

## Woman commits suicide



**IT News**  
**Imphal, Sept 2:** A woman was found dead by hanging from a tree today morning. The incident occurred at Karang island under Keibul Police of Bishnupur District. According to information received from the police, the deceased has been identified as Oinam (o) Tanu Devi, 32 years W/o Oinam Chandrababu Singh. The couple has a ten month old daughter and a police case has been registered after which the husband of the deceased has been taken in for interrogation. The dead body has been moved to RIMS morgue for examination.

## Skill Upgradation Programme inaugurated

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Sept 2:** Relief Centre for the Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons, Manipur Bishnupur Unit in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Bishnupur District inaugurated a 3 months Skill Upgradation Programme on Soap & Detergent. Hairiba houdokpangi thouram aada Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) District Coordinator Lisham Marjit Singh, Social Worker Mv. Jakir and Relief Centre for the Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons, Manipur Bishnupur Unit Secretary N. Lakhikanta were present as dignitaries at the inaugural ceremony. 25 trainees are participating in the Training programme.

## Assam declares entire state 'disturbed area' for 6 months

**Guwahati, Sept. 2:** The Assam government has declared the entire state as disturbed area for another six months. A notification issued by the Home and Political Department has declared the entire state of Assam as disturbed area for 6 months beyond 31st August this year. A press release was issued yesterday in this regard. The decision has been taken after assessing the present law and order situation which has continued to be a matter of concern due to some violent incidents by underground outfits.

## UGC announces special scholarship for Northeast Indian students

**Dimapur, Sept. 2:** The University Grants Commission, Ministry of Human Resource Development Secretary, P.K.Thakur in the notification informed all concerned that the 'Ishan Uday,' a special scholarship for North Eastern region students has been boarded on National Scholarship Portal (<http://scholarships.gov.in/>).

University/institute/college have been informed to ensure that the verification process may be completed on priority, so that they are not deprived of their eligibility of the award of scholarship for want of verification. The fresh application will be open till October 31.

It may be mentioned that the Ministry of HRD and the University Grants Commission had taken special interest with regard to promotion of higher education in the Northeastern Region (NER). For improving the GER, promoting higher education and for encouraging children belonging to economically weaker section of Northeast Indian region, the UGC decided to launch "Ishan Uday" Special Scholarship Scheme for North Eastern Region from academic session 2014-15. Before launching the scheme, the UGC undertook wide ranging consultations with State Governments and Central & State Universities of the NE region, the Ministry of HRD, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, the North Eastern Council, Shillong and other stakeholders. (Courtesy: The northeast today)

## Barak bridge broke down again

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Sept 2:** In yet another setback for the transporters and a cause for concern for the people of the state, the Barak bridge connecting Sibilong and Kambron along NH-37(Imphal-Jiri Road) broke down again suddenly at around 10 this morning while a fully loaded truck carrying cement was crossing the bridge. However the truck managed to cross the bridge

before it broke down. According to the source, one anchor and the supporting iron rod twisted and broke down. Other light vehicles (four wheelers and two wheelers) are using the nearby old bridge to get through with the passengers getting down and passing the same on foot. It will be a couple of days before the bridge is repaired and made pliable again.

## Human traffickers arrested, girls rescued at CCpur

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Sept 2:** Today morning at about 2:30 am Anti Human trafficking Unit Churachandpur along with a team of women police Churachandpur rescued three girls including one minor who were being trafficked to South east asia along moreh-Rangoon route. They were being transported on an Ecco Van which is also seized. Three traffickers including Main

agent Ms. Esther Lalpianmawii of Thingkanphai, Churachandpur were arrested as well. She admitted to having done this in the past as well. A case has been registered at the Women Police Station Churachandpur with SDPO Churachandpur as investigating officer. CWC Churachandpur has been roped in for technical support in investigating the case as well.

