

SSUM bike rally to spread awareness about the impact of Citizenship Amendment Bill.



## Khwairamband Keithel shuts as ladies protest against CAB; normalcy crippled

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 29,

Historic Ima Keithel - the only market run by women folk in the entire country today shuts as vendor ladies went protest against the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016.

An emergency public meeting was also organised as a part of the protest by the conglomerate of civil society bodies called Manipur Peoples Against CAB in the middle of three khwairambandh Keithel popularly known as Ima Keithel.

The Manipur Peoples Against CAB was formed yesterday to protest the Bill after a meeting of various CSOs held at Imphal Hotel yesterday. The meeting was reported to have been attended by around 70 different organisations. Lancha Ningthouja, a social activist while talking on the occasion said that the mass protest demonstration in the middle of Khwairambandh Keithel is being organized to declare that the civil bodies, students and various ethnic communities of the state have



united to oppose the Bill. "At this crucial stage, ethnic communities, civil society bodies, women bodies have sorted out all differences and we now stand united against the Bill", Lancha said. "This meeting is a declaration of our united stand", he added. Lancha further said that the

the impact of the Citizenship Amendment Bill is known by everyone and that is why there has been mass protest at the North eastern states of India as the damage of the Bill in the NE states is irrepressible. He called on people to prepare to struggle for safeguarding the region.

Sunil Karam, president of the UCM while talking on the occasion warn the government of serious consequences if any act against the people is being taken up.

"Today we have united in fighting against the bill and I am sure we will succeed in our struggle", Karam said. He further added that any struggle that kicks start with the mothers of Khwairambandh Keithel always was successful and added that the fight against CAB will be success. Sunil also elaborated the impact that would be given by the contentious CAB if implemented in the country. During the protest all shops and business establishment located at Paona Keithel, Thangal Keithel and its surrounding remain shuts. Even as there were some differences between the license vendor lady of the three Ima Keithel and street vendors - today's protest show no difference between the two when it comes to CAB. With the street vendors and women of the surrounding

taking part in the protest, the number of women folk joining the protest is estimated to have cross 5000. Meanwhile, representatives of students bodies which had gone to Delhi to stage protest against the Bill have reached Delhi. Report reaching here said that the representatives of the students bodies which was also joined by various women bodies are now discussing on strategy for the protest.

## SSUM continues bike rally

IT News  
Imphal, Jan 29,

Socialist Students Union of Manipur (SSUM) along with like minded students organizations of the state continue its bike rally to spread awareness about the impact of Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 at different part of the

region. The bike rally kicks starts yesterday with Dhamen Wangkhemcha, Executive Editor of TOM TV flagging off the rally from Keishampat. Today's rally proceeded towards Thoubal district. Leaflets which contain about the impact of the CAB were distributed to the people of the region.

## Kanhayia to address CPI's rally in Tripura

Agency  
Agartala, Jan 29,

Communist Party of India to hold rally in March 2019 on alleged deterioration of law and order

Former JNU students' union president Kanhayia Kumar to address Agartala. The political environment in Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruled Tripura has become like an oven following declaration of the date for public rally by Communist Party of India (CPI) to be addressed by the former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union president Kanhayia Kumar scheduled in March end, 2019 at Agartala, the state capital. Kanhayia Kumar is known for his articulation against Hindutva. BJP and Narendra Modi led government.

Talking to media persons, Communist Party of India state secretary Ranjit Mazumder said the party will organize a month long protest program across Tripura on alleged deterioration of law and order in the state. "CPI will also stage protest against issues related to communalism and political atrocities under Bharatiya Janata Party-

Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) government," Mazumder said.

On 12 February 2016, Kanhayia Kumar was arrested by the Delhi police on charges over organizing an event by some students at the JNU campus against the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru, following complaints by BJP MP Maheish Giri and the ABVP. Sedition case was imposed on Kanhayia.

