

Tributes paid to Anti-AFSPA crusader

IT News

Imphal, Aug. 16: Fitting tribute was paid today to anti AFSPA crusader Pebab Chittaranjan Mangang today. Chittaranjan self immolated demanding repeal of AFSPA on August 15, 2004 and succumbed to his injury on August 16 morning of 2004. The day is observed as Students' Martyrdom by Manipur Students' Federation (MSF) in association with other students' body. In connection with the



observance over hundreds of people including students paid floral tribute at Bishempur and Takhelleikai where his mortal remains was cremated. Bishempur Keithel was the place where the anti AFSPA crusader had self immolated in

protest against the AFSPA. A statue of the martyred student was also unveiled today. Takhelleikai, Imphal West is Chittaranjan's birth place. A Rally was also staged on the occasion.

Chief Minister calls for peaceful settlement of issues in his I-day speech

IT News

Imphal, Aug 16: As in other parts of the country, the 71st Independence Day of India was celebrated in the State on August 15.

The State level celebration was held at 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles ground with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh as the chief guest.

The Chief Minister hoisted the National tricolour amid playing of National anthem by various band contingents.

Speaking at the occasion, N. Biren observed that people need to march forward together with an objective to achieve progress and development of the State by forgetting all the differences and past mistakes. He urged all concerned to resolve the issues through talks if they have any dissatisfaction with the initiatives being taken up by the present Government.

Celebration of the country's Independence Day and paying homage to the martyrs and freedom fighters, who gifted freedom to the current



generation, would be meaningful and bear fruit only when people concentrate on accomplishing their tasks and objectives with a strong sense of patriotism by forgetting all the differences. He also appealed to the public to put in collective effort to make Manipur a peaceful and

strong State having egalitarian development.

Though Manipur had also achieved many milestones of development being a part of the vast and strong India in the past 70 years, the State still needs to work hard to enhance the State's economy and improve connectivity

infrastructures, communication and conditions of children and women etc.

Mentioning the achievements of the newly formed BJP-led coalition Government, the Chief Minister said that the Government had successfully resolved UNC's economic blockade and the stir of JAC Against Anti-Tribal Bills within a short period of time.

He also said that the Government has a firm commitment to bring equal development in all parts of the State to regain emotional integrity between hill and valley.

Admitting that the current financial health of the State is not that good, the Chief Minister informed the gathering that the State Government had started taking up necessary measures to maintain financial prudence and improve resource mobilisation. Effective implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an important step towards this end, he added.

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Aug. 14 Home Coming Ceremony is a new surrender drama - CorCom

IT News

Imphal, Aug 16: Conglomerate of armed rebel group CorCom today said that the Home Coming Ceremony held on August 14 by the state government is a new surrender drama and being played after so many years and there is nothing to be surprised.

Such programme are organised by colonial ruler to suppress the arm struggle and to shatter the hopes of people by spending lots of money and time.

In a statement of the Publicity Committee, the joint body of rebel groups said that arm struggle for restoration of freedom needs tolerance, sacrifices and suffering. Many who can't stand with the cause have to be left out. In the way those in the Surrendered Drama were conducted by accumulating the people who does not have the spirit of revolutionaries.

What is interesting is the inclusion of cadres who had been absconded from the party some 14/15 years back. These absconders were already used by the colonial army to commit crime against the people for suppressing the arm movement of the region.

The statement said that among those surrendered cadre is one Sapam Mohon @ Iboaima of Tantha Khunou of the UNLF. The statement said this person was mentioned as Major rank but he was only a 2nd Lt. in 2005 and after doing some works for the party under the department of Organisation he had absconded the party in the same year. Later he had started committing anti-social crimes in collaboration with KCP (City Meitei) and the Army. Another Longjam Jiten @ Manglem @ Boinao of Yairipok Keikru, which they ranked as Captain was only a Rank of Sgt. Maj in 2006. He had absconded the party in the same year and re-appeared as YRF for committing crimes of extortion, kidnapping and others. Same is with Brig. James @ Uttam. He had left the party

and remained as absconder after he failed to uplift the freedom struggle due to lacks of wisdom.

The statement further said that all those cadres staged on the day are of these kind and there is nothing to be surprised. It however said that the body will not spare them for giving bad names to the revolutionary movement and is ready to punish them at any moment.

RPF clarifies on surrendered of cadres

IT News

Imphal, Aug 16: Proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) has clarified that G. James who had surrendered to the government is an absconder. In a statement of the outfit signed by Assistant Secretary, Publicity the outfit said that G. James has been taking shelter to an outfit as he himself felt ashamed due to lack of wisdom on revolutionary ideas and due to health condition. It said he was no longer a member of the RPF since then. Regarding other cadres of the outfit surrendered in the drama, the outfit said that they have left the party and have been staying at their respective homes without having any relation with the outfit.

RIMS Director

IT News

Imphal, Aug 16: Dr. Ahanthem Shanta Singh, Prof. and Head of Department of Gyn. and Obst. NEIGRIHMS, Shillong has been appointed as officiating Director of RIMS, Imphal for a period of 6 months or until the post is filled up on regular basis. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has written a letter in the regard to the Director RIMS on August 14.

Internet Game 'Blue Whale Challenge' may be the cause of Siddharth's death - Report

IT News

Imphal, Aug 16: Delhi Police investigating the mysterious death of former Minister Okendo's son Siddharth said that the deceased might be a victim of the notorious Blue Whale game challenge, a report appeared in Times of India said today.

