

Rishang Keishing laid to rest



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[Manipur](#) on Thursday paid homage to former Chief Minister and [Congress](#) veteran [leader](#) Rishang Keishing at his funeral held at his Mantripukhri private residence here.

Rishang Keishing breathed his last on August 22 at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), [Imphal](#). He was 96. He is survived by his wife Khatingla Keishing, three sons and one daughter.

He was given a proper burial by the [state](#) at his residence. Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh led his council of [ministers](#), opposition MLAs, including Okram [Ibobi](#) Singh, at the funeral event.

A contingent of 1st [Manipur](#) Rifles gave gun salute to the late grand old man of [Manipur](#) on the occasion which was attended by several top police officials. A two-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to Rishang Keishing.

CM Biren stated, “Rishang was a [leader](#) who worked for [Manipur](#) irrespective of community.”

The funeral was earlier arranged at his native village Bungpa Khullen of Ukhrul district but it was reportedly barred from being held by a militant [group](#). But Biren Singh said no such incident was officially confirmed.

Keishing represented UKhrul district's Phungyar, an assembly segment, for seven terms till 2002. He became Chief Minister of [Manipur](#) four times and had served as an MP for 22 years. The oldest Parliamentarian of the country retired from public life in 2014.

The [Manipur](#) government declared a one-day [state](#) holiday and three days mourning period after Rishang Keishing's death.

A [state](#) funeral for the former [leader](#) was held at MBC Centre Church, Chingmeirong. Former Chief Minister Okram [Ibobi](#) Singh and several party [leaders](#) joined mourners at the memorial service which was attended by his family and friends.

The [Manipur](#) Pradesh [Congress](#) Committee (MPCC) also paid homage to late Rishang Keishing at the [Congress](#) Bhawan.

Former Chief Minister and opposition [Congress leader](#) Okram [Ibobi Singh](#), former Deputy CM Gaikhangam, MPCC [President](#) TN Haokip, MP Th Meinza Singh and several party [leaders](#) and [workers](#) laid wreaths to the lifeless body of Rishang Keishing on the occasion.

The [Congress leaders](#) mourned his death and the party flag was flown at half-mast in honour of him.

On the occasion, Okram [Ibobi Singh](#) said, “Rishang Keishing was the tallest [leader](#) given by God.”

Rishang’s lifeless body was also brought to Adimjati Ashram where staff and students mourned his death and paid last respect to him.

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