

United Committee Manipur (UCM) organising all community meeting to discuss the prevailing issue in the state at its Office located at Lamphel



CM Okram Ibobi denied report of centre sending 4000 security personnel

IT News
Imphal, Dec 22: Chief Minister Okram Ibobi has flatly denied the report of center sending 4000 additional para military force in the state to tackle the ongoing economic blockade in the state. Speaking to India Today TV, the Chief Minister said that no additional force has been sent to the state by the central government. "That is a wrong report.

Even today we had a combined meeting with the Assam Rifles, CRPF and BSF. Where is that 4000 personnel?", the India Today TV quotes the Chief Minister. The report further added that the state had received less than 10 companies of additional forces. The Chief Minister further told that the Union Home Minister Rajnath had interfere to the creation of

the 7 new revenue districts at the behest of the NSCN-IM and UNC. Okram Ibobi Singh told the news channel that he had turn down the interference saying that any authority including the Government of India cannot dictate the state government because it's purely under the purview of the state. Slamming the Centre for failing to rein-in the Naga insurgent group with which it signed a peace accord last

year the Chief Minister said, "Immediately after UNC announced the indefinite blockade I rushed to Delhi and met Home Minister Rajnath Singh. The peace talk is between the Government of India and NSCN (IM). The state government is not involved in it. The ground rule is that the NSCN (IM) should confine (their activities) in Nagaland alone and that too in the designated camps."

Slogans of 'We are one, we want peace' fills the air of Yangangpokpi Appeals to lift indefinite curfew

IT News
Imphal, Dec 22: At a time when government remains as mute spectators to the prevailing situation here in certain part of Valley region, slogans of "we are one, we want peace" shouted by different communities fill the air of Yangangpokpi – a village located in between Imphal East and Ukhrul district. Yangangpokpi is a home to Tankhul, Kuki, Meitei and various other tribes and have been living in peaceful co-existence since time immemorial.



With the situation along Imphal-Ukhrul road between Khurai to Seijang becoming worst with no authority coming forward to contain the crisis, the Yangangpokpi area Chingmi Tammi Peace Committee today organized all community meeting at Yangangpokpi Keithel. Members of Tangkhul community, Kuki Community, Meitei Community and other smaller tribes inhabiting in the area attended the public meeting. Speakers on the occasion deliberated the ongoing issues which threaten the peaceful coexistence between various communities. They appealed people not to be driven by rumours spread to create misunderstanding among

different community. General Secretary of the Yangangpokpi area Chingmi Tammi Peace Committee, Elangbam Shyamkishore speaking to reporters said that the committee was formed in 2001 and since then it has been working on to sort out the differences between various communities at time of crisis. The general secretary

appealed the government authority to lift the indefinite curfew imposed in the road stretch between Khurai to Seijang so that people could restore to normalcy. On the other hand the committee also appealed the people of the area to restrain violence and allow safe passage to the tribal people who are on their way to celebrate Christmas and New Year festival.

TSA appeals UNC to call off economic blockade

IT News
Imphal, Dec 22: As one of the biggest festival, Christmas, is just a step away, Thadou Students' Association General Headquarters (TSA-GHQ) has appeal United Naga Council (UNC) to call off the on-going indefinite economic blockade for the interest of the Christian Community in particular and the Manipur public in general. According to a press statement from TSA-GHQ states that Christmas is the biggest and significant

festival among the Christian community, we must observe and celebrate in peace and harmony in welcoming the birth of Jesus Christ as Christian are peace and loving peoples, we do not seek revenge against the evil but overcome them by love in faith. TSA-GHQ also states that on the contrary with the reciprocal of the UNC indefinite economic blockade, valley base civil bodies start the counter blockade in various places resulting

communal tension between the Naga and Meitei community which the whole nation unwelcome and prejudice in the days to come. In this regards, the student's body appeal to the entire valley base organization to call of the counter blockade in public interest with the confrontation between the two communities as the whole public of Manipur suffer and face untold tragedy for the past many days. TSA-GHQ further states that if any Thadou

communities happen to be victimize due to the communal tension between Naga and Meiteis regarding the present unwanted scenario, the Thadou being the single largest population will not remain as a mere spectator. In regards with the coming Christmas festival, TSA-GHQ appeals both the communities to call of the ongoing communal conflict, instead come together with immediate amicable solution in public interest.

EVM training

DIPR
Imphal, Dec. 22: The Election Commission of India today conducted training cum demonstration session on the usage and features of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) for the media persons at State Academy of Training, Takyeipat. During the EVM sensitization session, a video documentary featuring brief introduction and security features of EVM was shown to the media persons. Shri Vipin Katara, Consultant, Election Commission of India briefed the media persons through a power point presentation on the important functions of EVM. He said that 20,000 VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) would be utilized for the first time in the ensuing 11th State Assembly Election.

Ruckus at Congress Bhavan; Jotin's workers warn serious consequences

IT News
Imphal, Dec 22: The entry of BJP MLA Khumukcham Joykishan to Congress has built a disturbing atmosphere at Congress Bhavan here in Imphal, as apprehensive supporters of MPCC General Secretary Salam Jotin created ruckus over Chief Minister's

assurance to provide congress party ticket to Joykishan. Salam Jotin has been contesting in the Thangmeiband Assembly constituency as congress candidate and his workers threaten serious consequences if Salam Jotin

is not provided congress ticket in the upcoming assembly election. "30 years we have been working for the congress party, how could they assured ticket to Joykishan who joined the party just yesterday", said a supporter of Salam Jotin.

