

2nd phase of special fortnightly drive to clear refund claims under GST launched

Agency
New Delhi, May 31,

The Centre today launched a second special refund drive today to clear refund claims under the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The drive will continue till 14th of June.

Finance Ministry said, this time the special refund drive will facilitate all types of

Refund claims in which Customs, Central and State GST officers will strive to clear all GST refund applications received on or before 30th of April this year. This will include refunds of IGST paid on exports, refunds of unutilized Input Tax Credit (ITC) and all other GST refunds submitted. The Ministry said, refunds of GST have been a concern

for both the government and trade for the past several months. It said, till now, the Government has sanctioned more than 30 thousand crore rupees as the GST Refund. This includes an amount of 16 thousand crore rupees of IGST and 14 thousand crore rupees of ITC. The figures of ITC include sanction by both the Central and State Governments.

Rupee strengthens by 6 paise to 67.37 against dollar

The rupee strengthened by 6 paise to 67.37 against the dollar in early trade today at the Interbank Foreign Exchange ahead of GDP data scheduled to be released later today.

Yesterday, the rupee had ended with a solid 43 paise gain against the American currency at 67.43.

Meanwhile, the benchmark BSE Sensex rose by 246 points at 35,152 in the opening trade today.

Interactive session on menace of Tobacco held observing the “World no Tobacco Day”



IT News
Imphal, May 31,

As a part of the “World No Tobacco Day” Department of Community Medicine, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal and Indian Medical Association in collaboration with Greater Centurion, Thoubal district

conducted an interactive sessions on tobacco use and measures to control it at Waikhom Mani Girls’ College, Thoubal with students of Paradise English School, Thoubal. Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Senapati. Similar interactive session was also held yesterday in

collaboration with CMO, Senapati district Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Senapati. In both the session Dr. Brogen Singh Akoijam, Prof. & Head, Community Medicine Department, RIMS delivered talked and demonstrated hand hygiene to the students.

Lemon grass as an alternate to poppy cultivation- AR



IT News
Imphal, May 31,

Joupi region of Chandel district, Manipur is one the most underdeveloped areas in Manipur owing to its remoteness, mountainous terrain and inclement weather lasting a prolonged monsoon season.

Due to these factors, the local populace has always depended predominantly on the cultivation of the Poppy Plant.

With perseverance and a dogged determination, 29 Assam Rifles has been able to motivate the populace to shun poppy cultivation and embrace lemon grass instead. Accordingly, the villagers have pledged to cultivate

lemon grass as an alternate means of livelihood. Towards this end, Brigadier Neelash Bhanot, SM, DIG HQ 28 Sector Assam Rifles distributed lemon grass saplings to five villages of Joupi, Saibol Jupi, Tolbung, Hencham and T. Bollen yesterday. A total of 2 Lakh saplings were distributed to the villagers. “The event went a long way in showing the population the involvement and dedication of the Assam Rifles towards providing an alternate sustainable livelihood option to the Hill people. More such initiatives are planned in the aftermath to fight the all-pervasive illicit poppy cultivation in the area”, an IGAR South statement said.

Centre asks states, UTS to include male child victims of sexual abuse in Victim Compensation Fund

Agency
New Delhi, May 31,

The Centre has urged the States and Union Territories to take necessary steps for including male child victims of sexual abuse in the Victim Compensation Fund.

Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi in a letter has requested that compensation including interim compensation may be given to such victims on time. She said, male child who is the most neglected victim of child sexual abuse is being ignored for award of compensation and needs to be included.

The Minister also highlighted that the POCSO Act is gender neutral and

safeguards the interest of not only the girl child but also the male child.

Mrs Gandhi in her letter said that as per the NCPDR data, though 31 State Governments have notified their Victim Compensation Scheme, the disbursements of compensation has not been uniform or satisfactory.

Rally organised on World no Tobacco Day

IT News
Imphal, May 31,

Manipuri Students’ Federation (MSF) Bishnupur District Committee today organised a rally at Kwakta area to spread awareness about the menace of tobacco products in human health in

connection with the World No Tobacco day. Students of Anita Higher Secondary School and Kwakta Highschool attended the rally. Banner with slogans on the ill effect of tobacco products were displayed during the rally.

Meanwhile, MSF Bishnupur

District Council today stated that the student body will begin drive against tobacco in the district from today. Sangai Youth Tobacco Free and Education Organisation also observed the day by organising a rally in Imphal East. Retd. DIG S. manglemjao Flagged off the rally.

Meanwhile, police team too had conducted a drive against tobacco product selling on occasion of the No Tobacco Day at various part of Imphal Area. The report added that the police team seized tobacco items from masajit road, paona Keithel etc.

