

Union Cabinet clears ordinance for death penalty to child rapists

Courtesy HT
New Delhi, April 21,

The Union Cabinet on today approved the promulgation of an ordinance that seeks to award death penalty to those convicted of raping children below 12 years. The Cabinet cleared the amendments to the Criminal Law ordinance 2018, a senior government official confirmed, adding that it will come into force once President Ram Nath Kovind approves it, which should take a day or two. The move comes against the backdrop of nationwide outrage over the brutal rape of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. Currently, the maximum punishment for aggravated sexual assault on minors under the POCSO Act is life imprisonment. The law came

into force in 2012 and deals with sexual offences against those below 18 years. The Indian Penal Code, however, prescribes death penalty for gang rape. Other provisions included in the ordinance are for speedy investigation and trial of rape cases not more than four months together, an increase in the minimum quantum of punishment for rape convicts and the scrapping of anticipatory bail if the victim is a minor. The ordinance also requires the National Crime Records Bureau to maintain a national database and profile of sexual offenders, data of which will be shared with states and Union territories for tracking, monitoring and investigation, including verification of antecedents by police. The government has also decided to implement a series of measures, including new

fast-track courts to try rape cases, to supplement legal provisions. On Friday, the government had informed the Supreme Court that it is actively considering amending the penal law to introduce death penalty to those convicted of sexually abusing children up to 12 years of age. Referring to the Unnao and the Kathua rape cases, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had last week said that such incidents shake our sensibilities and no criminal will be spared and "our daughters will get justice". Recently, the Rajasthan government had approved a bill seeking death penalty for those convicted of raping girls under 12 years of age. Two other BJP ruled states — Madhya Pradesh and Haryana — have also given the go-ahead for a similar proposal.

Civil Service Day: CM urges bureaucrats to rededicate to their duties

DIPR
Imphal, April 21,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has urged Civil Servants of the State to rededicate and recommit themselves for the cause of the people. He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the 12th Civil Service Day held at the Conference Hall of Secretariat South Block today. Stating that former Deputy Prime Minister of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel famously described Civil Servants as the Steel Frame of India, the Chief Minister observed that the present day bureaucrats need to introspect themselves whether they are still the 'steel frame', which the Iron Man of India used to refer to them. The Chief Minister said that he has personally seen how far a dishonest public servant can ruin the State administration. N. Biren also



urged the bureaucrats of the State not to unnecessarily delay or remain indecisive for long on the matters permitted by the rule. N. Biren Singh contended that the present Government is looking for upright officers, who have a firm determination to perform or achieve something before they retire from the service. The State would be able to see lots of changes within 10 years if all the bureaucrats work with this resolve, N. Biren opined. He said that the Government

would become efficient and people would be able to get their entitled benefits only when all the branches of the Government work together in better co-ordination by extending co-operation among them. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Dr. J. Suresh Babu said that the delivery of the Government depends on how much Civil Servants are committed to the service of the people. Stating that the Chief Minister has been constantly

instructing the bureaucrats of different levels to identify the problems/grievances of the people by personally interacting with them, Dr. Suresh Babu confided that Hill Leaders' Day and Meeyangi Nimit were introduced to serve this purpose, and 'Go to Village' mission would be the ultimate means to resolve almost all the grievances of the people. Earlier at the function, the Chief Minister presented the Excellence in Public Administration Award to Churachandpur DC Shri Shyamal Poonia. He also feted Executive Engineer of Manipur Police Housing Corporation Ningombam Romedy Singh and Special Class Contractor of Manipur Police Housing Corporation, H. Muan for completing construction of Nute Bazaar (Women's Market) of Churachandpur district within four months.

Singjamei feeder to shut down on April 24 & 25

IT News
Imphal, April 21,

A statement issued by the Manager, Singjamei S/DIED-III, MSPDCL, said that the 11KV line - Singjamei Feeder will be shutdown on 24th and 26th April 2018 for charging of UG cable at Singjamei Mayengbam Liekai. The consumers in the area from Singjamei Chongtham Liekai to Kakwa Asem Leikai where the power is fed by the above 11KV Singjamei Feeder will not get the electricity from 11.00am to 4.30pm on the mentioned days, the statement said.

Protest staged against assault of Auto driver

IT News
Thoubal, April 21,

All Andro Kendra Driver Welfare Association (AAKDWA) today staged a sit in protest at Yairipok Keithel against the assault of an Auto driver. On a Sunday Auto Driver da furakkhoba yainingdaba fongdokhtuna ngasi numit yungba faoba sintha leplaga Yairipok Bazar Thongkhongda wakat mifamfankhre. On 15 of this month, passenger auto driver Md Najimuddin was assaulted by unknown persons at Yairipok Top Chingtha. He is undergoing treatment at Public hospital. The Driver's union demanded immediate punishment of those involved in the assault of the driver. AAKDWA appealed people to repeat such act in future as the driver has been serving the people while earning their livelihood.

DFO Thoubal intervene large-scale earth excavation, deforestation at Kairembikhok area

IT News
Imphal, April 21

District Forest Officer (DFO) Thoubal, RK Amarjit today intervene large scale earth excavation by cutting trees at Seram Hills in Kairembikhok area of Thoubal district. A case has also been registered against the illegal excavation of forest land by the DFO. Talking to media persons, Amarjit said that the area where illegal earth excavation are taking place for soil collection by cutting the large number of trees is under the jurisdiction of the Gwarok Reserved Forest. He said the trees that have been cut down illegally have been counted and will be collected at the earliest possible time.



