

Dignitaries speaking during releasing function of AnubhaBhonle's book "Mother, Where's My Country? Looking for Light in the Darkness of Manipur" at Manipur Press Club.



Manipur High Court freezes first ever medical scam case 8 years passed, people still wait for justice

IT Exclusive

Imphal, Jan 16: For almost eight years the appeal against the verdict of the Session Judge Manipur West for punishment of 9 persons for their involvement in the infamous medical scam case has been withheld by the Manipur High Court as the high court is still preparing paper book. According to report, state government had handed over the medical scam case to CBI in 2007 at which over lakhs of rupees for procurement of scissors, towels and medical equipment has been reportedly misappropriated by some concern officials of



the time. Accordingly the CBI charge sheeted against Dr.G.Mani Singh, T. Jamkhotang, Dr.H. Lalfehang, Lienkhohum, Lal.H.Varte, Bidhu, Jayananda, Ibochou and Mohondas under the trial case number 11/1999/9/2007. The Court of Session Judge Manipur West, Justice Th. Surbala Devi passed the order on 16.10.2008 having

286 pages each for three years. Rigorous imprisonment and fine of rupees one lakh each. However, in the same month of 2008, all the accused filed appeal to the Guwahati High Court and now the case is with the Manipur High Court. But, the present statuses of the said cases on 16.2.2009, judge's order "registry is directed to prepare the paper book and list after the preparation of paper book" sources said that all convicted accused are living in free and one had died before the last verdict. All the cases are lying in freeze to the High Court of Manipur after the appeal comes.

While going through the deadly tremor

By: ReenaNongmaithem

Imphal, Jan.16: "Being a physically challenge person, it is difficult for me even if the wind blows a little bit unusual or a storm comes but that tremor almost killed me. I thought that was the end of my life", said BT Keikhiang @ Akei (47) of KabuiKhullen Part 1, who has been a spinal cord patient since 1996. Akei's half of his lower left body part has been paralyzed after he felled from tree while he was cutting tree branches

when he was around 25 years old. He said that the quake shook so hard that people were thrown away from their sleeping beds and so was he too. "I hold very tight on to the wooden bar beside my bed so not to fall from the bed", shared Akei during this reporter's visit to the village which was worst affected by the deadly tremor on January 4 early morning. He said many still felt sickness as side effect of the shook. "Villagers prayed if the

World was going to end that day", he added. He was the only person to stay at home during night time these days while whole villagers were staying together at the relief centers. "Since my physical condition challenges from staying together with the villagers at tent houses, I along with my two little sisters stays at home", shared Akei and said I will face the consequences even if the tremor hits again. On that jolt his only television that accompanied his life over bed was

completely damaged, said Akei who ever he said he is grateful that his radio set was save and sound. Akei is a regular caller to All India Radio's phone in entertainment programs like "Good Morning Manipur". Interesting Akei's called was picked up by the anchor of the "AIR" programme "Good Morning Manipur". He request the anchor to play a popular Manipur song from VDF Thasana. Thanks to AIR Imphal for Akei could stay away from the shock of the tremor.

MLA Joykishan put halt construction works of temporary market at Thangal Bazar

IT News

Imphal, Jan 16: The construction of temporary market sheds came to a grinding halt when MLA Joykishan of Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency intervened. The labourers were force to stopped working and the GI sheet and plastic walls erected on the roadside for construction of the market sheds had been forcibly removed. The construction is being underway after the two Kwairamband Keithel has been put to a danger level

after the damage in the 6.8 magnitude of Jan 4. Narrating the whole incident to our staff reporter, MLA Joykishan said that he came to the site of the construction of the temporary market sheds today morning around 9:30 am, which fall in the jurisdiction of his constituency and asked who is constructing the market sheds and under whose authority. A man who is said to be the contractor of the work said that the work was being executed under the instruction of the Chief Engineer and Superintendent Engineer of

PWD and being supervised by Assistant Engineer Uttam. MLA Joykishan asked the concerned engineers on the phone and the engineers said that under the instruction of the Chief Minister, the work was being executed on a war footing without awarding work order and calling tender. Acknowledging the response, MLA Joykishan stopped the work immediately saying that it could not be continued. MLA Joykishan warned official of stern action if the law is violated.

