

HRA urges UN Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Opinion and Expression to interfere to the arbitrary detention of journalist Kishorechandra

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24,

Issues arises out of the arbitrary detention of Imphal based TV Journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem, is spreading like wild fire beyond the Country with a Human Rights body based in Manipur Human Rights Alert submitting the details of the happening to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Professor David Kaye. While submitting the details the HRA also request the UN Special Rapporteur to issue an urgent appeal to release Kishorechandra Wangkhem, who is being detained under National Security Act for criticizing the BJP-government of India.

In its submission, the Human Rights Alert (HRA), an NGO based in Manipur, drew the attention of the attention of the UN body regarding the incarceration of journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem (39 years), a resident of Keishamthong Moirang Ningthou Leirak, Imphal West District, Manipur, India. On November 19, 2018 Wangkhem, working with the Information Service Television Network (ISTV), posted a video in his personal Facebook account expressing his anger and frustration with the BJP-led government celebrating Rani Jhanshi, which has little to do with the freedom struggle of Manipur. He expressed his indignation toward the Hindutva ideology, which seeks to obliterate the distinct history and identity of Manipur into a monolithic pan-Hindu identity of India.

On November 21, 2018, Kishorechandra was arrested by Manipur police by filing FIR no. 236(11)2018 Imphal Police Station under section 124-A/294 and 500 of Indian Penal Code. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal West granted bail on the ground the section 124-A of the IPC does not attract to the incident. On 27 November 2018 Kishorechandra was arrested under the National Security Act 3 (NSA) by an order of the District Magistrate of West Imphal. He has been detained under the NSA for a period of 12 months. Executive Director of the HRA, Babloo Loitongbam in his submission said, "I find the said words, terms and gesture used by the accused and the context in which they are used and the comment made by the accused person cannot be termed seditious to



attract offence u/s 124-A IPC. It appears to be mere expression of opinion against public conduct of a public figure in a street language. It does not appear to me to such which is intended to create enmity between different groups of people community, sections etc. nor does it appear to be one which attempts to bring hatred, contempt, dissatisfaction against

the government of India or the State. It is mere expression of opinion against the Prime Minister of India and Chief Minister of Manipur, which cannot be equated with an attack to invite people to violence against the Govt. of India or Manipur to topple it". The National Security Act has been enacted to provide for Preventive Detention separate from

the regular criminal procedure in India. The National Security Act 1980 allows the State or Union Government to detain a person on being 'satisfied' that they might act in any manner prejudicial to the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign powers, the security of India or maintenance of public order. The detention under the Act can last a maximum of up to 12 months without the detainee being presented before a court of law.

An advisory board has been established under the Act to review the detention. The person detained is not allowed a lawyer to represent them before the advisory board and the proceedings and report of the board are legally confidential.

The Advisory Board established under the NSA has also approved the detention of

Kishorechandra stating that there is 'sufficient cause' for it.

When students in Manipur try to hold a peaceful candle light protest on 8 December 2018 at Imphal by invoking the prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Indian Penal Code, which is permanently claimed in Imphal. In New Delhi where there is not such prohibitory orders, when the Manipuri students try to stage a protest in front of the Manipuri Bhawan on 16 December 2018, student where randomly picked up from the metro stations even before they could reach the designated protest site and detained.

In the larger political context, ever since the right wing BJP took over power in India in 2014 systematic propagations of Hindutva ideology is

resulting into constant erosion of civil society space and suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms of the marginalized identity groups, Human Rights Defenders are also systematically attached. With the Parliamentary elections coming up in April 2019 the political struggle to capture power intensifies, more such erosion of the democratic space is a distinct possibility.

The HRA, urged the UN Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Opinion and Expression to consider the case of Kishorechandra's detention as a critical emblematic case and issue an urgent appeal to the Government of India to release him at the earliest and to check further erosion of the civil society space in the run up to the forthcoming election.