By a Correspondent  
Imphal Jan 29,

As part of expanding its cultivation area in north east, the Coconut Development Board (CDB) of the country is introducing coconut cultivation in an organised manner for the first time Manipur's Jiribam area. The move to introduce coconut cultivation in Jiribam, a low lying area of Manipur bordering Assam's Cachar district in a small scale was taken up considering the suitable climatic condition, according Director Lunghar Obed of CDB, Regional

office, Guwahati.

In an interaction recently, Director Obed said that they found Jiribam as a suitable site for coconut cultivation considering its climatic conditions but we're not sure about Tamenglong (Noney). "However we're still exploring other areas including Moreh for the expansion of coconut cultivation," he said. "The coconut was grown in some places in the region long back. But it was not an organised cultivation earlier." There are also reports of introducing coconut cultivation in other NR states. Presently coconut cultivation

in an organised manner takes places in Assam, Tripura and Nagaland in north east though there are reports of cultivation since long.

Sources said more than 20,000 hectares of agricultural area in Assam is dedicated to coconut cultivation. As a result, Assam produces 136.61 million coconuts in an average every year and becomes the 10th largest coconut producing states in India. Coconut cultivation is also on across 4610 hectares of agricultural area in Tripura while around 470 hectares in Nagaland.

Otherwise Tamil Nadu which

## Former Defence Minister George Fernandes passes away

Agency  
New Delhi, Jan 29,

Former Defence Minister and Anti-Emergency Crusader George Fernandes passed away in New Delhi this morning. He was 88. Mr Fernandes, who hailed from Mangaluru in Karnataka was ailing for a long time. One of the most prominent leaders of the socialist movement in the 1970s, George Fernandes was a senior Janata Dal leader before he founded the Samata Party. He was elected to the Lok Sabha 9 times and once to the Rajya Sabha. He also served as Union Minister for Railways, Communications and Industry.

George Fernandes was also a trade unionist, agriculturist, and journalist. As President of the All India Railwaymen's Federation he led the Railway strike involving 1.5 million workers in 1974, resulting in thousands being sent to jail. It was one of the events that led to the imposition of the Emergency in June 1975. Fernandes went underground during the Emergency, while challenging then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for imposing a state of emergency. In 1976 he was arrested and tried in the infamous Baroda dynamite case.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed sadness on the



passing away of former Defence Minister George Fernandes. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, George Sahab represented the best of India's political leadership. He said, frank and fearless, forthright and farsighted, George Fernandes made a valuable contribution to the country and he was among the most effective voices for the rights of the poor and marginalised.

The Prime Minister said, when people think of Mr George Fernandes, they remember most notably the fiery trade union leader who fought for justice, the leader who could humble the mightiest of politicians at the hustings, a visionary Railway Minister and a great Defence Minister who made India safe and strong, Mr Modi said, during his long

years in public life, George Sahab never deviated from his political ideology and he resisted the emergency tooth and nail. He said, the simplicity and humility of the great leader were noteworthy. Mr Modi said, his thoughts are with the family, friends of George Fernandes and lakhs of people grieving.

President Ram Nath Kovind has expressed grief on the passing away of George Fernandes. In a tweet, Mr Kovind said, George Fernandes served India in many capacities, including as Defence Minister and he epitomised simple living and high thinking. The President said, George Fernandes was a champion of democracy, during the Emergency and beyond. He said, the nation will miss him.

