

Devotees of Mahadeva
praying at Khewa
Mahadev at Yairipok



Ima Kombi remembered on 13th Death Anniversary

IT News
Imphal, Feb 1: Recalling her contribution to the society, Poirai Leimarol Meira Paibi Apunba Manipur (PLMPAM) today observed the 13th death anniversary of meira paibi leader Late Ima Kombi. The observation was held at her memorial site at Lamphel Sanakeithel.

With floral tribute to the portrait of Late Ima Kombi, members of Poirai Leimarol, various civil society organizations, women from different part of the state attended the observation function.

General Secretary of PLMPAM, Th Apabi

Jyotin Waikhom joins BJP

IT News

Imphal, Feb. 01: Former secretary of Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) Jyotin Waikhom, who had contested as congress candidate from Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency in the last three assembly elections had tendered resignation from the Congress Party and joined the BJP.

President of BJP Manipur Pradesh, Ksh Bhabananda and other leaders of the state BJP organised a grand reception function of the former Congress Secretary. Speaking to media persons Jyotin Waikhom expressed dissatisfaction towards the discriminating attitude of the Congress leadership by forgetting the sacrifices of the members. He said he had fought election 3 times from Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency and said that the congress leadership now sideline him by thinking that he is bankrupt.

Convener of the BJP Ticket Committee, Th Chaoba while welcoming Jyotin Waikhom assured changes in the upcoming state assembly polls. He said that appointment of various posts in government departments will not bring any good to the state.

remembered the notable contributions of Ima Kombi how she fought violence against womens.

Apabi said that in the year 1980, four innocent civilians including women were gunned down by CRPF personnel posted at Patsoi area. Different womenfolk stood up against the excessive activities of the security forces of the incident. Since the year 1999, in memory

of the those innocent lives, Meira Paibi Numit has been observed every year, she added.

Apabi further described the important role played by Ima Kombi in forming the Apunba Meira Paibi of the state, her dedication in the service of humanity and contribution of her entire life fighting for women against the oppressive policies of the ruling authorities of the society.

UFO observes 17th rising day

IT News

Imphal, Feb 1: 17th rising day of Universal Friendship Organisation (UFO) Langthabal Kunja Battalion, Imphal Headquarter No. 1 has celebrated today at Langthabal Subedar Kunja Ground. The celebration began with the

hosting of the organisation flag. Members of several UFO branches took part in the celebration.

Members who were part of the organization and have pass away were remembered by giving the organisation grand salute.

Two killed, several injured as Nagaland tribal bodies call bandh over local body polls

Source HT
Kohima, Feb 1: Two people were killed and nearly a dozen injured in Nagaland on Tuesday night, when police fired at agitators to quell violent protests in the wake of the state government's decision to hold the urban local body (ULB) polls on February 1.

Even as tribal bodies called for a bandh to prevent polling from being conducted between 7 am and 3.30 pm, an indefinite curfew was clamped on Dimapur – the state's commercial hub – and several places across Nagaland. Hundreds of people armed with spears and machetes descended on the streets in protest, and many even tried to enter the residence of chief minister TR Zeliang.

"The situation is tense, and

indefinite curfew has been imposed in Dimapur and Chumukedima. While two people were killed, two others sustained injuries in police firing on Tuesday night," Nagaland Police spokesperson Shouka Kakheto told journalist.

Though there were reports of seven others sustaining injuries in police firing at Longleng, the authorities refused to issue a confirmation. Several policemen were also injured in the violence that ensued. The impasse seemed to have been resolved on Monday, when the state government signed a deal with the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) – an umbrella organisation of tribal bodies opposed to holding ULB polls with 33% reservation for women – to postpone the

election by two months. However, a Gauhati high court order passed the next day prompted the government to announce polls to 12 of the state's 32 municipal bodies on February 1.

ULB polls have not been held in Nagaland for over 10 years owing to opposition from traditional tribal bodies to reservation for women in the local administration. As the news of this development spread, the tribal bodies – who had called off the 'bandh' in the light of Monday's deal – decided to go ahead with its initial plan to disrupt the polls. The JCC's threat of excommunication had ensured that no candidate filed nomination papers in 10 municipalities, and three failed to witness an electoral contest. Polls to seven ULBs

– including Dimapur – have been postponed by two months to prevent law-and-order problems.

