

## Defected Congress MLAs restless; alliance political party sets strategy

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 7,

Fracture in the alliance government led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is slowly appearing in the political theatre of Manipur with defected congress MLAs started urging to fulfill promises assured to them at the time of joining the ruling party. A highly placed source revealed to Imphal Times that 4 Congress MLAs along with a top legislature of the BJP yesterday called on the Chief Minister around 5 pm yesterday. But details of the meeting could not be known, however, the source said the meeting was more about to fulfill the promised made to them at the time of joining the party. Of the eight congress MLA who had joined the ruling BJP, 7 are still yet to be recognized as BJP by the Manipur Legislative Assembly as they still continue to share bench with the opposition during assembly session and yet to submit "letter of support" to the ruling BJP to the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, a source from the

*As 2019 Lok Sabha poll knocking at the door, fracture is sighted in the BJP led alliance government; the ball is now in the court of Speaker*

state Legislative Assembly told this newspaper. After Congress MLAs file disqualification petition of the 7 defected congress MLAs to the speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly recently, the defected congress MLAs are restless as they are more like a birds with broken wings whose fate is now in the hand of the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. "Nothing is impossible in politics, these defected MLAs may falls as victim of power politics as fighting another election depends on the desires of the BJP which they had joined", a political analyst told this newspaper. Yesterday's move by the defected congress MLAs is a headache to the present government as reshuffling is

the only option left and that too by dropping some of the Ministers, the source said. If so there are chances of partner political party dropping support to the government. Just week back a central committee team of the NPF came to the state and discussed about issues on their position. A source close to NPF said that as some major demand of the NPF still remain pending it is likely that they may too take decision to stay away from the government. Meanwhile, there has been anger among the BJP MLAs who were not given any cabinet seat in the government. The move by the defected congress MLAs is not going to be of any use to calm the anger of some of the BJP MLAs who wanted

cabinet portfolio. The emerging situation is being watched by the opposition congress party, but their silence and inaction showed that they are left with no choice but to keep continuing watching the show. Meanwhile, it is up to the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative who holds the key to control everything. "Anti defection law is a powerful instrument, but it lacks certain provisions to rule out delaying tactics", said a political analyst while talking to this newspaper. He further added that the speaker still is the final authority to decide the fate of the defected MLAs who are becoming an issue to the government. After all they still sit in the opposition bench.

## Former Justice Markandey Katju calls Manipur CM – "A Little Dictator"

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 7,

Former Justice Markandey Katju, former Chairman, Press Council of India in his facebook post has stated the Chief Minister of Manipur as a 'The Little Dictator'. The controversial justice was reacting to the detention of TV Journalist Wangkhem Kishorchand under NSA. "I don't know any Manipuri jokes, so I will rest content by calling the CM of the state 'The Little Dictator', ( by making a slight alteration in the title of Charlie Chaplin's film ) for locking up the journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem", wrote Justice Katju. Prior to his appointment as Chairman, Press Council of India, Justice Markandey Katju served as a Judge at the Supreme Court of India. Before being elevated as a judge to the Supreme Court, he had earlier served as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Madras High Court and as acting Chief Justice of



Allahabad High Court.

"I won't call him 'The Great Dictator' because that appellation rightly belongs to the 56 inch chest Superman who can be found in Delhi ( unless he is on one of his foreign jaunts ) as Muslims in India and Sanjiv Bhatt would testify", Katju continue to his post. In his earlier post dated Dec 2, Justice Markandey Katju had question whether there is a democracy in Manipur? "Is there democracy in Manipur? In a democracy had the right to criticize the government. It is part of the

freedom of Speech guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. But evidently that provision does not exist in Manipur. A Journalist Kishorchand Wangkhem was arrested for criticizing the CM and slapped with some penal charges when he got bail after 5 days in police custody he was immediately re-arrested and locked up under National Security Act", Katju wrote. The Justice also suggested a habeas corpus be filed immediately citing his judgement in Rekha Vs State of Tamil Nadu.

### Former BJP Candidate joins congress

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 7,  
Former BJP candidate of Uripok Assembly constituency Dr. Nameirakpam DwiJamani Singh of Uripok Yambem Leikai, Imphal West district has joined the Uripok Block Congress Committee. His joining to the MPCC has been approved by the MPCC.

## SC dismisses PIL against Arun Jaitley

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec 7,

The Supreme Court Friday dismissed a PIL raising allegations against Finance Minister Arun Jaitley relating to capital reserve of the Reserve Bank of India. The apex court also imposes a cost of Rs 50,000 on advocate M L Sharma, who had filed the public interest litigation (PIL).

"We find no reason whatsoever to entertain this PIL," a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S K Kaul said. Sharma had accused the Finance Minister of "plundering" the capital reserve of the RBI. The bench also directed the apex court registry not to allow Sharma to file any PIL till he deposits Rs 50,000. The top court imposed the

cost as the advocate continued with the argument after dismissal of the PIL. The Chief Justice warned him not to continue with the submissions, saying cost will be imposed if he was unable to satisfy the court. The apex court expressed displeasure that the advocate made the finance minister as the main party in the PIL. The bench said, "What is this PIL? You cannot go on with such misadventure. What exactly is this? You are saying the finance minister is plundering the capital reserve of the RBI. You are not bringing honour to this institution. Why do we permit you to go ahead with this PIL."