"Delicieux" A Healthy Rice Brand will launch in North East India in the coming New Year

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 24

Meltwater Corp, a Multi National Company headquartered in Singapore and offices in Gurgaon, Hongkong and other parts of the world, will be launching for the first time, its own brand-"DELICIEUX"- the best quality Rice at affordable price in the remote North Eastern part of India. The Company has decided to make the rice products available in the market from mid January 2019 as a New Year gift to the people of North East India. Delicieux will launch its products in the market with

different ranges of Basmati Rice classified by its age and premium quality, which includes Platinum Extra Long, Ultimate Long Rice, Royal Biryani Super Long rice, Aromatic Pulao rice, Broken magic and Long Grain Basmati Rice. Besides these various ranges of Basmati Rice, the Company will launch a special "Regular Low Fat Rice" with high nutritional values, yet helpful for weight loss as it has a lesser "Fat" content and "Chained carbohydrates". The Company had invested its resources on R&D to improve soil fertility and soil quality to

produce the Best quality rice. According to World Health Organization, the quality of any crop depend on its soil health, and the ideal organic carbon content of soil for cultivated land should be more than 2.5 percent. However, due to extensive use of fertilizers and pesticides to enhance production capacity during the last decade, the Soil quality has deteriorated across the globe and the agricultural land in most parts of India is left with just 0.28% of organic carbon content. Meltwater Corp has partnered with farmers to cultivate more than 1,05,722 acres of land

in parts of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh & Uttarakhand taking necessary measures to improve soil health. As a result of the continuous hard work and dedication, a considerably increased in improvement of the organic carbon content was seen in the recent test conducted on soil quality. The Company has been extensively working on improvement of Soil health across these farms in collaboration with farmers for the last 6 years to produce a wholesome nutritious healthy rice in the market and is committed to continue the same in future to meet the

ever growing demands from the market. Mr. Prashant Rathee, CEO of the Company said, "Our aim is to provide the most healthy rice in the market across the globe. "Delicieux" is the produce of the most fertile soil in the market. The Company is gearing up to reach even the remotest parts of Northeast India through our supply & distribution channel partners and allocating significant resources to make the product available in spite of the geographic challenges, as Rice is the main Staple food among the people in these regions."

WR Minister Letpao Inspects Heirol River; Urges all to plant Trees to Prevent Water-Related Calamities

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24,

Water Resources (WR) Minister Letpao Haokip today inspected various places along the stretch of Heirol river at Thoubal district. Heirol AC MLA and Education Minister Shri Th Radheshyam accompanied his Cabinet colleague in the inspection visit. Shri Letpao said that checkdams or catchpits will be built along the Heirol river to regulate water-flow and also appealed the public, especially river-bank dwellers to plant trees.

Also popularly known as the Wangring river, this river is a tributary of the Manipur River and falls into the Loktak Lake. The sites that were inspected today are the Heirol-II Wangpokpi bridge area and the Heingang Ingangklok area. The later is the place of origin of this river. Top officials of the Water Resources Department including Chief Engineer Shri Pritam were also present in the visit. It may be mentioned that the areas inspected today comes under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division (FCD)-III.

Speaking about the purpose of the inspection visit, the WR Minister said that the river flow of Heirol river has always been voluminous and wild, and is hard to controlled. With the rapid deforestation practices by the villagers alongside the rivers and in the hills, the volume and speed of the river has rapidly increased thereby causing flash floods and other damages to lives and properties. The sedimentary materials and wood logs that are carried along the way by the flow particularly have caused much damage, he added. Considering all these

AR present gift of spirituality on the eve of Christmas

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24,

Shangshak Battalion under the aegis of 10 Sector Assam Rifles distributed The Holy Bible to over 40 villages on the Christmas eve, delivering the message of peace and wishes for a prosperous year ahead. The distribution of The Holy Bible was especially undertaken by the unit on the Christmas eve and the battalion interacted with the villagers and churches and presented cakes while participating in the Christmas festivities at the villages. The programs at all villages were attended by Pastors, village Headmen, Secretaries and authority of the concerned villages which include remote villages of Kashung, Punamram, Manthurang, Khongilo, Makan, K. A s h a n g K h u l l e n, Wanglee, Namlee, Sorde, Shangshak, YKPI and Litan. The villagers were overwhelmed by the



gesture shown by Assam Rifles and their respect towards the local culture and traditions. The Battalion also encouraged the youth to attend the various classes conducted by the battalion to empower the youngsters. On the other hand, In the series of activities planned to promote unity and bring joy to the festive spirit of Xmas, 26 Sector Assam Rifles organised a Christmas Mela in its location in

