

HRA urges govt. to constitute SIT for investigation of serial custodial murders

IT News
Imphal, Dec 10,

Human Rights Alert calls upon the Government of Manipur to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the serial custodial murders of Manipur citizens by 3 Corps, CISU when unflinching evidence have surfaced in the public domain. It may be noted that Hijam Naobi, RK Ronel and Thounaojam Prem were killed after being abducted from a rented house in Dimapur on March 10, 2010 allegedly by 3 Counter Intelligence Surveillance Unit of 3 Corps Rangapahar. This matter was put up in the form of affidavit to the High Court of Manipur by Lt Col Dharamvir Singh. This fact was already revealed by first whistle-blower Major T Ravi Kiran of the CISU who had reported this assassination to the

superior army officers. Later, on the direction of the Guwahati High Court the Nagaland Police constituted a Special Investigation Team and the investigation is still underway. The army authority has been consistently denying their involvement in this case. However Captain Rubina Kaur Keer who is involved in this killing has been recommended for Sena Medal for her involvement by the commander of the CISU. This relevant document was already produced in public domain by Yambem Laba, former Acting Chairperson of Manipur Human Rights Commission. It may also be noted that the army authority constantly denied their hand in the murder incidents despite Lt Col. Dharamvir's affidavit before the High Court of Manipur. Dharamvir's affidavit also revealed

that Thangjam Satish and another person was picked up from a rented room at Shillong and later killed in the jungle of Masimpur, Silchar by the same CISU. He also categorically stated that G Jiteshwar Sharma and another unidentified person was killed and buried their bodies behind the army mess at Rangapahar by the same unit. The matter is still pending before different courts. In a sensitive document that has surfaced in the public domain, which was shared by the families of the deceased before the media today clearly indicated the involvement of said CISU. The documents revealed the proceedings of *honour and awards board* comprising of high level officers of Indian army who scrutinized the recommendations for gallantry awards. The text

includes the award being sought by CISU officer namely, Lt Rubina Kaur Keer and Havildar Varinder Pal Singh and Havildar Shamsher Singh. The dates and time of the killing, on the basis of which they sought the award coincide with the incident of the killing of Naobi, Ranel and Prem. The same citation also included Major Nector, Havildar L Ibonungshi Singh and Sepoy Phulen Basumatry for killing two terrorist including a KCP leader. This coincided with the dates of the killing of Thangjam Satish and unknown person after they were picked up from a rented house. It may be pointed out that Lt Col Dharamvir in his affidavit to the High Court of Manipur had named the said persons of the CISU for killing the five persons. During the press conference today, Jiteshwar's brother had

also revealed that his family had received a ransom demand of rupees one crore from suspected army personnel and that a sum of Rs 20 lakh was handed over to some persons at Dimapur. HRA urge the Government of Manipur to set up a SIT to investigate these murders of Manipur citizens. Further, we also urge the Union Home Ministry to protect the whistle blower Lt Col Dharamvir Singh who had testified these incidents whereby revealing the identities of the army officers involved in the killing. In the similar vein HRA also urge the Union Home Ministry to protect the life and security of Naib Subedar Ramesh Chand Sharma, who has been put in custody since May 15 at Agartala for revealing the staged arrests and procuring of clandestine arms by army authorities.

Over 1.74 lakh EVMs store fate of 8,500 candidates of five states

Agency
New Delhi Dec 10,

The electoral fate of over 8,500 candidates of five states which went to polls recently is sealed in over 1.74 lakh EVMs which will be opened Tuesday. These electronic voting machines are now stored in over 670 strongrooms across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana. A total of 1,74,724 EVMs were used at polling stations in the five states. The maximum 65,367 machines were used in Madhya Pradesh. A little over 8,500 candidates were in fray in the five states with 2,907 in Madhya Pradesh. After voting, the EVMs have been stored in strongrooms. According to the Election Commission, there is one

strongroom earmarked for every assembly seat. EVMS which were kept as reserve or had developed snag are kept in a separate facility. A total of 679 assembly seats in the five states were to go for election, but due to the death of a candidate in Rajasthan, polling was countermanded on one seat. The strongrooms will be opened Tuesday in the presence of candidates or their representatives from where machines will be taken to counting centres. The results will set the tone for the 2019 Lok Sabha election. These five Assembly elections would be crucial for the BJP as it gears up for the Lok Sabha election next year and is in power in three of these states — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. While the

Congress is in power in Mizoram, Telangana Rashtra Samithi ruled Telangana before the Assembly was dissolved. The BJP is trying for a fourth term in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and to retain power in Rajasthan. The three states also played a significant role for the BJP in the 2014 general election, when it had won 62 out of the 65 Lok Sabha seats in these three states. The elections also hold significance for the Congress, which is out to challenge the BJP's rule in the states even while protecting its last bastion in the North-East. Mizoram is the only remaining state in the North-East, which is not under the rule of BJP-led NDA. The eight North-East states together have 25 Lok Sabha seats.