## NEDA meets to discuss CAB, BJP worried

Agency  
New Delhi Jan 29,

A new anti-CAB front has been forged today as the regional political parties of the North East are meeting at Guwahati under the leadership of the Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma. In the anti-CAB meeting, eleven regional political parties of NE including NEDA allies AGP, NPP, NDPP, UDP, JDU, IPFT have united and raised voice against the Bill. The President of the Asom Gana Parishad, Atul Bora has reassured that it will continue to oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 till its end. The regional party thanked the anti-CAB forces for opposing the Bill. "A committee to be formed by the anti-CAB regional parties of NE region. The Committee will try to gather support from other political parties against the contentious

Bill. This is not a political gimmick, it's a united initiative to stand against the Bill. It is a wake-up call for the indigenous people of North East against external aggression. We called upon all indigenous communities of NE to be united against the forces that are potential threat to the existence of the sons of the soil." - Bora added. The anti-CAB front has decided to meet President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon. All the regional parties have opposed to CAB and the BJP realizing the potentiality of the NEDA in the coming election have been playing safe. The group is expected to exert pressure on the BJP to stop the CAB at Rajya Sabha. At the same time, the BJP is working behind the scene to turn the meeting just a mere formality of tokenism to ventilate the anger. The BJP is littler nervous because Mizoram

and Meghalaya are tough on their stand and refused to accommodate BJP view at this moment. They will be joined by the JD(U), the NDA's major ally in Bihar, and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which recently snapped ties with the BJP in Assam over the proposed legislation that seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslim nationals from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after six years of residence in India. Meghalaya Chief Minister and National People's Party (NPP) president Conrad K Sangma is taking the lead role in convening the all-regional-parties meet on Tuesday, and the AGP is the co-convenor of the meeting. Meghalaya's ruling party NPP leaders said on Monday. The Mizo National Front (MNF) from Mizoram, the NDPP from Nagaland, the IPFT from Tripura

and the SDF from Sikkim, besides the NPP leaderships from Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur have confirmed their participation in the meeting, they said. KC Tyagi, general secretary of the Nitish Kumar-headed JD(U), arrived in Guwahati. The party's national vice president, Prashant Kishore, is expected to reach the city. Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga left Aizawl on Monday for Guwahati to attend the meeting of chief ministers and regional parties of the Northeast to be held on Tuesday on the issue of the CAB, ruling MNF party sources said. Protests against the bill have rocked the Northeast region, with those opposing it contending that it would harm the rights of the indigenous people. The North East has 25 Lok Sabha seats and the BJP is looking to pick up 20 of them using the NEDA route.

## Coconut board introducing coconut cultivation in Jiribam

By a Correspondent  
Imphal Jan 29,

As part of expanding its cultivation area in north east, the Coconut Development Board (CDB) of the country is introducing coconut cultivation in an organised manner for the first time Manipur's Jiribam area. The move to introduce coconut cultivation in Jiribam, a low lying area of Manipur bordering Assam's Cachar district in a small scale was taken up considering the suitable climatic condition, according Director Lunghar Obed of CDB, Regional

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Otherwise Tamil Nadu which

dedicates 4.65 Lakh hectares of land, contributes to 31% of the total production of coconut in India. Highlighting the reason behind the exploration of new cultivation sites in north east region, the Regional officer felt that the north east has a number of festivals round the year and each festival requires lots of coconut even though it has other requirements.

Manipur also requires coconut for various occasions. Every year the traders imports huge quantity of coconut not only from Indian states but also

from neighbouring Myanmar during Ningol Chakhouba festival season. After all coconut consumers from other states such as West Bengal and Bihar, prefer coconut from North East considering its (bigger) *pujah* sizes, CDB official said.

On the economic advantages of the coconut cultivation, he also claimed that rice cultivation in one acre area of land can produce about 10 tons of rice while coconut in such similar area can produce 30 tons of coconuts (a plant can produce 50 nuts annually) and the cost of a single nut is

Rs 30 in Assam (Rs 40/50 in Manipur). An individual can easily plant around 10-15 coconut trees in and around the rice fields.

In Jiribam, the cultivation will start in 20 hectares. If it is successful, more could be planted as the fruiting stage of coconut takes around 7 years, Obed said. Interestingly the Central Agricultural University in Imphal, biggest agriculture university in the country with 13 affiliated colleges is also doing certain research works on coconut in a move to provide other alternative crops for the marginal farmers.