MDPF appeals to lift blockade

IT News
Imphal, Dec 22: While the whole public of Manipur suffer and face untold tragedy for the past many days with no image to call off the on-going economic blockade, Manipur Democratic People Front (MDPF) appealed both the communities of economic blockade and counter economic blockade to stop any kind of anti social action immediately in the interest of all hill and valley people.

In a press statement, Dr G Tonsana Sharma, President of MDPF and Coordinator of Northeast Regional Political Party Front (NERPF) states that Manipur is a multi ethnic populated state which enjoyed peaceful and harmonious co-existence amongst the different hill and valley people during the time of our forefathers but it is sad to say that those days are diminishing because of external unwanted political

influences and lack of own identity. To exist peacefully instead of acting mean out of fury due to the economic blockade for which the government should realized the untimely hasty decision of district creation, MDPF appeal both the communities to come into senses and call of fall kind of anti social action which can create communal tension immediately.

Mary Kom urges PM to resolve Manipur economic blockade

PTI
New Delhi, Dec 22: Distressed by the economic blockade that has crippled her home state Manipur, five-time world champion boxer and Rajya Sabha MP M C Mary Kom has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene and resolve the crisis. The blockade has been imposed by United Naga Council to protest the state government's decision to form seven new districts. The UNC claims the districts in the Naga-dominated hill areas will affect land holdings of Naga tribes settled in these areas. The blockade which has

surpassed 50 days now has crippled normal life in Manipur with scarcity of essential goods being a major concern apart form violence. In a letter to Modi, Mary Kom, an Olympic bronze-medallist, urged him to try and resolve the issue at the earliest. "It is to bring to your notice that the state of Manipur is going through the toughest of time with unrest situation. The whole section of communities, both in hills and valley, residing in Manipur are suffering due to the economic blockade and counter-blockade and have now turned into ugly

consequences of greater destruction and if not intervened in time, there are possibilities of untoward happenings and the people are so insecure," she wrote. "Irrespective of the causes and reasons, I strongly recommend and request you to consider this prevailing situation in Manipur a serious matter and kindly intervene at the earliest for peaceful solution and the state be brought back to normalcy. This act will remain a great achievement and the people will remain in owe towards your kind intervention," she said.

Internet Ban – For the Greater Good or Worse?

By: Gurumayum Maheshwar Sharma
Internet Access Is Now A Basic Human Right. ... according to the United Nations Human Rights Council, which passed a non-binding resolution in June this year that condemns countries that intentionally take away or disrupt its citizens' internet access. The Current ban on Cellular Data in Manipur which was imposed on 19th December by the Government amidst the present volatile situation without considering the pros and cons of it may be term as a thoughtless and ignorant. While the whole of country is reeling under the heat of Demonetization, the internet ban adds more salt to the wounds of the people. While Our Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi is targeting to go everything Digital and encouraging Cashless Transaction, this move from the state government contradicts it. Majority of the Internet users in Manipur relies on Cellular data. Be it using social media sites, doing business transaction or purchasing goods, most of the people uses their Smartphone using Cellular data. All these have been disrupted with the current Internet ban. Adding to the woes is the disabling of SMS for all service providers. SMS also plays an important role with cashless transaction. For example, when doing an online purchase through Internet banking, Debit Card or Credit card, one needs a special code called One Time Password (OTP) that is delivered to the users registered number at the time of transaction and this has been disabled too with the current Internet/SMS ban. It may be mentioned that the ban on SMS is to prevent any

dissemination of unwanted message through this medium. One wonders, who uses SMS in this era of Whatsapp and Facebook to exchange messages. If the Government thinks it is necessary to disable SMS to prevent from circulating unwanted messages, they could do so by disabling outgoing message and enabling incoming message. That way it would not disrupt anything. After the Demonetization, many business establishment started installing Point of Sale Terminal (or simply POS) to accept payment using Credit Card, or Debit Card. This POS Terminal relies on Cellular Data for its functioning otherwise without an active internet connection; it is like a dead machine. In places like Hospital, where many make huge payment for treatment, this POS machine is like a boon. Say if a person needs about 1lakh amount for his/her treatment, this POS machine comes to his rescue from long queues and chaos in the Bank. On the other hand if he/she wants to withdraw money from his account, has to stand in a long queue or worse return back empty handed as most bank have limited money for a day. Also the withdrawal limit for an account is 24K. In case of an emergency, this is not a practical thing and the POS machine comes as a life savior in such case. But after the ban on data service, these entire POS terminal have become useless and the government with its so call law and order maintenance ban is causing inconvenience to the masses. Call it sheer ignorance from the Government or intentionally, but many will call it an ignorant and irresponsible move. Here is the reason

why. Most of the unwanted, communal contents, lies, rumors etc are disseminated mainly via Facebook and Whatsapp. The Government could ask the service provider to block the access of these site and apps from their end using methods like IP blocking, DNS tampering, and URL blocking using a proxy. That way a user will not be able to visit a website or an app in question. Many will argue that blocked sites can be viewed using a Proxy or using Virtual Private Network but majority of the internet users will not know how to bypass it except for a few technologically apt users. As per my experience, majority of the users creating ruckus in the social media are teenagers and minors using a Smartphone. They are the ones sharing and posting all these sort of unwanted comments. Many of these users will find it hard to bypass the blocked sites if he/she is not familiar with it. I am not saying that blocking sites will curb all those unwanted activities cent per cent but it sure is more ethical comparing to a complete internet shutdown. Many will be able to do their usual Communication, business or browse websites without any problem. Seems like the Government hasn't taken any advice from a tech expert while taking the decision of shutting down Cellular Data. Or one may question are all the high ranking officials of Manipur involved in decision making so technologically backward they don't know such a simple thing or is it an intentional move to harass the people by taking away their Basic Internet rights?

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