

Supreme Court seeks material in support of plea against presentation of Budget

Source Indian Express
New Delhi, Jan 13: The Supreme Court today sought material and legal provisions in support of a PIL seeking postponement of

presentation of the Union Budget due to Assembly elections in five states.

"You (lawyer) tell us what provisions have been violated. Tentatively speaking, we don't find any material in support of the petition," a bench comprising Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice D Y Chandrachud said.

The bench asked lawyer M L Sharma to take time and prepare "hard" and come out with material in support of the PIL.

The court then fixed the PIL for further hearing on January

20. Earlier, the bench had refused to accord urgent hearing to the plea.

The PIL has also sought a direction to strip BJP of its lotus election symbol for alleged violation of the model code of conduct which came into effect after declaration of Assembly polls in five states. The PIL said the Centre be directed to present the Union Budget in the financial year 2017-18 which would commence from April 1, instead of the proposed February 1 date.

It also said that the central

government be restrained from declaring "any relief, programme, financial budget until the states' elections are over" as they would violate the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The Election Commission had on January 4 come out with the schedule of Assembly elections to be held in five states, including Uttar Pradesh.

The Centre has already decided to convene the Budget Session of Parliament from January 31 to present the Budget for 2017-18 fiscal the very next day.

Two women challenge Chief Minister Okram Ibobi in Thoubal Assembly constituency

IT News

Imphal, Jan 13: The 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election 2017 is going to be a significant election for women community of the state as two strong women- one who had been from the back ground of social entrepreneur and another who had undergone 15 years of fast-unto-death against AFSPA is challenging Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh in Thoubal Assembly constituency.

Okram Ibobi had won two times from 31-Thoubal



Assembly constituency and is having complete control of Khangabok Assembly constituency where he is fielding his son as INC candidate. His wife Okram Ongbi Landhoni had been elected two times from the constituency. From Chanu Sharmila, who had undergone fast-unto-death protest demanding repeal of AFSPA, is contesting from the Thoubal Assembly constituency. She had kick start her election campaign under the banner of the newly formed political party PRJA.

On the other hand another lady Oinam Indira, an

intending candidate of BJP, is also undergoing campaign in the Thoubal assembly constituency.

The two women appear to be the only candidates who had come up to challenge the Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh. When Irom Sharmila campaign with promises to flush out draconian laws and corruption, Oinam Indira is campaigning on local issues of Thoubal. She has been attacking Okram Ibobi on the ground that he is not from Thoubal Assembly constituency.

Ibobi originally belong to Athokpam in Khangabok Assembly constituency.

CORE draws serious concern over 3rd degree treatment to Gaidon Kamei at sacred Kangla

IT News

Imphal, Jan 13: The Centre for Organisation Research and Education (CORE) of Manipur expressed serious concern to the severe torture and cruel and inhumane degrading treatment alleged by United Naga Council (UNC) president, Mr. Gaidon Kamei, 52 years old, a resident of Namdulung, Imphal, perpetrated during his detention under police custody.

A statement issued by Dr Debabrata Roy Laifungbam, President, Elders' Council, CORE said that Gaidon Kamei has been

detained by the Manipur police since his arrest on November 25, 2016 under orders of the court. His allegations that he has been subjected to "third degree" torture that included electric shock treatment, deprivation of proper meals and snacks inside the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) located within the sacred Kangla Fort, a most significant heritage site of Manipur is shocking as India is a signatory to the UN Convention against Torture since 1997, the statement added. It added that Gaidon's health, personal security and life is at

great risk during his police custody according to the widely reported news of his torture by the Manipur police that has been discussed even on the state broadcasting service, All India Radio yesterday.

CORE demanded that the State Government to ensure that all detainees and prisoners are treated with the dignity and respect accorded to all human beings equally under the law. It also demanded that Gaidon Kamei be given immediate access to competent and impartial professional medical

attention.

CORE also demanded that the Home Ministry of the government of Manipur immediately withdraw the so-called Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) located within the sacred Kangla Fort complex in the middle of Imphal City, the capital of Manipur.

Core also questioned the rationale behind utilization of archaeological and cultural heritage site under the jurisdiction of the Department of Art and Culture as a torture center.

Bomb found



IT News

Imphal, Jan 13: A bomb was found planted at the road side at Wabagai Tera Pishak in Thoubal district today morning. Report reaching here said that the bomb was found by a patrolling tam of 22 AR. It was retrieved at around 11:30 am today morning by bomb disposal expert.

Washington Meetei id NE Chief for -Kai Karate-Do Association



IT News

Imphal, Jan 13: N. Washington Meetei has been appointed as Chief of Seigo-Kai Karate-Do Association of North East India by Tarun Chakrabarty, Chief of the Association for Asia on January 10, during a function held at Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi. Members of Manipur unit for the association has lauded his appointment as chief of the North East India. On the other hand Y. Rajen and Pendangkum have also been elected as Chief of the associations for Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland respectively.

Condolence

IT News

Imphal, Jan 13: The Seram Mangi Singh Foundation, Imphal has deeply mourned the sudden demise of Shri Ajaipu Kamson, the former News Reader (Kabul Dialect) of All India Radio, Imphal. Besides being a Broadcast Journalist in AIR Imphal for many years, Shri Kamson was also renowned Social Worker and Writer. While expressing deepest sympathy, the Foundation shared the grief of the bereaved family and prayed the Almighty for his peaceful heavenly abode.

