

“Strengthen Manipur State Human Rights Commission” : Justice Shishak

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 3,

Mr. Justice Shishak, former Chief Justice, High Court of Chhattisgarh and former Chairperson, Manipur State Human Rights Commission emphasized the need for appointment of people with honesty, integrity and impeccable character to strengthen the Manipur State Human Rights Commission in order to address human rights violations. Pointing out that Manipur has been neglected for long and has been battling with serious human rights violations, he made a strong plea for treating Manipuris as honourable citizens with dignity for creating a just society.

These views were expressed at a consultation on ‘Potential Transitional Justice Framework for Manipur’ held on December 1st at New Delhi. It was organized by the Centre for Human Rights Studies (CHRS) and the Centre for the Study of Knowledge Systems of Jindal Global Law School (JGLS), O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU).

The consultation analysed the applicability of a suitable transitional justice model with a strong focus on effective transition from conflict to peace and reconciliation in the state of Manipur. Panellists deliberated on factors which lead to the erosion of accountability in relation to human rights violations perpetrated by the security forces and insurgent groups in the region.

In his welcome address, Professor (Dr.) Y.S.R. Murthy, Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights Studies, JGU said, “Torture, disappearances and extra-judicial killings are very serious human rights violations and each such allegation must be thoroughly investigated and justice is provided to victims or to their next of kin. In this context, the situation of widows and children orphaned by conflict must be fully addressed. Our

Centre is preparing a report in this regard to advance the cause of rule of law and justice.”

Professor (Dr.) Shiv Visvanathan, Professor and Vice-Dean, JGLS & Director, Centre for the study of knowledge systems, JGU said, “This room has a wider audience and a wider group of human activists who are worried about the Indian democracy. These three activists from Manipur are also storytellers, one talking from the conflict perspective, one looking at human rights, one begins as a victim, becomes a storyteller and an activist for an entire community. So we have these three perspectives, may be three kinds of theories to look at the question of Manipur. We might be tired of Manipur, but Manipur is not yet tired of Indian democracy.”

Mr. Babloo Loitongbam, Director, Human Rights Alert, Manipur said, “We have organised the victims together and have filed 1,528 cases in the Supreme Court which is a class in itself. We started this journey six years back in 2012 by filing a PIL in Supreme Court and till now we have not seen any clear indication that for sure justice will be done. We are making good progress

but still seem to be as far from justice as we were when we started in 2012. It is time for us to look at the whole phenomena of this impunity, promoted by AFSPA, and its effects over a prolonged period of time.”

Mr. Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) said, “In an environment of impunity and intimidation fostered by archaic laws such as AFSPA, truth-seeking and truth-telling is very difficult as is upholding the rights and the interests of the victims. These laws defy logic and need to go.”

According to Mr. Satnam Bains, Director, Punjab Documentation & Advocacy Project (PDAP), “We must learn from the experiences from Punjab, where impunity led to innumerable problems in addressing accountability or even documenting the extra-judicial killings. What the Manipur civil society has done is remarkable but they must be mindful of the challenges that lie ahead in finding out the complete truth.”

The aim of the consultation was to bring together participants, such as the victim families, academics, NGOs, journalists, researchers, in order to inform

the deliberations regarding peace, justice, conflicts and reconciliation issues. The consultation concluded with an agreed roadmap to work on a potential transitional justice framework, in relation to Manipur.

Sessions were split into three parts that emphasised on the broader processes that need to be activated for effective transition to peace in Manipur. The first being ‘Current situation in Manipur, taking stock of the EEVAM case and the need for Transitional Justice’ chaired by Professor (Dr.) Shiv Visvanathan, Professor, Vice Dean and Director, Centre for the Study of Knowledge Systems, JGU; session two on ‘Components of transitional justice models in India and across the world’ chaired by Professor Gudmundur Eiriksson, Professor and Executive Director, Centre for International Legal Studies, JGLS; and the third session, titled, ‘Application of transitional justice principles for Manipur’, was chaired by Professor (Dr.) Stephen P. Marks, François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health & Human Rights, Harvard University & Member, Governing Body, JGU.

World Disabled Day: Forest Minister Shyamkumar’s daughter donates blankets to 180 differently abled people from her saving



IT News
Imphal, Dec 3,

As observed in other part of the World Disabled Day was celebrated today at Yairipok Top Chingtha Kuthabi ground. The celebration was organised by Handicapped Welfare Association Manipur State. Forest Minister Shyamkumar while speaking as the chief guest of the function appreciated the differently

abled person for their courage and talent at different field.

“The differently abled persons are no different from others; they are exceptional in one or other field. Some of them are even talented from the normal person”, the Minister said. The Minister showed his respect and care for the differently abled person saying that we cannot say what will happen to us the next day and it is the need of the hour that we extend all our possible

support to the disabled persons.

What enthalls the gathering is the donation of blankets by the daughter of Minister Shyamkumar to 180 differently abled persons. Shyamkumar said his daughter presented the blanket by her own saving from her salary.

