



HERICOUN observes 14th Foundation Day: announces clear stand on the demand for ST; calls opposers for open debate

IT News
Imphal, May 16: The battle line between groups of people supporting the demand for Scheduled tribe Status for Meitei and Meetei and those opposing the demand is becoming clearer as both the supporters and opposers now take public platform and started justifying their stance. When group of people who are against the demand are conducting series of peoples' convention at different places, President of the Ethno Heritage Council (HERICOUN) Manipur Longiam Ratankumar today said that those standing against the demand for ST status for the Meitei and Meetei still fails to convince the reason on why the demand should be opposed. Speaking during the 14th Foundation Day of

HERICOUN held today at GM Hall Imphal, Ratankumar said that the various problem being faced by the Meitei/ Meetei people in survival will find its solution only after the conversion of the Meitei / Meetei to Scheduled Tribe. "Unless we convert into ST there is means to safeguard the Meitei Meetei people", said the President of HERICOUN. Criticizing those standing against the demand for ST status, Ratankumar said that opposing to the demand is unfortunate. "Why should those who oppose the demand campaign instead of coming to the office and discussed over the issue", Ratankumar asked. He said that the ST demand committee had been there since 2011 and their office too is widely open for any

discussion. Instead of going to the newspaper or public platform, the matter should have been well discussed. The demand for ST is nothing but to bring harmony in the community. Wangkhem Sharatchandra, President of the Assam Meitei Apunba Lup elaborated the condition of the indigenous Manipuri people in Jiribam. While delivering his speech as the Chief Guest of the Foundation day of HERICOUN, Sharatchandra calls on all those who oppose the ST demand and those supporting the demand to have an open debate. "Let us have a debate, and let the people decide whether we need status like ST or not", Sharatchandra said. Giving factual data of the population figure of Jiribam Sub Division as according to

the census record, Sharatchandra said that in 1951 census report the population was only 7767 in Jiribam. Among this Meitei population is the highest with a total of 2273 and Bangali reaching 1429. In 2011 census report the population figure reached 44,836. Among this Meitei / Meetei and other indigenous tribal community population is only 29,222. When the population of Bangali and other outsiders is over 15,616. The movement of ILPS got strong opposition from outsiders settling in Jiribam, Sharatchandra said. Even the media based at Silchar report propaganda opposing the ILP movement. The 14th Foundation day of HERICOUN was also attended by R.T. Akhel Aimol, President of the Aimol tribe Union as the Guest of Honour

All Political Party delegation sets to leave for New Delhi

As soon as we get appointment of the PM and President we will leave – N Biren

IT News
Imphal, May 16: All political delegation is all set to leave for New Delhi to apprise the central government leadership to get assent of the 3 ILPS related Bills passed by the state legislative Assembly on August last year. Rumours spread about the cancellation of the all political party delegation

proposed visit to new Delhi however when Imphal Times contacted congress spokesperson N Biren it was stated that the delegation is waiting for the appointment of the President, Prime Minister and the Home Minister. "As soon as we get appointment we will leave for New Delhi and apprise the central leadership to get

presidential assent of the three Bills passed by the state legislative Assembly. When asked about the exact date, Biren said that the appointment will be given in one or two days. Regarding the postponement of the proposed visit today, Biren said that date for visit was not fixed as it was important to get appointment of those required to meet.

ILPS Protest blocked vehicular movement along Imphal Ukhrul road

IT News
Imphal, May 16: Protest demanding implementation of ILPS continues today for the fifth day. Today large number of people inbetween Minuthong to Yangangpokpi along the Imphal Ukhrul road came out in the street and stopped all sort of vehicular movement

from around 12 noon. Before that protest were satged by local meira paibi and club members at various places. After around 12 noon club members and the meira paibi supporting the ILPS movement blocked road by placing woods and poles. At some area meira paibi and local club members stand in

the middle of the road and prevented even vehicles belonging to the police personnel. Slogans demanding approval of the three ILPS related Bills passed by the state assembly filled the air. However no unwanted incident occurred during the protest.



Dead body identified; JAC formed; threatens agitation

IT News
Imphal, May 16: the dead body which was found at Nambul River yesterday evening inbetween Samurok Makha Leikai Thounaojam has been identified as Moirangmayum Chaoba Singh (aged About 55), e resident of Samurok Awang Leikai in Imphal West. Following the news about the dead locals of the victims went and rushed the spot and found the nature of dead suspicious. A Joint Action Committee was formed today after convening a public meeting at Samurok Awang leikai Community Hall. A public meeting held today resolved not to accept the dead body until the authority find the culprits involved in the killing of the person. The JAC called Joint Action Committee Against the brutal killing of Moirangmayum Choaba Singh, which have 12 member with Sanahanbi as the convener also resolved to organize series of agitation if government fails to arrest those involved in the killing within 24 hours starting from today evening.

Nungei firing JAC urges govt. to arrest the culprits; stage protest rally

IT News
Imphal, May 16: JAC Against the Cruel Firing to Nungei Meira Paibi today conducted a public meeting at Lamyamba Shanglein Auditorium, Palace compound, today. JAC members shows disappointment over the state government failure to fulfil their demands which were submitted as a memorandum to the Chief Minister demanding arrest of the culprits involved in the April 11 incident on

which 14 persons suffered injury when three miscreants fired from a shot-gun towards a Meira Shang at Nungei. CSO representatives of Meitei and Meitei Pangal communities attended the meeting. They discussed on how to end the tension and settle the issue. Later, a rally was carried out from Lamyamba Sanglen which was stop by Imphal East Police team to submit memorandum at CM when reaching Pureiromba

Khongnang Khong. In the rally, slogans demanding arrest of the culprits involved in the April 11 firing shot-gun towards a Meira Shang at Nungei injuring atleast 14 persons. It is known that on the night of April 11, 2016, three unknown persons fired shot gun indiscriminately at womenfolk sitting at a Meira Paibi shed at around 8 pm. 14 persons were injured in the incident.