## 70 years of India's Independence celebration inaugurated

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Sept 2:** 'Yeh India Ka Time Hai' - Celebration of 70 years of Independence and 75<sup>th</sup> Year of Quit India Movement was inaugurated today at Centenary Hall, Manipur University. The inaugural function was jointly organized by the Manipur University and Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of

India. Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey-VC, Manipur University, Prof. N Lokendra Singh- Dean, School of Social Sciences, Manipur University, Prof. Kh Tomba-Dean, Student's Welfare, Manipur University and Prof. L Kunjeshwori Devi- Head, Department of History, Manipur University graced the function as Chief Guest, Guests of Honour and President respectively.

## PM Modi leaves for two nation tour of China, Myanmar tomorrow

**New Delhi, Sept. 2:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave on a two nation tour to China and Myanmar tomorrow. In the first leg of his three day tour to China, Mr Modi will reach Xiamen to attend the 9th BRICS Summit there. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in New Delhi that during the BRICS summit, the member countries will discuss global economic situation. He said, the leaders will also share views to accelerate growth and forward the agenda of development. Replying to a query, Mr Kumar refused to divulge what the Prime Minister will speak at the upcoming BRICS summit. On the possibility of a bilateral meeting between Mr Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Spokesperson said, such a meeting between the two



leaders is yet to be confirmed. Asked about China's comment that it will not be appropriate to discuss Pakistan's counter-terrorism records at the BRICS summit at Xiamen, the spokesperson said he cannot pre-empt what Mr Modi will say during his interventions at the restricted and plenary sessions of the summit. Mr Kumar said India's position on terrorism has been very clear and it has been raising the issue at various multilateral forums. On 5th evening, the Prime Minister will leave for

Myanmar. This will be Prime Minister Modi's first bilateral State visit to that country. Mr Modi will hold discussions with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on matters of mutual interest and also call on President U Htin Kyaw. Both sides are expected to ink a number of agreements and deliberate on key issues including exodus of Rohingya community in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Ways to deepen security and defence cooperation, implementation of India-assisted development projects and the issue of cross border activities by certain insurgent groups along the Indo-Myanmar are likely to figure during Modi's talks with leadership of the country. Apart from his engagements in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw, Mr Modi will visit Yangon and Bagan. (Source AIR)

## Heikru Hidongba celebrated in the state

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Sept 2:** "Heikru Hidongba" is a socio-religious ceremony performed every year at the moat of Sagolband Bijoy Govinda Leikai, Imphal on the 11th day of the Manipuri Calendar month Langban (coinciding with September) with elements of religious, custom and other traditional belief of creation. "Heikru Hidongba" is one of the several socio-religious ceremonies performed to bring peace and prosperity to the community which was started during the reign of Maharaja Irengba in 984 A.D. With the passage of time and through the reign of several kings, many changes took place in the religious life of the Meiteis. The culmination was attained during the time of Maharaja Bhagyachandra. During this time Meidingu Nongpok Leirikhomba (Anantashai) uncle to King Bhagyachandra tried hard to preserve the tradition and to effect an adjustment between the old and the new. In 1779, Heikru Hidongba was performed at the moat of Bijoy Govindajai with Shri Shri Bijoy

Govindaji from the royal palace coming with customary rites and rituals after the completion of which it was installed in the new temple dedicated by Nongpok Leirikhomba at Sagolband Bijoy Govinda Leikai. In the next year it was decided subsequently to have the Heikru Hidongba festival every year on the 11th day of the month of Langban in Manipuri Calendar. There is a historical background to the moat. It was once known as "Tubi Irei". Once Meidingu Nongpok Leirikhomba was in jail of the King of Moirang in fetters from where he was freed by the plans of the daughter of Khelei Nungnang Telheiba. Too happy at that, the moat was named Moirang Leima Thangapat, the moat of the Moirang Leima by which name it was also known. Proceedings of the Heikru Hidongba: In a twin boat sanctified by the presence of the deity amidst chanting of Sankirtana and music, Arti is offered. Tengmaileppa (who takes care of the boat), Hinao Shaba (who steers the boat), Chang