He also added that the department have been planning for planting of saplings at the area where the excavation is being taken place. According to the Indian forest Act 1927 and Forest Conservation Act 1980 those responsible in excavation and collection of soil by cutting

trees are punishable. DFO, Rk. Amarjit further added that elected persons of Wangjing Tenta Assembly constituency came to his office for seeking permission of constructing a road at foothills where the large scale excavation is being taken place. They also mentioned that concerned Minister had

already granted permission. As per ruling of the Manipur High court, collection of soil, carrying out excavation by cutting trees at reserved forest areas — either it may be private or government properties, is totally banned. The DFO appealed the people to co-operate with the Forest department in conservation of the forest properties as it directly affects the climate change. It may be mentioned that MLA Paonam Brojen had visited the place and inspected for taking up some construction works some days back. Coincidentally the excavation of the forest land and the cutting of the trees started since Thursday last after his visit.

Tension erupts in Khundrakpam Assembly Constituency, Police fired tear gas shells

IT News
Imphal, April 21:

Tensions runs high among the people of Khundrakpam Assembly Constituency after police team arrested secretary and assistant secretary of Sagolmang Village Development Committee (SVDC) at around 2am today. The arrested persons have been identified as Sorokhaibam Inaobi (45 yrs), son of Late S. Tompishak and Laishram Bikramjit (36 yrs), son of L. Kulla both from Sagolmang Bazar. Agitators came out on streets blocking the Imphal - Saikul road, protesting against the arrest of the two of the SVDC. Confrontation between Police personnel and the agitators took place where tear gas shells and mock bomb were used to resort and bring the situation under control. One of the agitators told media persons that arrest of the two SVDC by the police personnel

without any proper explanation is unacceptable, they should be released immediately without any conditions. Until and unless the arrested two persons are not released, the agitators will intensify their protest, the agitator asserts. At least two police personnel were injured during the confrontation and four agitators were pulled up for pelting stones and sling to the police personnel. Report receive from the agitation area, yesterday a public meeting for Sagolmang village was held from 1pm to 4pm where a resolution was passed to boycott Tekcham Surchandra (56 yrs) and Tekcham Bobochoubi (50 yrs) of Sagolmang Bazar, members of Peace and Development Committee (PDC), with the villagers of Sagolmang. It also reported that there was a conflict between the Villagers of Sagolmang and the two

boycotted PDC members regarding the construction of Imphal East District Hospital in Sagolmang. The conflict might be the reason behind the arrest of the secretary and assistant secretary of Sagolmang Village Development Committee (SVDC) while they were resting at their residences, the report says. Though the police have taken control of the situation, there are agitators still protesting and blocking the roads from vehicle movement till the filing of this report. Mention may be made that JAC formed against the shifting of District Hospital from Sagolmang area has been spearheading an intensified agitation. The two member are also leader of the JAC leaders. People of the area have been imposing total shut down in the assembly constituency against the shifting of the hospital. The 2 might have been arrested in connection with the agitation.

DIPR
Imphal, April 21,

Textiles, Commerce and Industry Minister Thongam Biswajit chaired a meeting on the 2D Seismic Survey in Un-appraised Sedimentary Basins in Manipur. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of the Minister's New Secretariat office. Officials of the Oil India Ltd. highlighted their plans,

programmes and the problems they faced while conducting the seismic survey at various locations of the state. At the same time they also highlighted the benefits they are going to provide to the locals after exploration of minerals from the area. The meeting further discussed the requirement for proper and factual awareness of the local population to minimise their

apprehensions, as well as for facilitating the necessary arrangements required to conduct the same including provision of security coverage, support from the District Administration, etc. The meeting was also attended by concerned officials of district administrations, police officials, industry department officials and others.

PPFA calls for genuine space to citizenship debates

By Our Correspondent
Guwahati, April 21,

Expressing concern over creating sentiments with unhealthy debates and aggressive attacks over the organizations, which reportedly supported the Centre's initiative to amend the citizenship laws at the Joint Parliamentary Committee hearing in New Delhi recently, the

Patriotic People's Front Assam (PPFA) insists on rational debates over the pertinent issue. The forum, in a statement issued to the media, claims that a section of Assamese intellectuals and civil society groups have tried their best to project the citizenship amendment bill 2016 in a bias perception as if the whole initiative is Assam centric.

"Those biased individuals have made the hue and cry that once it turns into a law, millions of Bengali Hindu people from Bangladesh would be dumped into Assam and the practice will continue for decades. So whoever supports the initiative (s/he should be termed as Jatidrohi (read anti Assamese)," said the PPFA statement.

Cease fire between GoI and 2 factions of NSCN and extended for one year

IT News
Imphal, April 21,

The ceasefire agreement is between the central government and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Reformation) and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Neopao Konyak/Kitovi) has been extended for one more year with effect from April 28. Reports reaching here said that the agreement was signed on Thursday by Joint Secretary Satyendra Garg on behalf of Home Ministry, Jack Jimomi, supervisor GPRN/NSCN) and Vinihio Kih Swu, co-supervisor on behalf of NSCN/NK, and Toshi Longkumer on behalf of

NSCN/R. The two armed rebel groups, which operate in Nagaland, are among several other armed groups of the state such as NSCN (Isak-Muiwah) and NSCN (Khaplang). While the NSCN(I-M) has entered into a ceasefire agreement in 1997 and has been maintaining it since then, the NSCN(K) had abrogated the peace talk in March 2015. After abrogating the ceasefire, Khaplang's rebels went on a killing spree, attacking Indian soldiers in Nagaland and Manipur. The outfit mounted a deadly ambush on an army convoy in Manipur's Chandel district on June 4, 2015, killing 18 soldiers.