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PREPAK (Pro) to observe 8th Progressive Day

That was a peace after war. Even the essence of the Ramayana and Mahabharata is nothing but implicitly indicate “a peaceful situation comes only after war”. Even though there are lots of wisdom and good advice in Bhagavad Gita, it also expresses that war as an unavoidable tool under the principle of “War for Peace”. India follows the same war philosophy by invading Kashmir, and NE states and uses forces in Central India. Such innate propensity to violent reactions and killings are ingrained in the DNA of Indian leaders. “If you cannot convince them,

confuse them”; with this Indian leaders are trying to confuse the people by saying something to the poor and another contradictory sermon to the rich. Likewise they blare the mantras of “Shared Sovereignty, Power Sharing, Development, Special Category, Maximum Autonomy” in the insurgent prone Northeast, Kashmir and Maoist areas. Under the Big Stick Ideology of ‘Speak softly and carry a big stick’, many specially trained forces have been deployed to subdue the Maoist/Naxalites and to suppress insurgencies of Kashmir and Northeast. As a

part of the special military training, extra judicial killing, fake-encounter and Psychological Warfare are incorporated as training modules. In the name of the development, seeds of discord are sown among different communities. Many development projects are tailor-made to incite communal disharmony over the ownership of land and natural resource. It was the British administration which connected Kangleipak with India politically, militarily and commercially. Before that, the relation was purely commercial and religious. With the

departure of the British rule, Indian leaders started nefarious plots to annex Kangleipak. Indian leaders would have understood the fact about Kangleipak’s sovereignty considering the existence of the Treaty of Yanaboo (1826), Anglo-Manipuri War (1891), Women’s War (1904/1939), July Agreement with the Governor of Assam (1947), Instrument of Accession, Standstill Agreement, Manipur Constitution Act (1947), Manipur General Election (1948), Constitutional monarchy, inauguration of Manipur State Assembly on 18

October 1948. Considering the long history of independent Kangleipak, Indian leaders understand the fact that we can never be a part of India. That was the reason why they had to annex Kangleipak without the consent of the people. The forcible merger of Kangleipak was against the wishes of its people. It was illegal and has been the root cause of the present insurgency movement. The solution of the present Indo-Kangleipak imbroglio lies in understanding this historical blunder committed by India, the statement added.

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Expanding Economy Beckons

argument that the British should free India and leave these people to decide on their own carry some weight. Alleged manipulation of the ruling Maharajas have provided rebels in Manipur and Tripura with a cause to fight for. Somorendra was one such young soul who was provoked to revolt because he saw no future for his state and his people in the way the Indian Republic was shaping up.

Changing Patterns of Ethnic Alignments

The Northeast is sometimes referred to as India’s “Mongoloid fringe”, where India looks less like India and more like the highland societies of Southeast Asia. Many argue that this racial element makes India’s Northeast very different from

the rest of the country. The Northeast was also one of the last parts of the subcontinent to be conquered by the British. Before the British, no empire based in India controlled any part of what makes up the Northeast today. Migration from the Indian heartland was limited to preachers and teachers, traders and soldiers of fortune. The heartland’s cultural influence touched only Assam, Manipur and Tripura, where the kings adopted variants of Hinduism as the state religion. On the other hand, before the advent of the British, successive waves of Tibeto-Mongoloid tribes and nationalities from north-western China, northern Burma and even Thailand and Laos came to occupy various parts of what is now the Northeast. They fought

amongst each other, built small local empires at each other’s expense, traded with each other, but never allowed the area to be taken over by anyone from the Indian heartland. This uninterrupted freedom for a great length of time and the region’s racial distinctiveness gave its people a sense of being different from the rest of India. All of India’s major religions are practised here. Christianity dominates the hills, Hinduism and Islam are the major religions in the plains. Animistic faiths and Lamaist sects also abound. Assamese and Bengali speakers are the most numerous, but a host of other languages and dialects are spoken. Although ethnicity has dominated the social and

political processes in the Northeast, the region has also been subjected to the complex interplay of ideology and religion before and after India became free. In the tangled web of India’s Northeast, the pattern of ethnic alignments has continuously evolved and changed.

In parts of the Northeast, including Assam, Manipur and Tripura, language has served as a basis for ethnic identity. But in the hill regions, the tribes and the generic identities evolving around them have provided the platform for identity formation. Political expediency and the constant realignment of ethnic groups helped create new identities. The Paites were part of the great Kuki-Chin family of tribes not so long ago, for example. But

in their quest for self-assertion, the Paites – surely the more militant among them – came to project themselves as Zomis since the late 1980s. They insisted they were not Kukis and when the Kuki-Naga feud erupted in full fury in the mid-1990s, the Paites sided with the Naga rebels against the Kukis. The Kukis and the Paites, however, speak variants of the same language. They have much in common amongst themselves but share little with the Nagas. In India’s Northeast, where the stress on ethnicity has often produced splintered identities, the Paites are a classic case of a breakaway identity, of a smaller tribe challenging the larger tribe within a generic formation, fragmenting the process of

nationality formation. The reverse process has happened as well. Smaller tribes have identified with a bigger tribal or generic identity, if only for self-preservation during conflict between battling ethnicities. As in Manipur, smaller tribes like the Anals have identified with the broader Naga identity, reporting themselves as Nagas in successive censuses. The major impetus for retribalisation has been the material advantages that follow recognition as a scheduled tribe in India. Reservations – like those for scheduled castes – in education and employment, legislatures and parliaments, have often prompted racial groups in Northeast India to seek recognition as

scheduled tribes. The Deshi Tripuras or the Lashkars in Tripura were happy to be recognised as ‘local Bengalis’ during princely rule but have subsequently tried to seek recognition as a scheduled tribe. The Meiteis in Tripura have done the same. The Bodos have long been denied the benefit of autonomy because as ‘plains tribals’ they were not covered by the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which assures autonomy to tribal areas. Now that the Indian government has finally signed an agreement with the Bodoland Liberation Tigers Force (BLTF), the Sixth Schedule will have to be amended to cover the proposed Bodoland Territorial Council in western Assam.