

## WCAL demands judicial enquiry to the killing of A Shanti Devi at Moreh; stage protest, submit memorandum

**ITNews**  
**Imphal, June 6:** Working Committee on Apunba Lup (WCAL), a conglomerate of Human Rights and Civil Society organizations based in Manipur has demanded judicial inquiry to investigate the killing of Arambam Shanti Devi at Moreh market on May 22 evening.

According to report Arambam Shanti Devi, a labourer working at Indo Myanmar Border was mercilessly murdered by two mask men who came in a motor bike by pumping half a dozens of bullets to her body. Her son, an auto driver picked up his mother and took her to Moreh Hospital but she succumbed to her injuries.

Large number of members of Apunba Lup today stage protest and proceed towards Chief Minister Bungalow to submit memorandum demanding justice for the deceased lady today afternoon. The protestors were however, stopped by a large number of Police at Keishampat. After a brief confrontation, the police team allow few of the representatives of Apunba Lup for submitting memorandum to the Chief Minister.

The memorandum demands institution of a special Commission of Judicial Inquiry, comprising Legal Luminaries, Forensic Expert, etc. to investigate the Killing of A. Shanti Devi and immediate prosecution of all



those involved in the crime. It also demands security forces to stop any form of engagement of surrenderees, SoO/ Peace talk groups in their duties and urged to institute a High Pwower Committee to strictly monitor the surrenderees, SoO or Peace talk cadres in their movement and activities.

In view of the excess committed

by the security forces, the Apunba Lup also demanded immediate repeal of draconian act - The Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958. In the memorandum submitted today the Apunba Lup warns serious agitations if the government fails to comply with the charter of demand mentioned in the memorandum.

Apunba Lup also expressed strong suspicion on the involvement of certain protected individuals by Assam Rifles. In the memorandum it is stated that the killing took place in close proximity to the Assam Rifles camp and besides, an AR vehicle (Gypsy) was seen parked at a very short distance from the spot of the killing.

They question on why the AR personnel collected empty cartridges lying at the spot where the killing took place when the police are yet to arrive at the crime scene.

Further, the Apunba Lup also questioned on why 2 suspects arrested on the intervening night of 23 and 24 May along with a small unregistered pistols were intervene by the Commanding Officer of 11 Assam Rifles. As per information with the Apunba Lup it is stated that the 11 AR CO strongly resisted any proceeding for further investigation to the two suspects arrested by the police.

## Mortal remains of Kimngaisiam, Lianlunmang laid to rest

**Northeast News Agency**  
**CCpur, June 6:** Mortal remains of baby Kimngaisiam and master Lianlunmang were on Tuesday laid to rest after the siblings had died drowned in Lanva river of Churachandpur district six days ago.

After five days of frantic search in Lanva river, the body of baby Kimngaisiam was finally recovered from under Saidan bridge in Churachandpur district yesterday. The body of the deceased kid was found around 4:40 pm there, about 10 km away from the spot where she was presumed drowned along with her elder brother on June 1 last.

Baby Kimngaisiam and her elder brother master K Lianlunmang drowned after they were swept away by the strong current of Lanva river while playing near the bank of the river around 3:00 pm of June 1.

The body of Lianlunmang was found after two hours of search in the river that day. The siblings were students of Rayburn High School, Churachandpur.

The Manipur government has promised to pay ex-gratia to the next of kin. An ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh for master K Lianlunmang was handed over to their parents on June 3.

The last rites of the siblings were held at Lanva Cemetery.

## Centre keen to make Manipur better: Dr Jitendra

**Northeast News Agency**  
**Imphal, June 6:** Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Dr Jitendra Singh stated here on Tuesday that the government was giving special impetus to the development of the hill districts of Manipur.

Participating in an entrepreneurs meet cum exhibition at Hotel Imphal, Dr Jitendra said the Centre intends to make Manipur better among the rest of the states in the country. "Manipur has a lot of talents and potentials but these

remain still dormant. It's very fortunate now that Manipur is having a new BJP government which will help leverage the full potential of the state of Manipur for better. He said the scheme on development of hill areas started off ever since a meeting of all Chief Secretaries and Planning Secretaries held on May 30 last.

The meeting proposed and agreed to take up the development policies as a pilot project in the hill areas, he informed. Earlier in the day, the DoNER

Minister took part in a function to celebrate three years of rule by the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

Besides Dr Jitendra, the function held at the BJP Manipur Pradesh office, Nityaapat Chuthek was attended by Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh and a host of party leaders.

On the occasion, the speakers highlighted various policies and programmes taken up by the government across the country during the past three years.

## NEFIS urges probe into Shanti killing case at Moreh

**IT News**

**Imphal, June 6:** North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) held a candle-light vigil at Arts Faculty in condolence for the recent incident of brutal shooting of a woman, Arambam Shanti in Moreh town of Manipur.

NEFIS has also submitted a letter addressed to the President of India, demanding investigation of the case by an Independent Probe Team. It should be known that on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017, at around 4.00 PM in Ward No. 4 Premnagar, Moreh, two masked men on a bike brutally killed Shanti by shooting at her.

The NEFIS urged the President to investigate the matter by handing over to an independent Investigation Team to ensure that the Assam Rifles' involvement should be probed thoroughly in a time bound manner, under the direct supervision of

your good office.

It also demanded removal of Assam Rifles from Moreh. NEFIS further alleged that the suo moto case taken up

by the Moreh Police regarding the killing could not be proceeded due to interference from the Assam Rifles.

