

221 stranded goods ferrying trucks escorted to Imphal in NH-1; over 300 loaded trucks waiting for security escorts at Jiribam

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2: Strong team of security forces today escorted 221 loaded trucks till Imphal, which were stranded at Mao gate since the last couple of days due to the economic blockade called by UNC along the National Highway 1. The loaded trucks started reaching Imphal at 12 noon today. On the other hand around 300 loaded trucks including oil tankers are waiting for security escort from coming to Imphal.



Report reaching here said that the loaded trucks were escorted by a strong combine security team led by Additional Director General of Police C Doungel. Other top Police officials including IGP (Zone 1) Clay Khongsai, IGP Zone 2 Kailun and IGP (Adm) Dr. S Ibocha and SPs and IRB Commandant were also included in the team. Report said that the trucks were escorted early today morning and personnel of Assam Rifles were deployed at various locations along the Highway to foil any attempt to attack the trucks by supporters of UNC. The loaded trucks which reached Imphal today afternoon were mostly goods ferrying trucks carrying essential commodities and edible items.

Meanwhile, report from Jiribam said that as many as 300 loaded trucks including oil tankers are stranded at Jiribam due to the twin economic blockade called by the United Naga Council. Source from the state government said that as of now there is no arrangement made to bring back those trucks however as the security team which

escorted stranded trucks from Mao have reached Imphal today, another similar team will be sending soon to bring the stranded trucks along the NH 57. On the other hand people of Jiribam too had imposed counter economic blockade against the UNC and several volunteers pull down materials from loaded trucks and destroyed it in the street at Golathon near excise office today afternoon.

United Naga Council (UNC) has been imposing economic blockade along the two National Highways since November 1, against government move to create Sadar Hills district. The economic blockade was intensified after the arrest of two UNC leaders Gaidon Kamei, President and Sankhui Stephen Lamkang, Publicity Secretary on November 25 by calling 48 hours total shut in Hill districts on the following days. The economic blockade too continue without giving any break besides called to relax for few days from various civil society organization on humanitarian ground as people as well as the truckers are facing extreme hardship.

Tata Sumo truck vandalized by unknown persons

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2: Unknown miscreants suspected to be supporters of the ongoing economic blockade has vandalized one tata sumo vehicle along the Imphal-Jiribam highway at around 8 pm of December 1. Report says that the tata sumo vehicle bearing registration number MN/01/G2480 was travelling along a road between Karong and Kanchi-Khul near Sangaithel when the vehicle was stop by 4/5 unknown persons and began to vandalise. The tata sumo diver and his

mate fled from the spot leaving the vehicle. Later, the destroyed tata sumo vehicle was picked up by Patsoi Police Station today. It has been found out that the tata sumo vehicle was on their way to Tamenglong to deliver 2nd (second) hand/ use cloths in a large bag. Unfortunately the incident took place when the driver took a short cut road thinking will skip the hurdle of the economic blockade. No news of the tata sumo driver and his mate could be heard so far, at the time of the reporting the news.

Manipur Guv' Dr. Najma A Heptulla inaugurates Kaushal Rozgar Mela

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 2: The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship organised a workshop on Skill Development in Manipur at Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Imphal today. The Governor, Dr. Najma A Heptulla and the Chief Minister O. Ibobi Singh attended the workshop as Chief Guest.

In her speech, the Chief Guest said, it has been a hundred days since she took over the Governorship of the state and understood all the problems and issues of the state which has two regions- hills and valley which needs to be deal with differently. Such as, the hilly regions of the state is difficult to travel by road, so the people faced problems in receiving health care, it would be different if air ambulance are provided to make available health care to the far flung areas so as to lives. Since, it is not topographically possible to establish



large scale industries in the state, we have to trained people to develop small scale industries like tourism, health care, handloom and handicrafts etc. Manipur has an unique bio diversity, the Black rice and orchids of the state are not found in other parts of the country and these can be developed as a small scale industry. We have to get people busy with work as it may helped in cutting down bandhs and blockades. For this, we need

skilled people, along with skilled, there should be job creation because the final focus is Job. If there are no jobs available, we shall face a problem of unemployed skilled people. Lastly, the Governor pledged to work for the betterment and development of the state. On his presidential address, O Ibobi Singh said even with a tiny and limited resources, the state has invested 4% GDP. The then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh,

