

## Manipur's oldest social activist Thounaojam Iboyaima passes away

**ITNews**  
**Imphal, Oct 28:** Manipur's oldest social activist, and a follower of pioneer leader Kijam Irbot, Thounaojam Iboyaima, who has been honoured by the people of the state as "Father of Social Worker" passes away today morning. He was nearly 100 years old and is survived by 5 sons and 4 daughters. He was the second among 6 brothers and 4 sisters. Th. Iboyaima has served the Manipur society at various levels. He was the advisor of the All Manipur United Club Organisation (AMUCO) and also the President of the Irabot Foundation Manipur until he breath his last early today morning at his residence at Singjamei Thongam Leikai. His last rite was performed today at Singjamei.

## HJU meet CM

**ITNews**  
**Imphal, Oct 28:** Members of the Hill Journalists' Union today held a meeting with the Chief Minister of Manipur Okram Ibobi Singh at the Conference Hall of the Chief Minister Bungalow. The meeting discussed in dept about the present problem faced by the journalists while working in their respective region.

## Clarification

**ITNews**  
**Imphal, Oct 28:** A statement of the Director of Information and Public Relation of the Government of Manipur has stated that the selection committee has not recommended any of the candidates for the appointment to the post of Legislative Drafting and Assistant-in-charge in the Law and legislative Affairs, Government of Manipur.

## Supreme Court dismisses MLA M Prithviraj appealed against Manipur High Court ruling

**ITNews**  
**Imphal, Oct 28:** Manipur's Parliamentary Secretary M. Prithviraj and MLA of Moirang Assembly constituency is once more in trouble. According to report reaching here the Supreme Court of India has dismissed the appealed by MLA M Prithviraj of Moirang Assembly constituency against the Manipur High Court's verdict which stated his election of the 10<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly held in February 2012, was illegal and

considered "null and void". Report reaching here said a bench comprising of Supreme Court Justice TS Thakur announced the dismissal of the appealed by MLA M Prithviraj in an open court today. As per the ruling the Supreme Court while upholding the Manipur High Court ruling has order to 'cease' the member title from MLA Prithviraj. Mentioned may be made that rival candidate of the last Manipur Legislative Assembly P Sharat had complaint the Election Commission of India to reject his candidacy on the

ground that the qualification filed by M. Prithviraj was false and misleading to the public. Following that ECI had forwarded the state election machinery to look into the matter. The matter was later taken to the Manipur High Court by P Sharat and following that a division bench of the Manipur High Court had announced the election of M Prithviraj as 'null and void'. MLA Prithviraj then appealed to quash the Manipur High Court ruling at Supreme Court, which is the highest court of the country.

## Congress Mahila blames BJP Mahila group for disturbance to political conference held at Keibul Lamjao

**ITNews**  
**Imphal, Oct 28:** Keibul Lamjao Congress Mahila Committee clarified that the incident happened during one day political conference of the congress party yesterday at Phaobi Lairembi Gound of Keibul Lamjao was created by BJP Mahila and not by local of Keibul Lamjao peoples. Speaking to the media person

in a press meet held at Manipur press club today the vice president N of the Keibul Lamjao Congress Mahila Committee Ningthoujam (O) Memma said that we are in a democratic country and have the right to organize any meeting related with election by any political party and there is no any declaration by the keibul lamjao about prohibits political conference in this area. The political conference

was concluded successfully with hundred of supporter participation despite interrupted by BJP Mahila led by a wife of BJP vice president Moirangthem Ashinikumar. She further added that Congress Mahila of Keibul Lamjao and local people are stand for the MLA Mangi Babu who has been sacrificing for the development of the constituency for almost 10 years.

