

JFA shows concern over detention of Kishorchandra under NSA

By NJ Thakuria
Guwahati, Dec 22,

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) expresses concern over the detention of Imphal based television anchor Kishore Chandra Wangkhem under the National Security Act (NSA) and demands his immediate release. However, the Assam based scribe's body urges everyone, including the working journalists, to be careful while making crude comments in the social media. Wangkhem used to work as a news anchor in a local cable channel and was arrested by the Manipur police on 21 November after he uploaded a video comment in the alternate media condemning the governments in Imphal and New Delhi. Wangkhem even criticised the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) for celebrating the birth anniversary of Jhansi's Queen Rani Lakshmbai in Manipur and used derogatory words against the BJP's ideologue Rashtrya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Wangkhem was released on bail on 25 November by the local court, but soon he was rearrested and this time under the harsh act which might put him behind bars for 12 months

unless the higher court intervenes on his detention. Notably, the young journalist was arrested by the police in last August in a similar case and was released after the intervention of local journalists.

Commenting over the issue, All Manipur Working Journalists' Union had clarified that it would not accept responsibility for a journalist making derogatory comments on the social media. The umbrella body of Manipur journalists said in a resolution that any person working in any of the media houses of the State as journalist/non journalist must face on their own the consequences of posting/uploading derogatory, defamatory, illegal, unconstitutional comment/video on social media.

Various national and international media rights bodies have already condemned the detention of Wangkhem and demanded his early release.

JFA, in a media statement, appeals to Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh and also Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take necessary initiatives to release the television anchor and give him the opportunity for self defence.

CPI(M) demands to waive loans from farmers

IT News
Imphal, Dec 22,

While appreciating the decision in various state of India to waive off loan from farmers after the result of the recently concluded state assembly election, CPI (M) Manipur state today urged the government to take up the similar measures terming it as a welcoming step.

"In the last couple of days governments in various Indian states after the recent State election results have waived off loans to farmers which was a long pending genuine demand. It is a welcome step. Similar demands were made in Manipur by peasant organisations particularly by Manipur Lomsee Marup where small farmers and agriculturists suffered huge losses due to the bad rainy season. This rainy season wreaked havoc on agricultural fields in many districts causing huge losses to the farmers", said Khetrimayum Santa, Secretary of the CPI (M) Manipur State Committee.

He further added that Peasant organisations had written to the state authorities bringing into their notice this alarming situation. However, unfortunately the demand of loan-waiver in Manipur has not been fulfilled till today.

It is high time that one-time waiver of KCC loans be provided to small farmers and agriculturists whose harvest was damaged by the bad rainy season. It would benefit lakhs of families who are directly or indirectly under tremendous pressure from the banks. The

one-time KCC loan waiver can be considered as one of the components of the relief and rehabilitation plan that can give a sigh of relief to the farming community. The CPI-Secretary added.

He further stated that Agriculture is the backbone of State's economy and the 'bad rainy season has dealt a blow to it. Under prevailing circumstances, it is an obligation for the government to come to the support and succor of the farmers and agriculturists as they form the backbone of the state's economy. Given the quantum of destruction caused and massive damage to paddy fields, the Government should provide compensation keeping in view the recurring losses to the farmers.

Due to huge losses in the production of food grains, farmers are not in a position to repay their loans raised against their farming land and agricultural fields.

"We demand loan waiver on specified amount of KCC in favour of those farmers and agriculturists who are not in position to purchase fertilizers and pesticides for their farms and agricultural fields", Santa drew the attention of the government.

He however stated that there is also need for introduction and implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme (CIS) as it can save the farmers and agriculturists in the event of losses suffered due to natural calamities. It is unfortunate that the said scheme is not implemented so far in Manipur.

Jail side of story was half cooked and sugar coated – NSA detainee Kishorechandra

IT News
Imphal, Dec 22,

NSA detainee, Kishorechandra Wangkhem, told media persons today that the statement if the Jail SP published at various media houses today was half cooked sugar coated story.

The Manipuri Journalist, who was slapped NSA for his criticism to the present Government led by the BJP, spoke to the media persons today morning while he was on his way to the JNIMS Hospital to attend medical checkup.

Yesterday, the Manipur Central Jail SP, S. Touthang, had clarified that Kishorechandra's advocate claimed saying that the Jail authority had not denied him meeting with his client however, he left while they were yet to complete the formalities.

The SP also stated that all sectors inside the prison are provided Local News papers (1) Sangai Express (Manipur), (2) Poknapam (3) Hueiyen Lampao and National paper (4) Telegraph.

He however said that Pen and paper are provided as per request of the inmates only. This is because pen has been used as weapon in the past by inmates and provocative material written and sent out of the jail premises in the past by prisoners. Those who request for pen and writing materials are provided after proper confirmation. There is a library inside the Jail with a good numbers of books and this facility is open to all inmates.

Many inmates who are interested are availing of this facility. NSA has its own diet scale and menu as prescribed by the Government. The above facts clearly show that all the allegations in the press release of Advocate Shreeji Bhavsar are false and baseless. All these matters can be confirmed from the Prison Authorities", the SP added.

Bullshitting the SP clarification, Kishorechandra while on his way to the OPD JNIMS stated that all that the SP has been telling to media was a half cooked sugar coated story.

"If you want to see the realities come and stay with me at the Jail just for one day and you will know the truth". Kishorechandra told the media while walking from another room to another room during medical check up. The police team tried to take him from the media but he kept on talking what wanted to the media.

He said that even the Jail authority are collecting money from the Jail inmate for providing water how could one believed that the jail authority have provided library.