Shyamkumar further expressed his desire of mass public participation to occasion related to disabled people.

Tripura BJP denies allegation of violence, slams Congress for taking aid from CPIM

Agency
Agartala Dec 3,

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) district committee has denied allegations of sponsoring violence and has slammed Congress for fixing unholy nexus with CPIM.

In a press meet held in the

Press Club in the bordering subdivision of Kamalpur in Dhalai district here today, the BJP leadership condemned the allegation stating that BJP has always believed in democracy and peaceful implementation of adult franchise.

“BJP never believes in

violence. Congress has made up an unholy nexus with CPIM to defame the government. And they are indulging in their own personal strife. Congress has forgotten about the violence and political murder sponsored by CPIM in last 25 years,” they said.

Rejected candidates of 2013 batch constable recruitment test threaten agitation



IT News
Imphal, Dec 3,

A group of candidate who had reportedly cleared the recruitment test of Manipur Police Constable 2013, but rejected now today appealed to reconsider the government decision.

Y. Kiran Singh, joint secretary of the body form by the rejected candidate for rejected Action Committee for rejected candidates, while talking to media person at Manipur press club here in Imphal

appealed the government not to play politics to the candidates who have cleared the recruitment test before 5 years.

He drew the attention of the Chief Minister to include the rejected 3052 candidate while recruitment to the police constable post. The strongly reacted and said that they will stand against the rejection of the 3052 candidate who had already cleared the recruitment test and have been waiting for over 5 years.

Kiran demanded immediate action against the then Chairman of the selection committee and the board member for misleading the candidates.

“We cannot accept the rejection of the candidates who have already passed five years back and don’t play politics to the police constable appeared candidates”, Kiran said.

The committee threatens intense form of agitation if the government fails to response within Dec 5.

Nagaland Kohima town suffers acute shortage of LPG, water

Agency
Kohima, Dec 2,

As the Nagaland Hornbill Festival is going on at the Naga Heritage Village at Kisama, the people of Kohima town are badly suffering from acute shortage of water and LPG supply.

According to a press release issued by Nagaland Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) on November 2, regarding the Kohima Water Supply disruption, the restoration work for improvement and widening of National Highway-29 is still under progress.

Now, the department, in a separate release said, restoring water supply to Dairy Farm, Lerie colony, AG colony, PWD, Chandmari and some portions of Kohima town will take another 3 to 4 weeks (to fully restore the Phesama source main line).

The Department stated that it will continue to keep the public posted on the progress and thanked the general public for their continued understanding and patience. Meanwhile, the Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) refilled cylinders are not coming to Kohima for last four weeks. According to one official of a LPG distribution company, the LPG carrier trucks are not

coming to Kohima due to abnormal demands of some Naga undergrounds factions and according to him, negotiations are going on to carry refilled cylinders by the trucks to Kohima, which is anticipated by the next week. For now, several thousands of tourists, delegates, representatives and reporters for the Nagaland Hornbill Festival are staying in various hotels, lodges and home stays in and around Kohima town, who are suffering badly and they are depending on mineral water bottles or package water.

This is a sheer neglect of the Department officials, who have failed to perform their duties, the local people said. In the mean time, the Power supply of Kohima town also playing hide and seek game in this capital town, where the Kohima nights have come to life once again with the long awaited Hornbill Night Carnival kicking off on Saturday.

The carnival is part of the annual Hornbill festival, an event aimed at promoting tourism in the state. The event features food stalls for food lovers, street musicians for music lovers and different shopping stands for shopaholics and many more exciting activities including the Mela. The load shedding and unusual Power supply has annoyed the people, who are to

enjoy Hornbill Night Carnival in dark, but the authority was silent.

Meanwhile, more than 60,000 people have visited the Hornbill Festival since its inauguration on Saturday, a state Tourism official said Sunday.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 10-day long annual Hornbill festival on Saturday.

Altogether 63,032 visitors with 780 foreigners, 8,241 domestic tourists and 54,011 local visitors have visited the picturesque venue some 12 km south of the state capital, said assistant director of Tourism department (Statistics) T Khakihe Sumi. The inaugural day Saturday had 19,953 visitors while Sunday it rose up to 43,079 visitors, he informed.

The day was marked as National Dance and Music Day on the theme “Cultural Connect” organised North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC).

The visitors were treated with cultural performances from across the country including Odisha, Assam, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides, the revellers also got the opportunity to join the coming together of all the Naga tribes while they were engaged in the unity performance after the NEZCC show.

SSUM appeals to postpone entrance test

IT News
Imphal, Dec 3,

Socialist Students’ Union Manipur (SSUM) today appealed the Manipur University authority to postpone the entrance test for admission to one year diploma course in the Center for Human Rights and Duties Education for the session 2018-19 as the day falls on December 12 which the state celebrates as Nupi Lal Day.

The student body appeal to fix another convenient date as it would disturbed the Nupi Lal Day observation to honour the martyred women of the state.