

# PRESS RELEASE

## Media Invitation for the Opening Ceremony of RING 2026 Revival of Indigenous Native Games

Imphal, 20 May 2026:

The Organising Committee of RING 2026 – Revival of Indigenous Native Games cordially invites all media houses, editors, journalists, photographers, digital content creators, and members of the press fraternity to attend and cover the Opening Ceremony of RING 2026 to be held on Thursday, 21st May 2026 at Mapal Kangjeibung, Imphal.

RING 2026 is a first-of-its-kind initiative dedicated to the revival, preservation, and promotion of indigenous native games and traditional sporting heritage. The festival seeks to reconnect younger generations with the values, discipline, identity, and collective spirit embedded within traditional sports and community practices.

### Programme Details

Date: Thursday, 21st May 2026

Time: 12:30 PM onwards

Venue: Mapal Kangjeibung, Imphal

### Chief Guest, President & Distinguished Guests

The Opening Ceremony of RING 2026 will be graced by Shri Naorem Praveen Singh, IAS, Commissioner, Youth Affairs and Sports, as the Chief Guest, while the function will be presided over by Shri Lourembam Bikram Singh, IAS, Director, Manipur Tourism. The ceremony will also be attended by distinguished Guests of Honour including Smt. Nameirakpam Kunjarani Devi, Padma Shri, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee and Arjuna Awardee in Weightlifting; Shri Pradip Phanjoubam, senior journalist and Editor of Imphal Review of Arts and Politics; and Smt. Laishram Sarita Devi, Arjuna Awardee in Boxing and former World Champion. Special invitees for the programme include noted social worker Smt. Adhikarimayum Manjubala Devi; Smt. Wangkhem Sandhyarani Devi, Arjuna Awardee in Women's Sanshou (Wushu); Smt. Bembem Devi Oinam, Arjuna Awardee in Football; Smt. Ngangbam Soniya Chanu, Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist in Weightlifting; and Smt. Shushila Devi Likmabam, Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist in Judo.



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## Programme Highlights

- Traditional reception of dignitaries
- Lighting of the ceremonial lamp to the sound of the sacred Moibung
- Hoisting of the RING 2026 Flag and National Anthem
- Rendition of State Song and inaugural song by Shei-Shakkol Bedabati Khunung Eshei Shindam Shang gi Maheiroi
- Pung Cholom and Maibi Jagoi by Shree Shree Govindaji Nat Sankirtan
- Formal declaration of the sports meet open
- Indigenous sports demonstrations including:
  - Thang-Ta (Huyel Langlon)
  - Arambai Exhibition
  - Mukna Kangjei
  - Sagol Kangjei Demonstration
  - Kom Archery Exhibition

The organisers believe that RING 2026 is not merely a sporting event, but a larger cultural movement aimed at preserving indigenous identity, strengthening social harmony, and inspiring future generations through heritage and sports.

All media representatives are warmly requested to attend and provide coverage of this significant cultural and sporting initiative celebrating the indigenous sporting traditions of Manipur.