The report also said Siddharth, was either already drunk or unwell when he came to the restaurant on August 12. CCTV footage show him staggering his way up the stairs.

Police are also checking his phone and laptop. The game allegedly consists of a series of tasks assigned to players by administrators during a 50-day period, with the final challenge requiring the player to commit suicide. The term "Blue Whale" comes from the phenomenon of

beached whales, which is linked to suicide.

As per report of the Times of India, a police team visited the MyBar Grill restaurant to recreate the sequence of events on Monday. So far, they have been unable to find out if Siddharth Singh was accompanied by anyone to the terrace from where he fell to his death. Police had found his phone and sunglasses on the staircase on Sunday.

Sources said Siddharth Singh had made calls and sent messages to some unknown numbers before his death; these are also being checked. While the victim's body was cremated at his hometown in Imphal, police have preserved his viscera samples and sent them to a laboratory in Hyderabad to check for the possibility of poisoning. They are also trying to find

out whether Siddharth Singh had visited any other restaurant before coming to MyBar Grill. On Monday, investigators questioned waiters at the restaurant to verify different versions. Sources said Manipur police may join the investigation. Meanwhile, police are trying to reach out to Siddharth Singh's friends for information. A family friend told The Times of India: "We have found nothing so far that indicates that it was a suicide; so, there is a strong possibility of a foul play. The restaurant management needs to answer how Singh entered the terrace when it is a restricted area."

Doctors who conducted the autopsy had on Sunday said that Siddharth Singh had multiple fractures on the shoulder and collar bone and had severe internal bleeding.

Cabinet approves Scheme of Budgetary Support under GST Regime in NE states

PIB

New Delhi, Aug 16: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi today has given its approval to the Scheme of providing Budgetary Support under Goods and Service Tax Regime for the eligible industrial units located in States of North East India including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Budgetary support of Rs. 27,413 crore for the said Scheme has been approved for the period from 1.7.2017 till 31.03.2027 for such industrial units located in aforesaid States which avail the benefit of Central Excise exemption prior to

coming into force of GST regime.

The Government of India was implementing North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007 for North Eastern States including Sikkim and Package for Special Category States for Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh to promote industrialization. One of the benefits of the NEIIPP, 2007 and Package for Special Category States was excise duty exemption for first 10 years after commencement of commercial production.

It is estimated that total number of 4284 eligible units located in these States will be benefitted from the above scheme.

'YMC Chairperson playing 'divide and rule' among vendor ladies'

IT News

Imphal, Aug 16: Vendor ladies of Tampha Keithel in Yairipok blamed the Chairperson of Yairipok Municipal Council (YMC) for playing divide and rule among the vendor ladies of Yairipok Keithel. The Keithel ladies has been staging protest against the biased attitude of the YMC Chairperson since August 13. Yairipok market complex has been divided into three parts - 1) Tampha Keithel, 2) New Market and 3) Nga Yonpham (Fish Market). The vendor ladies of Tampha Keithel alleged that the YMC chairperson allowed the New Market vendor ladies to sold goods that were not mentioned in the trade

licence however she put ban to the selling of goods that are not in the trade license for Tampha Keithel vendors.

There were misunderstanding between the vendor ladies and amidst the situation the Chairperson came supporting the New Market vendor ladies and even threw the goods on the face of a vendor lady, alleged the Keithel lady of Tampha Keithel.

In protest against the act of the Chairperson, the protestors said that the Chairperson and his followers are boycott in Tampha Keithel until she has been replaced. Any unwanted consequences should be bear by the Chairperson, said a protestor.

Assam, Manipur can now decide on AFSPA

Courtesy: The Hindu

New Delhi, Aug 16: The Union Home Ministry is set to give up its power to impose the 'disturbed areas' tag on Assam and Manipur, both ruled by the BJP. The move effectively means it will be the States' decision to either continue the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) or revoke it.

As per Section 3 of the AFSPA, it can be invoked in places where "the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary."

A senior official told The Hindu that it would be the first time since 1990 — when the AFSPA was first invoked in Assam — that the Centre would give up its power to

continue or discontinue it.

The AFSPA empowers the Army and Central forces deployed in "disturbed areas" to kill anyone breaking the law and arrest and search any premises without warrant. "...we have decided to rescind the power of invoking the AFSPA in two States for now: Assam and Manipur. The States are competent to decide whether they want to continue with it in entirety or impose it in a few pockets where disturbance is expected," the official said.

Another official clarified that there was no such proposal for Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the Home Ministry used to issue a notification declaring States "disturbed

areas" every six months. The duration was later changed to three months, pending a periodic review. On August 4, the Ministry extended the AFSPA in Assam for 27 days. It is effective in the whole of Nagaland, Assam and Manipur (excluding seven Assembly constituencies of Imphal). In Arunachal Pradesh, it is in force in 16 police station areas and in Tirap, Longding and Changlang districts bordering Assam. Tripura withdrew the AFSPA in 2015. It is not in force in Meghalaya (except in a 20-km area along the border with Assam) and Mizoram.

To justify the continuation of the AFSPA in Assam, the

Home Ministry had said in the notification that the security situation in Assam "remained vitiated owing to the belligerent attitude of the underground groups, including the ULFA(I), the NDFB(S), the KLO and the KPLT."

While 246 insurgency-related incidents were reported in Assam in 2014, the number came down to 11 in 2017 (till March 31). Cases of abduction also declined, with 94 reported in 2014 and nil from January to March this year.

In Manipur, 56 incidents were reported till March this year, while 278, 229 and 233 incidents were reported in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.