## SEACO wishes Ningols on Ningol Chakkouba

**ITNews**  
**Imphal, Oct 28:** South East Asia Cultural Organisation SEACO today wishes the Ningols (married lady) on occasion of the Ningol Chakkouba festival the biggest festival of the state. In a press statement SEACO elaborated the significance of Ningol Chakkouba Festival as it is not only a festival but a joyful moment for brothers and sisters and parents at which their sisters come to their maternal home to enjoy a feast together. The organisation appealed people to celebrate it with traditional taste.

**New Delhi, Oct. 28:** The Supreme Court rebuked the government on Friday for "scuttling" the working of judiciary by sitting on the appointment of judges in various high courts despite the recommendation of a recruitment collegium. "Today we have a situation where courtrooms are locked because there are no judges. For example, Karnataka.... Why don't you lock the courts?" a bench headed by Chief Justice TS Thakur asked, adding: "Executive inaction is decimating the institution (judiciary)."

The bench is hearing a public interest litigation on the judicial appointment process in 24 high courts, which together have more than 450 vacancies against the sanctioned strength of 1,041. "You are scuttling the working of the institution," the bench, which has been asking the government to show urgency, said. The bench disapproved of the Centre's cherry-picking of names for Allahabad high court, where the government has cleared only two of the eight

## Headache for Assam; New armed rebel group supported by WESEA region armed group floated



**ITNews**  
**Imphal, Oct 28:** Manipur's neighbouring state Assam is likely to face another big blow to the smooth flow of administration at Upper Assam as new armed rebel group called People's democratic Council of Karbilongri (PDCK) was born yesterday to wage war against the government of India for a separate sovereign nation of the Karbi people by segregating the portion of land from Assam. The newly formed armed rebel group has already established close relation with armed rebel groups operating in the North East part of the country. In a statement the new rebel group said that they have full faith in the formation of the United National Liberation Front of Western South East

Asia (UNLFW) and in its aims and objectives. The statement also stated that they have come closure with several like-minded armed revolutionary group having similar principles and ideology of the region like KCP, KLO, KYKL, NDFB, NLFT, NCSN, PREPAK, PREPAK (Pro), RPF and UNLF. As according to the press statement of the new outfit, the chairman is Mr. jeksai Kangtang Lijang, General Secretary if Nongme Tungjang and Chief of the Army Staff is Captain David Mukrang. The organization pledge to free the people of Karbilongri from Indian occupation, colonialism, exploitation, oppression and suppression. As per the new rebel group,

the Karbi, is an indigenous people of Sino-Tibetan origin of Mongoloid stock, speaking a Tibeto-Burman language, living in Karbilongri, Dima Hasao, the erstwhile united Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills. It said the region enjoyed sovereignty and independence since time immemorial until the British annexed the region on August 14, 1832. Meanwhile Chairman of the NSCN-IM, SS Khaplang has extended its support to the newly born PDCK. In a statement, SS Khaplang stated that the NSCN/GPRN which is committed to the sovereignty of WESEA region will continue to join struggle with other suppress people of the region who has their own historical, Political and indigenous rights.

## Why don't you shut down courts? SC slams govt over delay in appointing judges

recommendations made by the Supreme Court collegium. India is the only country in the world where judges appoint judges under a collegium system established by the apex court in 1993. Top judges take all decisions on judicial appointments and the government does not have any say in the process. Ads by ZINC The National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC), which was enacted by Parliament with unanimous decision of political parties, was declared unconstitutional by a

constitution bench last year. Since then the government and the judiciary have been at loggerheads, with the Chief Justice of India pointing out that delay in judicial appointments was making it difficult for courts to function. CJI Thakur, who broke down earlier this year while talking about the problem, had also expressed disappointment that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not mention the issue in his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort. On the government saying the Memorandum of Procedure

(MoP) for judicial appointments wasn't ready, the court said it will constitute a five-judge bench to clarify that appointments should not to be held up if the MoP wasn't ready. Initially, the court wanted to summon the secretaries of the department of justice and the Prime Minister's Office, but later chose to refrain on the attorney general's request. Last month, attorney general Rohatgi had told the top court that the government alone can't be blamed for judicial vacancies as many posts were lying vacant for over five years.

