

# PRESS RELEASE

## Press Release

### **RING 2026 Continues with Enthralling Display of Indigenous Games on Day Two**

Imphal, May 22, 2026: The second day of RING 2026 – Revival of Indigenous Native Games continued with great enthusiasm and participation, showcasing the richness and spirit of Manipur's traditional sporting heritage. The day featured Mukna competitions during the morning session, followed by Yubi Lakpi and Thouri Chingbi competitions in the afternoon session. The programme also included the felicitation of distinguished guests.

The afternoon function was graced by Shri Arun Kumar Sinha Arun, Principal Secretary, Government of Manipur, as the Chief Guest, while Ms. Cleopatra Ngangom, Chief Manager, Bank of Baroda, attended as the President of the function. Special guests included Smt. Ngaseppam Anita, Advocate Irengbam Lenibala Devi, and Shri Adhikarimayum.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Arun Kumar Sinha highlighted Manipur's immense contribution to the world of sports and emphasized the significance of indigenous games in shaping sporting excellence.

"Manipur is globally recognised as the birthplace of Polo, an indigenous game that is now played across the world. Similarly, games like Mukna Kangjei carry elements of modern sports such as wrestling and hockey. In many ways, several modern games have their roots in our traditional indigenous sports," he remarked.

He further stated that platforms like RING provide important opportunities for young people to showcase their talent while also learning valuable life lessons through sports.

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In her presidential address, Ms. Cleopatra Ngangom praised the sporting achievements of Manipuri athletes and stressed the role of indigenous games in nurturing talent and preserving cultural identity.

"Many athletes from Manipur have brought pride and recognition to the nation, and traditional games have played a major role in building that sporting culture," she stated.

She further noted that initiatives like RING 2026 are essential not only for identifying and nurturing young talent, but also for strengthening community values and reconnecting younger generations with their cultural roots.

"RING is more than a sporting event. It connects us to our roots and helps preserve the rich legacy passed down through generations," she added.

The Yubi Lakpi match between Team Koubru and Team Thangjing witnessed an intense and hard-fought contest, with Team Thangjing emerging victorious after a spirited performance.

Meanwhile, the women's Thouri Chingbi (Tug of War) final featured an exciting clash between Team Koubru and Team Thambalnu. Team Thambalnu secured the title amidst loud cheers and enthusiastic support from the spectators, adding to the vibrant atmosphere of the event.

The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation and strong public interest, reflecting the growing movement towards the revival and preservation of Manipur's indigenous sporting traditions.



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## END NOTE

RING 2026 stands as a celebration of heritage, identity, youth participation, and the timeless spirit of indigenous games. Through this initiative, traditional sporting practices will not only be preserved but also reintroduced to a new generation with pride and purpose.