"The Jail SP story is half cooked sugar coated story", Kishorechandra said.

Kishorechandra said that his arrest was arbitrary and the charges leveled against him were baseless as there is nothing such that my words have intention to disintegrate the nation.

Kishorchand further keeps his words saying that his detention



Construction of canals to check frequent floods has begun: CM

DIPR
Imphal, Dec 22,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has said that the State Government has started digging and dredging of canals which will divert flood water from Imphal River to Loktak Lake to check frequent breaching of river banks, which usually create lots of misery to public during rainy season.

He was speaking to media persons at Phoubakchao in Imphal West District on the sidelines of the inspection of ongoing construction of these canals today. After personally overseeing dredging and fresh digging of Hayel Thongrambi canal near Uchiwa and Mangkhong and Lamboikhong canals at Phoubakchao, Shri N. Biren Singh conveyed that seven canals connecting Imphal River and Loktak Lake would be dug to reduce water volume of the river during rainy season.

The Chief Minister further said that river banks of most of the major rivers frequently breached even at the slight rainfall during rainy season creating loss of property and life. In order to check this menace, the State Government had dredged parts of Imphal, Irl and Kongba rivers. As it could not give satisfactory result, the State Government directed the Water Resources Department, Minor Irrigation Department and Loktak Development Authority to ascertain major causes of frequent floods in the State, he said.

The Chief Minister said that it was detected during the joint assessment that the old canals, which are supposed to divert flood water to the lake from Imphal River, were found clogged due to heavy siltation. Apart from it, the culverts located at the head of these canals were also found too narrow to drain away water from the river to the lake. So,

the State Government decided to dig these seven canals apart from replacing of the existing culverts by 3-metre-wide ring culverts, he informed.

It was also detected during the assessment that excess water from the confluence of Manipur River and Chakpi River could not be properly drained away to Chindwin River due to siltation at Sugnu Hump. As such, the Government is putting in effort to construct a 2-km long and 150-feet wide canal to enable proper diversion of flood water to Chindwin River, the Chief Minister said. Once these two projects are completed, floods in Manipur valley may be checked up to a large extent, he added.

Responding to a query regarding Waisel Maril, the Chief Minister said that the State Government is willing to take up a fresh project for dredging and widening of Waisel Maril. For this, he appealed to the people

is baseless and might have happened only at the time of Hitler.

"I Strongly denounced my detention under NSA, this is autocracy, dictatorial rule, they cannot simply arrest me for raising voice against them, Kishorechandra said and appealed the people to raise their voice against the government.

Regarding the All Manipur Working Journalist Union Manipur (AMWJU) stand to his arrest, Kishorechandra said that AMWJU is sold out. The IU has come down heavily to AMWJU, that prove that the AMWJU is doing what the government want the AMWJU.

residing on both the sides of the stream to voluntarily remove all the encroachments. Loktak Development

Authority Project Director L. Bhagaton, who was accompanying the Chief Minister during the inspection, said that dredging and unclogging of Hayel Thongrambi (1400 metre) and Phoubakchao Mangkhong (960 metre) are almost complete while Mou Khong (580 metre), Phoubakchao Lamboikhong (605 metre) and Mou Khong Ichil (1200 metre) are yet to be dredged. Apart from it, two other canals near Thongrambi would also be constructed soon, he added. Deputy Speaker and Mayang Imphal AC MLA K. Robindro, Manipur Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board Chairperson H. Dingo, Yaikul AC MLA Th. Satyabrata and Keirao AC MLA L. Rameshwor also accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.

Gun used to kill birds seized

IT News
Thoubal, Dec.22:

Staffs of Thoubal Forest Division under the supervision of DFO Thoubal L. Debala and members of the CCNCS (Centre for Conservation of Nature and Cultivation of Science) and WBCC (Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Committee) yesterday seized a gun used for killing birds and dressed birds from a hut makeshift hut from Ikop pat area yesterday evening during a hurriedly conducted drive.

As per DFO L. Debala the gun and the dressed birds were found when the volunteers and official of Forest department, taking part on the two days One Night Bird Watching Camp while going out to watch birds at Ikop pat area.

Two days - One Night Bird Watching Camp Concludes

IT News
Thoubal, Dec.22:

A two days one night Bird Watching Camp organized by Thoubal Forest Division under the aegis of National Mission on Himalayan Studies, Nature Learning Centre in association with Ningshing Lup, Tekcham and Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation Committee (WBCC) since December 21 at Tekcham concluded today.

In connection with the camp, all the students who have participated in the said camp were made to go on a round trip of Ikop Pat, Lousi Pat, Kharung Pat and Buffalo Farm to witness the life of different kinds of wild animals and birds including the migratory birds inhabited at the lake and imparted knowledge to the students on how to protect the birds and various others means to increase the population of migratory birds.



Rk. Amarjit DFO Central Division, K. Jugeshor Principal Kumbi College, L. Debala DFO Thoubal Division and Staffs of DFO Thoubal and various other people attended the concluding day while certificates were also distributed to 40 student campers who have come from different area under Thoubal Forest Division.

Speaking at the occasion, L. Debala, DFO Thoubal said that the camp was conducted to instill the habit of bird watching among the youths

and young students and to learn the various ways to identify the different types of birds during the camp.

They was stay the first night at the office of Ningshing Lup, Tekcham and was make a tour around Ikop lake, Lousi lake and Kharung lake has watch the different types of bird during the camp while an environmental quiz was conducted for the participating students followed by screening of "Nature Film" as part of the camp.