## Editor Hemantakumar to be conferred Seram Mangi Singh Memorial Award

IT News  
Imphal, Dec. 7,

The 6th Death Anniversary of Late Seram Mangi Singh will be observed on Tuesday, the 11th December 2018 at a simple ceremony at the Community Hall of Ibudhou Wangbren Khana Chaoba, Akampat (Singjamei Wangma Kshetri Leikai) at 1.00 PM. Ningombam Hemantakumar, Senior Journalist (Editor, Sanaleibak Daily) will be presented with "Seram Mangi Singh Memorial Award 2018 (for best news analyst)" in consideration of his expertise, experience, enthusiasm and boldness in analyzing the various contemporary issues

through the different electronic media of the state, a statement of the Seram Mangi Singh Foundation said. As part of the observance, Dr. Chinglen Maiman, Economist will deliver Seram Mangi Singh Memorial Lecture on the topic: "Centralisation Decentralisation Paradox: A reflection on Centre State Relation". The observance will be graced by Shri Dilip Mayengbam, Station Director, All India Radio, Imphal as Chief Guest and Leibaothabam Sharatchandra Sharma, Social Activist as President. The Seram Mangi Singh Foundation has been

observing the anniversary annually since 2013 with presentation of Memorial Award and delivery of Memorial Lecture to remember life and works of Late Seram Mangi Singh. Memorial Awards have been given to personalities in varied fields. The first recipient of the award in 2013 was News Reporter of Huiyen Lanpao Daily, Bijoy Singh (Journalism), the second was Akoijam Ibombcha Singh (Culture), the third was Leibaothabam Sharatchandra Sharma (Social Work), the fourth was Iboiyama Khuman (Shumang Lila) and the fifth was Huidrom Bhorot (Lyricist).

## SC expresses concern over large number of deaths due to potholes in last 5 years

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec 7,

The Supreme Court Thursday expressed concern over 14,926 people being killed in accidents due to potholes on roads across the country in the last five years.

A bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur said the

large number of deaths caused due to potholes was "unacceptable" and was "probably more than those killed on border or by the terrorists."

The bench, also comprising Justices Deepak Gupta and Hemant Gupta, said the number of deaths from 2013 to 2017 in accidents due to potholes indicated that the

authorities concerned were not maintaining the roads. The bench sought a response from the Centre on the report filed by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, headed by former apex court judge Justice K S Radhakrishnan. The bench has posted the matter for further hearing in January.

## Four more police personnel charge-sheeted over fake encounter case

IT News  
Imphal, Dec.7,

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), New Delhi has filed another charge sheet against four state police personnel in connection with an alleged fake encounter case. The four police personnel are then head constable, Md. Shaikat Ali of Sangaiyupham Part II, and then constables, Thiyan Brojen of Nambol Thiyam leikai, Md. Wahajuddin Khan of Lilong and Md. Anwar Hussain of Lilong Turel Ahanbi. It is reported that the four police personnel allegedly

killed one Soram Ranjit at Hatta Golapati in February 2008.

It is the seventh charge sheet filed by the SIT after it was constituted by the agency in compliance to an order of the Supreme Court issued on July 14, 2017 to probe into the alleged extra judicial executions numbering 1528 cases perpetrated by Army, paramilitary and Manipur police in the state. The charge sheet was submitted before the chief judicial magistrate, Imphal East after the SIT completed the investigation of the alleged fake encounter case of Soram Ranjit.

## 14-yr-old kidnapped, raped & dumped in Gomati; 1 absconding

Courtesy  
Agartala, Dec 7,

In an incident that took place in the city, the body of a fourteen year-old was unearthed by police from a buried field of Nutan Bazar of Amarpur in Gomati district last night. Reportedly, the victim was studying in class VIII and was kidnapped on December 5, the minor victim was brutally raped and later dumped. The deceased has been identified as Madhavi Tripura (14) was kidnapped when she was going to attend her annual term examination in to Colony Para high school in

Nutan Bazaar, police said. The incident came into light when Madhavi did not return home in afternoon from school, her parents registered a missing diary in police station. After further investigation police detained one Bhanjoy Tripura (22) from his house at Ramchandra Reang Para and later, police nabbed another accused Kasto Roy Tripura (28) from Krishna Kanta para of the same locality. However Kasta Roy Tripura managed to escape the scene. The girl's body has been sent for post mortem

## Mizoram Governor graces Nagaland Hornbill Festival

Agency  
KOHIMA, Dec 7,

Nagaland Department of Art and Culture on Thursday presented the Cultural Connect event at the Nagaland Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage village Kisama, graced by Mizoram Governor Kumanman Rajasekhar as the Chief Guest. Mizoram Governor of Kumanman Rajasekhar, speaking on the occasion

expressed happiness to be a part of the biggest cultural extravaganza in the North East. The mission of the festival is to revive, protect, sustain and protect the richness of the Naga heritage and the traditional is clearly being seen at the Nagaland Hornbill Festival. He said the colourful display of traditional dances, sports and songs of various tribes is a once in a lifetime

experience. Mr Rajasekhar further added that cultural dances, indigenous sports and folk songs are the rich medium to promote the culture of Nagaland to other parts of the country. He said the colourful and vibrant celebration the log drums, the colourful headgear, the soulful war cry, the exquisite costumes of the culture is so mystic and intriguing.