"Protesters are still out on the streets, and there is still a threat to public property. We are keeping a close watch on the situation," said Kakheto on Wednesday morning. Nagaland's tribal bodies are opposed to reservation against women because they believe it will amount to infringing on customary laws, and violate Article 371A of the constitution – which grants special status to the northeastern state. Nagaland has never elected a women legislator to the assembly since it gained statehood in 1963. The lone woman MP from the state was the late Rano M Shaiza, who was elected in 1977.

Union Budget 2017:

No cash transactions above 3 lakhs from April, says Government

New Delhi, Feb. 01: In a major step to check corruption and tax evasion, transactions above Rs. 3 lakh will not be allowed in cash, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said today while announcing the budget. Cash transactions above three lakhs will be banned from April. The government had decided to accept the recommendation of a Special Investigation Team or SIT, Mr Jaitley said. The SIT was set up by the Supreme Court to suggest ways to check black or untaxed money and bring back crores parked illegally in foreign bank accounts.

The SIT, headed by former judge MB Shah, has submitted five reports to the Supreme

Court on steps needed to curb black money.

Noting that a large amount of unaccounted wealth is stored in cash, SIT had said: "Having considered the provisions which exist in this regard in various countries and also having considered various reports and observations of courts regarding cash transactions, the SIT felt that there is a need to put an upper limit to cash transactions."

Mr Jaitley said the SIT had recommended a total ban on cash transactions of Rs. 3 lakh and above and the government had decided to accept it.

In November, in a massive step to check black money, the government banned 500 and

1,000 rupee notes overnight.

In another anti-corruption measure, the government has announced that donations in cash, currently allowed up to Rs. 20,000 without explaining the source, will now be capped at Rs. 2,000.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the ban on 500 and 1,000-rupee notes in November, parties were allowed to deposit the abolished bills in banks without paying taxes.

A decades-old law exempts parties from taxes on a range of sources of income including donations by volunteers. Contributions of upto Rs. 20,000 in cash did not have to be explained so far.

Farm credit fixed at a record level of Rs 10 lakh crores; Irrigation fund hiked to Rs 40, 000 crores

PIB

New Delhi, Feb. 01: Government says, with a better monsoon, agriculture is expected to grow at 4.1% in the current year i.e. 2016-17 as the total area sown under kharif and rabi seasons are higher than the previous year. Presenting his Fourth Budget in Parliament today, the Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said that adequate credit would be made available to the farmers in time and the target for agricultural credit in 2017-18 has been fixed at a record level of 10 lakh crores. He said that special efforts would be taken to ensure adequate flow of credit to the under serviced areas, the Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir. The farmers will also benefit from 60 days' interest waiver announced by the Prime Minister in respect of their loans from the cooperative credit structure.

The Finance Minister Shri Jaitley said that about 40% of the small and marginal farmers avail credit from the cooperative structure and the Government is committed to support NABARD for computerisation and integration of all 63,000 functional Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) with the Core Banking System of District Central Cooperative Banks. This will be done in 3 years at an estimated cost of Rs 1,900 crores, with financial

participation from the State Governments to ensure seamless flow of credit to small and marginal farmers.

Elaborating on other pro-farmer measures, the Finance Minister said that a Long Term Irrigation Fund has already been set-up in NABARD and the Prime Minister has announced an addition of Rs 20,000 crores to its corpus which will take the fund to Rs 40,000 crores.

The coverage of Fasal Bima Yojana will be increased from 30% of cropped area in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18 and 50% in 2018-19. The Finance Minister Shri Jaitley said that the Budget provision of 'Rs. 5,500 crores for this Yojana in BE 2016-17 was increased to Rs. 13,240 crores in RE 2016-17 to settle the arrear claims. For 2017-18, a sum of Rs 9,000 crores will be provided and the sum insured under this Yojana has more than doubled from Rs 69,000 crores in Kharif 2015 to Rs 1,41,625 crores in Kharif 2016.