Shaba (who look after the Tengmaileppa), Nourungba (who takes care of leakage of water inside the boat, etc.) and Naomang Shaba (who helps the one who steers the boat) are the main participants of the race who will put on Ningkham and Shamjim, traditional components of the formal dress of such festivities. Some more ornaments are also used. Along with this the King will be present along with the Vishnu. If the King could not be present, in that case Vishnu will occupy the seat where the traditional royal seat is laid out. In keeping with customary traditional, one day before the festival of Heikru Hidongba the King and Vishnu are offered ritual invitation. In the evening boat race practice is carried out. The leaders of the race boat (Tengmaileppa), in the early morning of the Heikru Hidongba festival (early morning between 10th and 11th of Langban Month in Manipuri Calendar) flakes of silver and gold put in anganthak tengnou shaba (well shaped earthen receptacle to put traditional smoke flakes) will be offered

to Bijoy Govinda. A garland of 108 heikru (Amla) interspersed with the stem of Hup (a wild grass) and another garland of 108 rice which the peeling is done by hand will be first offered to Bijoy Govinda and afterwards placed at the hull of the boat. Before the boat race starts Bijoy Govinda will have a pleasure of the panoramic scene. The two leaders of the boat (Tengmaileppa) after due offerings to God will start the race. Heikru Hidongba and Hiyang Tannaba Even though the two appear to be festivity of similar nature, there are lots of differences between the two. As Heikru Hidongba is performed with necessary rituals on the appointed day enjoined by the religious and customary sanctions it necessarily point to the difference between the two. Heikru Hidongba is combination of the three words, namely Heikru+Hi+Tongba to complete the word Heikru Hidongba. And it is not performed at any other place than at the moat of Bijoy Govinda.

## Protests erupt in Chennai over NEET petitioner Anitha's suicide, Centre blamed

**IT Chennai, Sept. 2:** Hundreds of slogan-shouting protesters across Tamil Nadu staged rallies and blocked roads on Saturday, blaming the BJP-led government at the Centre for the death of a 17-year-old Dalit medical aspirant who was found hanging in her home. Anitha S is believed to have committed suicide, few months after the Supreme Court dismissed a petition filed by her and a few other students against the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET), which she said was detrimental to interests of students from rural areas. Her death has brought the issue of medical education in Tamil Nadu and the politics around it into sharp focus, with political parties and even film stars wading into the controversy that has been compared to the suicide by another Dalit student, Rohith Vemula, in Hyderabad last year. In many districts protesters burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and shouted "vekka kedu, vekka kedu" (shame, shame)", holding the central government responsible for her death as also for wrecking the dreams of many more. In Chennai, protesters blocked an arterial road leading to Anna Salai, the main road in the city.

In Ariyalur, the district from where the girl hails, the ruling DMK and opposition parties called for a shutdown to condemn the state and central government on NEET, an all-India entrance exam for admission to medical colleges. Friends and relatives of the girl held protest demonstrations outside the hospital where her post mortem was conducted seeking abolition of NEET. Family members of Anitha, who had refused to accept the body, finally relented and took back her body from the government hospital at Ariyalur, one of the most backward districts of the state. Shocked teachers said she was the only student who had scored 100% marks in Physics and Mathematics in the whole district. "It is a pity that even after getting such high marks and qualifying for medical as per state government rules, she was denied admission due to the Centre's attitude," one of her teachers. Anitha told the media in August that NEET was a hurdle to people from rural backgrounds and poorer sections of the society who could not afford the costly preparation courses for the examination. Besides, she said, students would face

problems in availing such courses in remote areas. "This was the argument Tamil Nadu too put forward to reject NEET. Former chief minister J Jayalalithaa had blocked its implementation during her lifetime. After her death, the AIADMK government has become weak and even has become anti-people and succumbed to pressure from the Centre," said political analyst Prof Ramu Manivannan of the Madras University. Opposition parties said as much, blaming the state and central governments for the NEET mess and held the BJP government responsible for her Anitha. Two of the state's most popular actors, Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan also expressed grief over the incident. "We need to ensure that no student should take such drastic step in the future. This is not the end. We will fight and win. We have to make our argument louder in court," Kamal Haasan told reporters on Friday. Describing the whole incident as "unfortunate", superstar Rajinikanth tweeted: "What has happened to Anitha is extremely unfortunate. My heart goes out to all the pain and agony she would have undergone before taking this drastic step. My condolences to her family."