Pallel yesterday. The local villagers of all tribes visited and enjoyed the various activities hosted in the event. Notably, apart from Christians a huge population of Maitei people also showed up for the event. A total of 91 males, 37 females and 18 children participated from areas and villages in and around Pallel town. The events catered in the Sector included live jazz music, food and bakery stalls, ARWA stalls and

other numerous retail stalls from inside and outside Pallel garrison. 26 Sector applauded the people for their spirit of coming together for the Christmas festivities. The sector in its festive season has been hosting events like Medical camp under Mission Aarogya, friendly football matches under Christmas Cup, Advent Christmas Celebrations and the Christmas Mela marking the end of festivities for the season of 2018.

It's not the Hindu who's in danger in this country, it's the Constitution: Kanhaiya Kumar

Agency
Nagpur, Dec 24,

Terming the current strife in the country as Modi versus "We, the people of India", youth leader Kanhaiya Kumar stated on Sunday that the Constitution of the country is in danger not the Hindu religion. Kumar was speaking at the 'Samvidhan Jagar' (Constitution awareness) rally organised by a front called Bahujan Vichar Manch, a social organisation comprising followers of various Opposition political parties. Attended by leaders from Congress, NCP and CPI, the rally attracted sizeable crowd at the Mankapur indoor stadium. Former Congress Minister and chairman of the Scheduled Caste front of the party Nitin Raut and Jitendra Ahwad of the NCP also attended the rally. "Despite having majority in Parliament and having BJP

governments all over the country, Prime Minister Modi says that the Opposition isn't allowing his government and Parliament to function. Actually, he himself doesn't want it to function since he had faltered on all the promises that he had made before 2014 elections. If Parliament can get short-changed (bik raha hai) like this, can Constitution not get sold out," Kumar asked speaking before a rapturous crowd that kept cheering and clapping throughout his speech. Calling Modi a "universal liar", Kumar said, "Modi had claimed in his Red Fort speech that Rs 3 lakh crore black money had been recovered after demonetisation. He also claimed that gas from a nullah can be harvested to prepare tea. Even the SPG security guy standing next to him must be wondering how much lie this man speaks.

Speaking about the purpose of the inspection visit, the WR Minister said that the river flow of Heirol river has always been voluminous and wild, and is hard to controlled. With the rapid deforestation practices by the villagers alongside the rivers and in the hills, the volume and speed of the river has rapidly increased thereby causing flash floods and other damages to lives and properties. The sedimentary materials and wood logs that are carried along the way by the flow particularly have caused much damage, he added. Considering all these

inconveniences, the WR Department is initiating a step for the construction of a huge catchpit, or checkdams and also any other viable alternative for regulating and slowing down the water flow of this river during monsoon in a long term manner, the minister further said. Letpao expressed hopefulness that today's inspection visit will bear fruit soon as his department is preparing a DPR to execute the plan and will shortly send the report for approval to the State Plan or NEC or NABARD, whichever will be earlier and the more convenient. The project will be a part of the 'Critical Flood Control and Anti-Erosion Works Along Rivers in Manipur River Basin' project. Sending out a strong message that it will be impossible for the department or the government 'solely' to solve floods and other problems arising out of water bodies, the WR Minister appealed the public, especially those dwellers in the river banks and in hills not to fell down trees unnecessarily. Even though unavoidable situations led to the cutting of trees, all should be aware and should be conscious enough to plant back trees so that the ecosystem and the environment remain balanced.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, Puyam Hemanta Singh, do hereby declare that, my wife Smt. Nongthombam Sangita Devi have relinquished and abandoned the use of her old name Smt. Nongthombam Sangita Devi, as she have assumed her new name Smt. Puyam Sangita Devi.

Hence I shall be called and known as Smt. Puyam Sangita Devi from today.

Sd/
Puyam Hemanta Singh
H/o Smt. Puyam Sangita Devi.
Thoubal Sabantongba, P.O & P.S Thoubal District Thoubal,