## PM Modi reviews progress of GST rollout

**New Delhi, June 6:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday reviewed the status of the planned rollout of the new indirect tax regime - Goods and Services Tax (GST) - from July 1. Terming GST implementation as "a turning point" in the economy, PM Modi said the creation of the one-nation, one-market and one-tax system would greatly benefit the common man. PM Modi took stock of various elements involved in GST rollout and also directed the officials that maximum attention be paid to cyber-security in IT systems linked to the GST, according to an official statement.

Here are 10 things to know: PM Modi was informed that

GST systems such as IT infra, training of officials, integration with banks and enrolment of existing taxpayers would be in readiness well in time for the July 1 rollout, an official statement said. It also said the information security systems were discussed in detail.

The Prime Minister asserted that the implementation of GST from July 1st will be the culmination of the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, including political parties, trade and industry bodies.

The government announced a Twitter handle - @askGst\_GOI - and an all-India toll-free phone - 1800-1200-232 - for queries.

In its June 3 meeting, the GST Council decided to tax

packaged and branded food items at 5 per cent, tendu leaves - used to wrap bidi - at 18 per cent and bidi at the highest rate of 28 per cent. Unlike cigarettes, there will be no cess on bidi.

The Goods and Services Tax or GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and comprising state counterparts, had last month decided rates for over 1,200 goods and 500 services, placing them in four tax slabs of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent.

An analysis of the rates has shown that daily use items like soap and toothpaste will cost less while fresh fruits, vegetables, pulses, bread and fresh milk will continue to be exempt from any tax, according

to news agency Press Trust of India.

Food grains may become cheaper as they have been put in the zero-rated commodities list. Currently, some states levy a purchase tax of 2-5 per cent on food grains, which will be abolished under GST. Among the goods, mass consumption items like fresh fruits, vegetables, pulses, bread and milk have been exempt from any taxes, besides health and education services.

Apparel up to Rs. 1,000, footwear up to Rs. 500 and biscuits are set to get cheaper with the July 1 rollout of GST. Tax experts say that the rate of 3 per cent on gold decided

under GST won't be significantly different from the current tax regime on the yellow metal and this would be welcomed by the jewellers.

The Goods and Services Tax will be an exciting development from data point of view and help provide a more complete description of the economic activity, **Chief Statistician TCA Anant** has said.

Economy-class air travel will be slightly cheaper and so will be hiring a taxi as tax on such travel has been brought down to 5 per cent in the Goods and Service Tax (GST) regime from the current service tax of 6 per cent.

## Indefinite blockade in Mizoram NH

**PII**

**Aizawl, June 6:** A conglomerate of NGOs and student bodies in Mizoram-Assam border district of Kolasib began indefinite blockade of NH-54, considered lifeline of Mizoram, from 5 am today. The Joint Action Committee (JAC) said it took this step as the people of Kolasib district were protesting against transfer of a surgeon from the district hospital without posting a replacement.

The 850 km long national highway connects Assam and Mizoram and the blockade, if prolonged, could create problem in availability of essential commodities.

Ruling Congress leaders said that there was another surgeon in the district hospital and the blockade was uncalled for.

Health Minister Lal Thanzara expressed hope that the problem of shortage of doctors would be solved after recruitment of 26 doctors by the state public service commission and the process of recruitment was going on.

## BJP's Northeast expansion plans run into beef controversy in Meghalaya

**Agencies**

**Guwahati, June 6:** The BJP's ambitious expansion plans in the Northeast have run into an unusual hurdle in Meghalaya: Beef.

Local party leaders in Congress-ruled Meghalaya wanted to hold a beef-rice-beer party to mark three years of the Narendra Modi government but were rebuffed by central leaders. This has angered the state party unit that has already lost two senior leaders.

Bachu C Marak, North Garo Hills district president of the party, resigned on Monday accusing BJP of "dishonouring my culture and traditional practices". He followed Bernard N Marak, West Garo Hills district president, who quit last week after the BJP's senior leadership shut down his plans of a beef party.

"If BJP cannot accept our Garo culture, traditions and food habits how can they expect us to be part of them?" questioned

Bachu in his letter to party state unit chief Shibun Lyngdoh. The state goes to the polls next year.

The BJP seemed unfazed and accused Marak of anti-party activities. "Welcome it since action against him was in process," said Nalin Kohli, BJP's Meghalaya in-charge.

Anger against the party has been rising since a central government restriction on sale of cattle in animal markets for slaughter came out two weeks ago. Meghalaya, along with Mizoram and Nagaland, has a dominant Christian population and consumption of beef is common. The BJP has denied it wants to impose a beef ban in the state.

The saffron party, which is hoping to wrest power from the ruling Congress, could suffer setbacks in Garo Hills region where Garos are the major tribe. The region has 24 of the total 60 seats in the state assembly.

"We had built a good foundation for the party in our district. But with the latest controversy over beef, many of the 4,532

active members in North Garo Hills are contemplating leaving BJP," Bachu told HT.

The sacked leaders claim they were planning to organise the beef and rice beer feast in order to allay fears among local residents that BJP might be trying to control their food habits with the restrictions on cattle trade.

But the party's central leadership says the beef feast was just an excuse by some disgruntled leaders to quit to party ahead of the assembly elections and seek tickets from other parties. "Many political workers at the local level, sometimes for their personal agendas and political aspirations, are deliberately trying to create such issues so that they can make it a convenient excuse to play the martyr card," Nalin Kohli, BJP in-charge for Meghalaya, told HT last week.

Meanwhile, the former BJP leaders are planning to go ahead with their beef party. The first feast will be held at Tura on June 10 followed by similar festivities in other areas of Garo Hills.