is celebrated with high spirits by the young and the old, irrespective of their gender and age. This festival represents the celebration of love amongst children, adults and people of all ages.

The five-day-long celebration begins with the burning of

'yaoshang' (a small thatch hut/straw hut) which is constructed with bamboo and straws on the first day. It is followed by the collection of donations from households by young boys and girls dressed in their best attires. Children visit nearby homes showering blessings of success and long and healthy life and they receive little monetary gifts as a donation from the households in return. This part of the celebration is called "nakatheng". With the little donation they get, they buy themselves sweets or toffees or share among themselves with much joy and excitement.

he highlight of the festival is the Thabal Chongba, a traditional Manipuri folk dance where boys and girls hold hands and sing and

dance in a circle. The literal meaning of Thabal Chongba is 'moonlight dance' and is performed during night time. It is a typical Manipuri celebration of get-together by the night under the full moon. Strangers and friends alike get along with each other for the dance. They share the good moments along with the thumps of music and laughter. This usually takes place on the second day of the festival while it can also take place on the other days of the festival. Married women also organize their Thabal Chongba event during Yaoshang. This is called 'Mou Thabal'.

Children go to their relatives for nakatheng and block roads with ropes to collect money from people passing by at the start of the second day. Vaishnavite elders and other local sankirtana bands perform traditional 'Pala Eshei' (devotional songs). This is also known as "Holi Pala Eshei shakpa". They perform this at various places of worship including the Shree Govindajee Temple, Shree Shree Bijoy Govindaji Temple and other places such as from home to home. They also collect the money which is offered to them when they perform.

Colours are one of the significant aspects of the festival; people apply colours on the faces of each other (aber teinaba) and children splash water among themselves with water guns (pichkari). The second day of Yaoshang is also better known as the ' Pichkari



The burning of "Yaoshang" marks the beginning of the five-day long festival.
Pic: Aribam Munidrajit Sharma



Little girls in traditional attires getting ready for "Nakatheng".
Pic: GuruBidya



Thabal Chongba (literal meaning: Moonlight Dance) plays an integral part of Yaoshang festival. Pic: Nongamba Ningthemcha

numit' (Pichkari day). This joy and excitement of playing with colours do not dip till the fifth or the last day of the festival. Other customs that we observe in the region are taking out a procession to a local temple, playing with colours and offering prayers to the deity.

Another significant part of Yaoshang, unlike the Holi, celebrated in other parts of India is that it is also a festival of sports. Most of the local communities and clubs organize sports on their local grounds and even on roadsides during the five days of Yaoshang. The primary idea behind Yaoshang sports is to steer the energetic youth away from veering towards drugs and alcohol and encourage them towards sports and games in the state which is already known as the powerhouse of sports in the country.

Children and youths are given the opportunity to demonstrate their talents in various fields of sports, public appearance, public speaking etc. The activities motivate and allow the young ones to explore their talents in different fields.

Various games including indigenous events such as Mukna and Laphu Kabee are extremely popular during Yaoshang sports. Apart from sporting events; academic events like debate competitions, Extempore speech, song competitions, arithmetics competitions, poetry recitations, etc are also organized in the interests of budding students. Events like spoon race, tug of war, statue dance, football match, poon pubi, chafu thugaibi (blind hit), etc are organised for children, teenagers, married women, etc. Yaoshang sports is the time when married women participate the most. It serves as a medium to socialise in the normally busy life.

Besides the sports activities, other activities like Shumang Leela, a

traditional theatre play, are also organized in various localities for people to get together and enjoy. One of the most special features of Yaoshang starting the third day is the Mou and Leishabi Chak chanaba. Married women and young girls of the locality will contribute their share of money and organize a feast. This includes the preparation of great local food and sharing them amongst each other. This is when all the women of the locality will gather and interact with each other. This way of organizing grand feasts in local communities has become an integral part of the festival.

Moreover, most of the offices and government departments are closed during the five-day Yaoshang. This provides an opportunity for every family to be together with their family members and children. Yaoshang denotes the coming of the spring season. It is the best time of the year in Manipur as it is usually the time when the sun shines along with trifles of rain rarely in between, where the gush of strong winds blow, trees and shrubs all green, flowers bloom bright, birds sing and people look forward to each coming beautiful day.



People from all across Manipur gathers at Shree Shree Govindajee Temple to celebrate Yaoshang. Pic: Aribam Munindrajit Sharma

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Share unique, inspiring and extraordinary stories or personalities! Tell us what makes the story unique/different from the rest and why we should share it with the world.

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