Ningol Choukouba celebration at Delhi

IT News
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Ningol Chakouba Organizing Committee, Delhi successfully organised 4th Ningol Chakouba celebration at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi last month. A statement said around 5000 guests including dignitaries and individuals from different communities took part in the grand celebration. The celebration was organised to showcase the richness of our unique cultural heritage and the aesthetic values through participation, interaction and by providing the glimpse of live events with a view to strengthen relationships with people from different cultures, a statement said. Special highlight of this year's event was the felicitation of 15 most successful women achievers who held from Manipur but they may be residing in any part of the country or world. These women achievers include



sports women, entrepreneurs, professionals, models, actresses, social entrepreneurs etc. who have shown exceptionally and outperformed others in their respective fields namely renowned folk singer L. Bedabati, folk artist Dhanarani Devi, prestigious Khel Ratna Awardees Kunjarani Chanu, Meerabai Chanu, Model and Actress Lin Laishram, Producer and Entrepreneur Vimala RK, first Indian Women (International Medal

winner) body builder Momota Yumnam, Political activist Linda Newmai, Social activist Dr. Alana Golmei, Film Producer & Social Worker Dr. Sangita Chanu, Mrs. Earth contestant Oinam Shilla Chanu, M. Lilabati (Professional), Aruna Kshetri (Health), H. Shubhra Devi and S. Jeena Devi (Entrepreneurs), and Kheroda Sharma (Zumba). Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi's appearance in traditional Manipuri attires surprises

everyone and was a proud moment for the organizing committee as well as the Manipuri diaspora in Delhi. Everyone present in the function emphasises on the importance of the event not only for promoting the richness of our culture; but for strengthening national integrity and harmony. The organizing committee invited 15 brahmins from Manipur for the occasion to prepare the special dishes in traditional Manipuri flavours.

Shashi Tharoor files criminal defamation case against Ravi Shankar Prasad for calling him 'murder accused'

Agency
New Delhi Dec 10,

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has filed a criminal defamation complaint against BJP minister Ravi Shankar Prasad for calling him an "accused in a case of murder". The defamation suit comes months after Tharoor had sent a legal notice to Prasad seeking an "unconditional apology" for his remarks in connection with Sunanda Pushkar's death. Prasad's made the remarks after Tharoor quoted an unnamed RSS source as saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was like a "scorpion sitting on a Shivaling who cannot be removed by hand or hit with a chappal (slipper)". Prasad had hit out at Tharoor before media and

also tweeted, "Tharoor who is accused in a murder case has attempted to disrespect Lord Shiva". Accusing Prasad of intentionally harming and destroying his reputation, Tharoor, Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram, asked the Law Minister to tender an unconditional and written apology within 48 hours of the receipt of the notice. He also asked him to delete the clip of his press conference where he made the remarks against him along with the "false, untrue and highly defamatory statements on Twitter". Prasad, however, refused to apologise saying "there arises no question of any apology or deleting of the tweet".

On his remark that Tharoor is an "accused in a murder", Prasad's lawyer said, "...the trial in case of death of Sunanda Pushkar is ongoing and one cannot predict the outcome of the trial. Therefore, your allegation that my client allegedly defamed your client by posting the tweet. It is stated that your client was and is accused in relation to death of Pushkar." Meanwhile, senior television news anchor and Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami has been summoned to appear before a Kerala trial court in a criminal defamation case filed by Tharoor. Tharoor alleged that Goswami had made defamatory statements against him during a Republic TV program on Sunanda Pushkar's death. The program alleged that

Pushkar was murdered and that Tharoor had a role in it. The hearing is scheduled for February 28, 2019. A civil defamation case against Goswami, claiming compensation to the tune of Rs 2 crore, is pending before the Delhi High Court. Sunanda Pushkar was found dead in a luxury hotel suite in Delhi on the night of January 17, 2014. The couple was staying in the hotel as Shashi Tharoor's official bungalow was being renovated at that time. Shashi Tharoor has been charged under sections 498A (husband or his relative subjecting a woman to cruelty) and 306 (abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), but has not been arrested in the case.

Delhi HC seeks Centre, AAP govt's stand on PIL for women's entry in Nizamuddin shrine



Agency
New Delhi Dec 10,

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought responses of the Centre, AAP government and the Delhi Police on the PIL seeking entry of women into the sanctum sanctorum of the Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah. Advertising

The bench comprising Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V K Rao also issued a notice to the trust managing the shrine and sought their stand by April 11, 2019. The PIL was filed by two law students from Pune. The petition claimed that a notice was put up outside the Dargah — a shrine built over the grave of a

religious figure — restricting women's entry while they were visiting the Dargah on November 27. The plea sought directions to the Centre, Delhi government, Delhi Police and the trust managing the shrine, to frame guidelines ensuring entry of women into the Dargah and declaring the bar as "unconstitutional".

BJP booth level leader shot dead in West Bengal

Agency
Burdwan, Dec 10

A BJP booth level leader was shot dead and a party worker seriously injured when unidentified miscreants attacked them in West Bengal's Paschim Burdwan district, police said Monday. The BJP booth level president, Sandip Ghosh and party worker, Jaidip Banerjee, were returning home after attending a meeting when they were attacked by the miscreants at Malandighi Saraswatigunj area of the district on Sunday night, they said.

Separatist-backed strike hits normal life in Kashmir

Agency
Srinagar Dec 10,

Normal life was affected in Kashmir on Monday because of a strike called by separatists to highlight the alleged human rights violations in the Valley. Advertising Most shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, in support of the strike which is being observed on Human Rights Day. While public transport was hit, private cars and auto-rickshaws were plying in a few areas of the city. Officials said there were



no restrictions imposed but security forces were deployed in sensitive areas across the Valley to avoid any law and order problem. Separatists, under the banner of Joint Resistance Leadership,

have called the strike, asking people to observe it as a "black day". JRL, comprising Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Mohammad Yasin Malik, asked people to observe shutdown to "highlight

the human rights violations" in the Valley. In a statement, it urged international human rights agencies to take note of the alleged rights violations and force India to "stop the violations".