CoPoTR to discuss functioning of District council

Letmang Haokip

Chandel, Jan. 16: To discuss the functioning of Chandel Autonomous District Council, the Committee on Protection of Tribals Rights (CoPoTR) Chandel District informed that a joint meeting will be held with the all Head of Departments, ministerial and other staff of Chandel Autonomous District Council on forth coming Tuesday. In a press statement signed by CoPoTR Chandel District's President Wng. Kohring Victor and Secretary Ng. Joychandra informed that a joint meeting of CoPoTR Chandel District Committee members and the Head of Departments,

ministerial and other staff of Chandel Autonomous District Council will be held at the Council's Hall located at Monsang Pantha on coming Tuesday to discuss the functioning of the District Council. The decision to convene the joint meeting was taken during a meeting of the Committee which was held on January 14, added the statement. The committee also appealed all the head of Departments and Staff including CEO and Addl. CEO of the District Council to attend the said joint meeting on time which is scheduled to be held by 12 noon of January 19.

'Mother where is my country.....'

IT News

Imphal, Jan.16: Delhi based Journalist turned writer AnubhaBhonle's book "Mother, Where's My Country? Looking for Light in the Darkness of Manipur" was released today at Manipur Press Club. The book was written based on the fake encounter stories from Manipur, however the books aimed to publicize the unfaithful stories of the state to other parts of nation as well as to the world. While recalling her stand to the book, Anubha called on people of Manipur to write more and more books on the issue as tool to raise our voice and one book will not be enough to do so. The writer was encouraged to write the book by an incident of fake encounter which she



encounter while visiting Manipur as a journalist in 2006. The book depicts her experience of fake encounter stories in the state. Babaloo Loitongbam, Human Rights Activist, PradeepPhanjobam, senior journalist, Prof BimoI Akoijam, Activist NandiniThokchom among others took part in the book release function.

Lions Club extended assistance

IT News

Imphal, Jan.16: Lions Club, Imphal East today presented woollen cloths to elders residing at the old age home at Monsangi. The presentation was organized as part of its helping hand extension towards destitute elders, victims of crime against women and orphan children under the program theme "Relieving the hunger".

National Integration Youth Camp at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

IT News

Imphal, Jan 16: Ten dynamic Youths of Manipur, both men and women, has been invited for the participation in the National Integration Youth Camp at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan which is going to be held from March 13 to 18, 2016. In a press statement, S Tomba Singh, Principal of Laishram Mani Goura

Sangeet Akademy (LMGSA), Thoubal Wangkhem said that the youth camp is being organized by National Youth Project, New Delhi under the Directorship of National Awardee Dr.S.N Subba Rao. The National Youth Project Unit of the Laishram Mani Goura Sasngeet Akademy invites youths of Manipur under the age group of 15-35 having potential experience

of Traditional Dancing. Willing persons can contact the office of LMGSA on or before January 24. Selection test to select the 10 youths will be held on coming January 25 at 2:00 pm at the paona Memorial Arts & Rural Development Services Auditorium, Thoubal Wangkhem. S Tomba Singh details in the notice statement.