Cease work strike by Home Guard personnel demanding revocation of transfer order

IT News
Imphal, May 16: Following the order for the transfer of Home Guard Commanding Officer (CO) Y Ashok Kumar (MPS), a large number of home guard personnel thronged the Office of Commandant Home Guards at Lamphel and announced cease work strike from today. Demanding immediate revocation of the transfer order, agitating personnel alleged some battalion commanders and their associate juniors of conspiring against the officer in order to drive him away from their way. One of the agitators told reporters that since the officer, Y Ashok Kumar joined the department in August of 2012, he has been focusing on the development of members and the department as a whole including the preparation of



Manipur Government Employees List (MGEEL). She said as result of his developmental activities like clearance of long pending salaries, organizing refresher courses, smooth coordination with juniors and so on, the actual number of personnel on duty has risen in manifold. Earlier only around 400 personnel out of the 2183 on the payroll of the department were utilised for duty but now the number has risen to over 1000 personals, she added. While doing so, his good

administration has become a hindrance to those encorced with corrupt practices within the department, and blaming the innocent and upright officer with false charges and complaints to higher authorities for the transfer has become the only way to remove him as he is proving to be an obstacle in their nefarious activities, she alleged. The agitating personnel also stated that further intensive agitations including locking up the office is on the anvil if their demands are not addressed at the earliest.

Assam Rifles raids NSCN (K) camp

TNN
Itanagar, May 16: NSCN (K) camp based at Phenbiro village under Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh was raided by the Assam Rifles. The raid is another success trophy for the Assam Rifles in its counter-insurgency operations by busting

militants' hideouts. However, no casualty was reported in the recent operation. According to a spokesman of the Assam Rifles, one country-made weapon, combat uniforms and a large quantity of administrative stores were seized. He further stated that in the last

month, Changlang district has witnessed continuous counter-insurgency operations against insurgent groups following receipt of reliable inputs about infiltration by ultras. As for now, security across Changlang district has been put on high alert, the AR spokesman said.

Communal tension flares up in Tripura as Mizoram tribal refugees burn, damage houses

ANI
Kanchanpur, May 16: Communal tension flared up between locals of Tripura and Mizoram Bru (Reang) refugees in the Kanchanpur area of the state after the latter burnt and damaged the houses of the former. Several houses of locals Bengali community were set afire by the refugees following the suicide of 38-year-old

Bhiguram Reang after he was allegedly beaten up on being caught red-handed catching fish without the owner's permission. Police had to fire several rounds in the air and use tear gas to disperse the crowd. The district magistrate, the superintendent of police and the inspector general of police (law and order) monitored the situation to bring the situation

under control. Seven police personnel were reportedly injured in the clash with inmates of Reang refugee camps in North Tripura district. Around 31,000 Reang tribals, who locally call themselves 'Bru', are living in seven makeshift camps in northern Tripura for the past 19 years after they fled Mizoram following ethnic troubles. Paramilitary has been deployed in the area to keep the area under domination apprehending retaliation from the locals. Meantime, locals those who lost their homes and properties have taken refuge in nearby Tripura State Rifles (TSR) camp. Around 35,000 Reang tribals or 'Bru' are living in seven makeshift camps in northern Tripura for the past 19 years after they fled Mizoram following ethnic trouble after a Mizo forest officer was killed.

Govt prepares draft bill allowing passive euthanasia, experts unhappy

New Delhi: The Modi government has come up with a draft bill on passive euthanasia that gives patients the right to "withhold or withdraw medical treatment to herself or himself" and "allow nature to take its own course". According to media reports, the Union health ministry last week uploaded the draft, titled Terminally Ill Patients (protection of patients and medical practitioners) Bill, on its website. It has invited suggestions from people via email, until June 19, 2016. The bill provides protection to patients and doctors from any liability for withholding or withdrawing medical treatment and states that palliative care can continue after treatment is withdrawn. However, the bill does not make clear the concept of a 'living

will'. A living will is defined as "a document in which a person states his/her desire to have or not to have extraordinary life-prolonging measures when recovery is not possible from his/her terminal condition". Paragraph 11 of the draft bill only states that any "advance medical directive (living will) or medical power of attorney executed by the person shall be void and of no effect and shall not be binding on any medical practitioner". This lack of clarity on whether any person can seek euthanasia has left experts disappointed, said the report. The draft bill protects medical practitioners from any legal guilt and allows them to offer palliative (pain relief) care. "Every competent patient, including minors aged above 16 years, has a

right to take a decision and express the desire to the medical practitioner attending on her or him." The draft also lays down the process for seeking euthanasia, from composition of the medical team to moving the high court for permission. The Central government, after years of opposition, made a U-turn in January and told the Supreme Court that it was on the verge of preparing a draft bill allowing passive euthanasia. The Centre was reacting to a case involving euthanasia in the apex court, whose next hearing is in July. The draft bill however, has been objected to by experts including medical practitioners, who say it is vague on a number of important details. (Courtesy : Deccan Chronicle)