## PRJA, MPP, Left parties: Is Third Front in the offing in Manipur?

**By Mohammad Imtiyaz Khan and Md. Abdul Gaffar**  
"It is high time PRJA, MPP and parties that believe in social justice come together to defeat national parties (Congress and BJP) to work for regional cause." After a historic fast unto death for about 16 years (survived for that long because of State's intervention by way of force-feeding), protesting against imposition of a repressive law AFSPA 1958 in Manipur, rights activist from Sharmila decided to break her fast in last August to enter into electoral politics to pursue the same agenda of repealing the draconian law. As the news of forming a political party People's Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA) by her team comes in, it is necessary to take a quick look back at the socio-political scenario of Manipur since statehood to understand what the actual problem of Manipur is: AFSPA 1958 or insurgency? If we know the problem, we are half-way through the solution.

**Insurgency**  
Congress has been ruling Manipur since 70s, except for short term rules of state political parties like Manipur People's Party (MPP) that produced the first CM of Manipur state, Manipur Hills Union (MHU),

and other national parties like Janata Party, and Samata Party. In other words, insurgency in the state, which the Congress government had time and again imagined as "war-like situation" was born out of the Merger Agreement of 1949 and, to put it bluntly, it has grown alongside Congress' rule. The demand of the armed movement is the universal right to self determination and to remain as independent nation that Manipur was before British occupation and, later, annexation by India. As no plebiscite has been conducted so far, the six decade old insurgency or "problem of lawlessness and chaos" is refusing to give way to usher in an era of law and order and peace. It is becoming the disease of institutional decay and failure of the state. The root cause of the failure is that the state couldn't understand the nature and purpose of the insurgency. Moreover, state's successive governments didn't connect with the insurgents and sentiments associated with the issue. This was largely because of the lack of regional feeling among the congressmen. This prompted some politicians to rebel and form MPP as splinter party of Congress endorsing mostly the local issues of territorial integrity, autonomy, socio-political, identity and

ethnicity preservation, migrant influx, communal harmony, etc. As these issues also were at the core of the insurgency movement which got massive public support those days, the party reaped dividends for flagging them and they formed the first government after statehood with Mohammed Alimuddin as chief minister. Even after the statehood, the insurgents' agenda remained unfulfilled, but with the statehood the movement had lost its sheen. However, as the rate of unemployment increased, more and more youths joined insurgents and took up arms. Around the time, Yangmaiso Shaiza, representing MHU, another state party, gained popularity because of its local character and progressive agendas. It later turned out that his excessive engagements with Hills to empower the highlanders amidst the growing insecurity among the valley-based insurgents led to the birth of more valley-based insurgent groups apparently owing to difference in opinion and leadership crisis. Some divisive forces in the valley, among the armed groups, systematically spread propaganda to disempower minority communities including those who had not taken up arms to join the insurgency because members of

minority communities of different ethnic groups did not identify themselves with the brand of nationalism/patriotism they espoused. Thus, ethnic conflict/communalism was born as a consequence of diluted ideals of insurgency and claustrophobia of the insurgents driven by an imagined perception of being confined in the valley. On its part, NSCN (IM), which was also formed around 1980, contributed to furthering the ethnic conflict by increasing the gap between hill and valley dwellers. Communalism led to systematic discrimination, economic weakening, and ethnic strife in hills as well as valley over time. Minor ethnic groups paid the heaviest price. Many scholars have lucidly discussed the origin of communalism in Manipur and how rift among indigenous communities came into being. As no visible improvement in the situation was seen, the then Congress Govt imposed AFSPA 1958 in whole of Manipur. The atrocious law was a kind of favour to all the insurgents as it helped them to channelize local sentiments and garner public support once again but this time the priority was to fight the military rule. Thus, an internal disturbance escalated to a face-off and law and order situation in Manipur worsened. (Contd. on page 2)