Sonia Bags the 2017 Young Achiever's Award

IT News

Guwahati, Jan 12: Independent filmmaker Sonia Nepram from Imphal has won the prestigious Young Achiever's Award, which is sponsored by the Dalmia Bharat Group at a grand function held this evening at the Radisson Blu Hotel. This annual award is given to emerging stars from Northeast India in the field of dance, journalism, football, music, arts, acting and documentary film direction.

In recognition of her exceptional achievement in the field of documentary film direction, Sonia received the award from the group's senior executive director and head, corporate brands & marketing, Mr BK Singh. The Dalmia Bharat Group, established in 1939, is a leading multi-spectrum cement company with a



double digit market share and a pioneer in super specialty cements used for oil wells, railway sleepers and air strips across India.

A post-graduate in mass communication from the AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Sonia Nepram has been working on various media and audio-visual projects and has also set up

her production house under the banner of Yelhoumee Pictures. She is currently working on a sociopolitical documentary titled 'Bloody Phanek', which is scheduled to be released in August 2017 at the DMZ International Documentary Film Festival in South Korea.

National Youth Day Observed at Khangabok

IT News

Thoubal, Jan.13: The Nehru Yuva Thoubal observed the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda at Thoubal Khangabok with 130 women members of women care and guidance centre, Khangabok on Thursday. Sahib Singh state director NYKS and W. Iboiyama Singh Regional director central board for workers education manipur were the chief guest and president respectively. In his keynote address the district youth coordinator Laksman Singh pointed out the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda and the relevance of Vivekananda's philosophy to the youths of the present day society.

Tekcham Rameshwar national teacher Awardee was also invited as resource person. The training will continue till 19th January.

IT News

Thoubal, Jan.13: The 3 days North East Special Programme for NGO Activists was inaugurated on Thursday at Tamphajao Bhavan of Centre for Rural Development (CARD) Thoubal Kshetritileikai.

The programme was inaugurated by Sahib Singh, State Director, NYKS Imphal in the presence of L. Iboiyama Singh, Regional Director, National Board for Worker Education, Imphal and Y. Laksman Singh, District Youth Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra Thoubal. Shri W. Ibohal Singh, District Youth Coordinator, NYK Imphal West was also attended the function. 30 youths (14 female and 16 male) from 5 different voluntary organisations from Thoubal and Imphal West districts are participating in the training programme. The programme is being organized by Central Board for Workers Education, Imphal and CARD, Thoubal Kshetritileikai. While addressing to the youths Y. Laksman Singh,

DYC,

NYK Thoubal stressed about the specialization of the profession, youths should under specialization in a particular field and will definitely help them in becoming a successful parson in near future.

L. Iboiyama Singh Regional Director, National Board for Workers Education, Imphal highlighted about the organizing the training programme to the youths. This training programme is the special training programme for NBWE. NGOs should work for the welfare of the society not for the benefit of the particular individuals.

Sahib Singh, State Director, NYKS Imphal also expressed about the various programmes and activities taken up by the Sangathan for the promotion of rural youth in building a strong nation. Different resource person will delivered talks during the three days training programme through powerpoint presentation, role plays, group discussions etc.

A grave situation for the people of Manipur

Prakash Rao

Spokesperson, CGPI

Since November 1, 2016, that is for nearly two and half months, the people of Manipur are facing the consequences of an economic blockade that has been imposed on them.

There is complete disruption of normal life. Both the National Highways that connect Manipur and its capital Imphal to the rest of India have been blocked off. The international trade via Myanmar has come to a virtual halt. Thousands of trucks carrying essential commodities are stuck at different places on the highways. The cost of petrol has risen to Rs. 250 a liter. Essential medicines as well as other basic requirements of the people are all in extremely short supply. The people of the Imphal valley have faced the brunt of the blockade.

The call for the blockade has been given by the United Naga Council which is supported by the Nationalist Socialist Council of

Nagalim-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM).

The NSCN (IM) has been waging a long standing struggle for self-determination for the Naga people. As part of this struggle, it has also been negotiating with successive governments at the center to achieve its aims. Just last year, Prime Minister Modi announced that the talks had resulted in a "historic" resolution of the conflict. However till now, what actually is the content of this agreement has not been revealed publicly.

In this background, the immediate reason advanced by the United National Council for the current blockade of the Imphal valley is the decision of the government of Manipur to create seven new districts, including one with a Kuki majority by redrawing the present boundaries of the hill districts of Manipur. The United Naga Council has accused the Manipur state government of doing this unilaterally without consulting the Hill councils.

The Hill Councils have been created to allegedly protect the rights

of the hill people. Under Article 371(C) of Constitution, these Hill Councils are to be consulted on all matters relating to the people living in the hill areas. The United Naga Council has condemned the state government for trying to attack the rights of the Naga people who constitute the majority of people living in the hills of Manipur by dividing the existing districts. It has accused the Manipur government of violating various agreements between central and state governments on the one hand and the Nagas on the other, regarding decisions affecting Naga majority areas.

The Chief Minister of Manipur has openly accused the central government of backing the present blockade and not taking any concrete steps to end it. Various political parties in the Imphal Valley have launched a courier blockade of the hill districts, with the tacit support of the state government. Vehicles going from Imphal to the hill districts have been torches. (Contd. on page2)