Two NSCN (K) Cadres apprehended

IT News

Imphal, Jan 16: In an operation carried out based on specific inputs regarding movement of hardcore insurgents in Kangpokpi, Kangleitongbi, Saparmaina, IT Road Junction, Sipijang and Leikop by the troops of Jwalamukhi Battalion under Senapati Brigade of Red Shield Division on 12 January apprehended two hardcore NSCN (K) insurgents along with one 9mm and five live rounds of

9mm from Daili village of Senapati District identified as Number 17326 SS Lt LamangKipgen, aged 36, son of Seipao Kipgen, resident of Lilen village under Peren district, Nagaland and Seminal Kipgen, aged 23, son of Jangsat Kipgen, resident of Langjol under Senapati district, Manipur. SS Lt LamangKipgen revealed himself on questioning as top leader of NSCN (K) outfit joined in

1996 being trained in Aithbung involving the recruitment of numerous cadres in the past. He further confessed absconding from Nagaland to avoid arrest by Security Forces and arrive in Manipur to carry out recruitment for the terrorist organisation was planning to strike against Security Forces. The apprehended terrorists along with recoveries were handed over to the Police for further investigations.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj organizing National Workshop on fiscal decentralization beginning Monday

PIB

New Delhi, Jan. 16: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is organizing a two-day National Workshop on "Fiscal Decentralisation and the Role of State Finance Commissions" beginning 18.01.16. In the Workshop, Chairpersons and Members of all the functional State Finance Commissions, Secretaries of Panchayati Raj and Finance Departments from States and eminent national and international experts on fiscal decentralization and devolution to local governments have been invited. Former Members of the Union Finance Commissions have also been invited to share ideas and experiences of the national and international best practices and promote cross learning across the States. The Workshop will be inaugurated by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Drinking Water & Sanitation Shri Birender Singh. The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution have provided constitutional status to Panchayats, Municipalities to function as local self-government institutions. The Constitution also provides for States to devolve, through legislation, functions to these institutions as illustrated in the Eleventh and Twelfth

Schedules of the Constitution for rural and urban local bodies, respectively. While the States have generally assigned most of these functions to PRIs, the corresponding devolution of funds and functionaries remains a critical issue. The own source revenues of the local bodies being very small, they largely depend on the devolution of funds from the Central and the State Governments and Finance Commissions. There is an urgent need to vest the Panchayats, with adequate tax and non-tax powers and at the same time ensure that the fiscal powers given are effectively exercised since generating own revenue is the best way to increase autonomy, credibility and accountability of the Panchayats. Fiscal decentralisation therefore, needs to be viewed as a comprehensive system of strengthening the financial resource base of the Panchayats so that the assignment of expenditure functions is matched with devolution of funds. To address this issue, the Constitution provides for setting up of a State Finance Commission every five years to review the financial position of the Panchayats (and also urban local bodies) and recommend criteria

for distribution of financial resources between the State and the Panchayats as also other measures to improve the financial base of the Panchayats. Thus, the State Finance Commissions, SFCs, have vital role to play in the scheme of decentralization, while arbitrating on the claims to the resources by the local governments and the State Governments and ensuring greater stability and predictability to the transfer mechanism. Also there has been growing concern about the smooth functioning and capacity of the SFCs. Several SFCs themselves are not adequately staffed and lack the required infrastructure and resources. The database on various aspects of Panchayats' functioning is inadequate for the SFCs to take informed decisions and make recommendations accordingly. The States have the basic responsibility of enhancing the credibility of the SFCs. The SFCs, therefore, need to be strengthened and their work and reporting streamlined in many ways including some standardization in their method and approaches. Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) in their report

which was submitted in December, 2014 have inter alia made the following observations on the role of State Finance Commissions - "there is wide variation in the assignment of functions, funds and functionaries across States, it is not feasible for the Finance Commission to carry out a detailed assessment of the finances of local bodies in each State nor has such a role been assigned to it under the TOR or the Constitution. The Constitution envisages that the needs of local bodies within the State shall be assessed in detail by the SFC, which will recommend the required transfer of resources from the State to them. Therefore, it is appropriate that the needs of local governments are assessed in detail by the SFC. The FFC has further observed that despite the passage of time, SFCs in many States continue to work with a lot of disadvantages. The FFC has recommended that the States should facilitate effective working of SFCs, through timely constitution, proper administrative support and adequate resources and timely placement of the SFC reports before State Legislatures, with action taken notes and timelines for completing actions.