Referring to his last year's Budget Speech, where the Finance Minister had focused on 'income security' of farmers to double their income in 5 years, Shri Jaitley said, that the Government will take more steps and enable the farmers to increase their production and productivity and to deal with post-harvest challenges. The coverage of National Agricultural Market (e-NAM)

will be expanded from the current 250 markets to 585 APMCs. Moreover, assistance up to a ceiling of Rs 75 lakhs will be provided to every e-NAM market for establishment of cleaning, grading and packaging facilities.

Admitting that Dairy is an important source of additional income for the farmers, the Finance Minister Shri Jaitley announced that a Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund would be set-up in NABARD with a corpus of Rs 8,000 crores over 3 years. He said that issuance of Soil Health Cards has gathered momentum, even as the Government has decided to set-up new mini labs in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and ensure 100% coverage of all 648 KVKs in the country.

Former Union Minister E Ahmad passes away

New Delhi, Feb 1: Former Union Minister E Ahmed has passed away in the wee hours of today after suffering from heart attack. He breathed his last at the RML Hospital in the national capital, hospital sources said. He took ill in the Central Hall of Parliament during the President's address yesterday. The mortal remains has been kept at his official residence 9 Trimurti Marg in Delhi for public homage.

Former Union minister E Ahamed dies after cardiac arrest in Parliament

New Delhi, Feb. 01: Former Union minister and Indian Union Muslim League leader E Ahmed was declared dead in Delhi early on Wednesday, triggering confusion about the scheduled budget presentation in Parliament.

Ahamed, a sitting Lok Sabha lawmaker from Mallapuram, had suffered a cardiac arrest, news agency PTI quoting a senior doctor said. He had collapsed on Tuesday in Parliament at the time President Pranab Mukherjee was addressing a joint sitting of the two houses. Around 2.15pm, the Indian



Union Muslim League leader was shifted to Delhi's RML hospital's trauma centre's Intensive Care Unit where he was put on ventilator. "E Ahmed has passed away at 2:15am. His body has been taken to AIIMS hospital for

embalming (a method to preserve a corpse from decaying) as the facility is not available at RML," a senior RML doctor said. Ahmed's body will be taken to Kerala later on Wednesday.

Expressing condolence on the demise of Ahmed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the former's empowerment of the Muslim community would be remembered.

"Saddened by the demise of Mr. E Ahmed, a veteran political leader who served the nation with great diligence. My condolences," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

HC agrees to hear plea against pre-poll freebies

PTI

New Delhi, Feb. 01: The Delhi High Court today agreed to hear a plea seeking to restrain all political parties from making promises of offering freebies to people if they are voted to power.

A bench headed by Chief Justice G Rohini fixed the public interest litigation (PIL) for consideration on February 2. The plea alleged that the promise of offering freebies to people is now a common feature during elections in India.

The plea by Delhi resident Ashok Sharma has sought direction to the Election Commission of India to restrain all political parties from distributing free goods (freebies) as are being allegedly offered in the upcoming state Assembly elections in the five states, scheduled to be held in February and March.

Assembly polls are to be held in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur. The petition has said that ECI has not taken necessary steps to stop political parties, in the upcoming Assembly elections in the five states, from distributing freebies at the expense of the government exchequer.

It said the poll panel in its recent guidelines has "nullified" the

Supreme Court's directions, which had directed the ECI to frame guidelines in consultation with all recognised parties. The apex court in its July 2013 verdict had observed that, "although the law is obvious that promises made in an election manifesto cannot be construed as a 'corrupt practice' under section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, the reality is that distribution of freebies of any kind undoubtedly influences all people and it affects the level-playing field."

Alleging that the ECI has "no desire" to comply with the apex court's verdict, the plea has sought "quashing/modifying of ECI's recent guidelines on election manifesto as the same is in contravention of directions under Article 142 of Constitution of India".

The plea alleged that promise and distribution of freebies amounts to "corrupt practice" and nowadays all political parties are adopting these type of tactics for winning elections.

It said that the political parties are utilising public money for their political benefits, which vitiates free and fair elections.

The plea said the government raises funds through taxation and money can be used by the state only in discharge of public duties.