sanctioned more than Rs. 2000 cores for development, the state has utilized that money for developing better health care system in the state. The Private health care centres are providing jobs to trained and skilled persons. And further added that it is notable that that we could impart different courses of skill development, but at the same time, we have to think about job placement for the skilled persons. We should feel proud that our state is role model for other states in the power pre-paid system. The workshop was also attended by Shri T.Manga Vaiphei, Minister, Labour and Employment as Guest of Honour, Shri Vishal Sharma, Chief Program Officer, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDS), Dr. Suhel Akhtar, IADS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Shri Dr. Harmit Singh, Jt. Secretary and officers from Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India.

Nagas in Delhi urge Kiren Rijiju to resolve economic blockade in Manipur

ANI
New Delhi, Dec 2: The Naga people living in Delhi are deeply concerned by the recent events in Manipur that have led to the arrest of United Naga Council (UNC) President Gaidon Kamei and his Information and Publicity Secretary S.K. Stephen by the Government of Manipur on grounds of economic blockade for nearly a month in the state. "The arrest is highly condemnable as the action amounts to dismissing Naga people's rights over their land and age old customary law. The UNC is a respected apex institution of all the Nagas whose territory falls within the jurisdiction of Manipur State pertaining to land, culture and customary law," said the statement. "Therefore, the protest launched by the UNC leaders was to safeguard the indigenous land of the Naga people against the State arbitrary decision without any consultation and its complete disregard to the past Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Governments of Manipur

and written assurance from Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on the 24th November on issue of Sadar Hills and Jiribam," the statement added. To voice a strong protest against the highly condemnable action of the State Government of Manipur, Naga Students' Union, Delhi (NSUD) has formed a Committee for Joint Naga Civil Societies, Delhi (CJNCSD) on 28 November, 2016 in collaboration with various Naga Civil Society based in Delhi. The Committee has a representation of Naga Forum Delhi (NFD), Naga People Movement for Human Rights, Delhi Sector (NPMHR), Naga Lawyers' Guild, Delhi (NLGD), Naga Students' Union Delhi (NSUD), Forum for Understanding the Naga-India Conflict & Human Rights (FUNICH), Naga Scholars' Association (NSA) and Naga People's Union for Civil Liberties (NPUCL). To look upon the on-going situation in Manipur, the newly formed committee had called on Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of

Home Affairs (MHA) on 29 November, 2016 in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum to draw centre Government attention with two focus point. Firstly, immediate and unconditional release of United Naga Council (UNC) President Gaidon Kamei and his colleague Stephen, who are presently under Manipur police custody. And secondly, moratorium against any unilateral readjustment of administrative areas by Government of Manipur, particularly involving Naga areas, considering the Framework Agreement signed between Government of India and National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) in the presence of Honourable Prime Minister on 3rd August, 2015. "The Committee will launch a democratic movement in New Delhi for immediate and unconditional release of the UNC leaders and demand for direct Centre Government intervention in the present Manipur crisis," the press release said. CJNCSD alleged that the present State Government of Manipur has completely failed

to represent and address the genuine concerns of various ethnic communities of the State. Instead of maintaining social harmony in the State, the State Government of Manipur chose to steer ethnic tension which could erupt violent ethnic conflict as it has been witnessed in the past. It is led to believe that the present crisis is churned out as State Government's ill intention to come back to power at any cost. President of Naga Hoho Chuba Ozukam and his team on their visit to New Delhi for the similar issue and on the mission to pressurize Centre Government for early settlement of Naga-India Framework Agreement lent their support and participated in the meeting of the leaders of various Naga Civil Societies. "The Committee will relentlessly resort to various democratic movements unless the goals are met in releasing the UNC leaders and timely intervention of the centre government to resolve the ongoing crisis," added the statement.

No Budget but Vote on Account for 2017-18

IT News
Imphal, Dec 2: With election code of conduct for the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election is likely to enforce in the coming days the proposed Budget 2017-18 cannot be passed by the end of this financial year. However, in order to run the state the government may have to go in for Vote on Account, an official source informed Imphal Times. Mention may be made that Manipur is going to election along with four other states - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Punjab in early 2017 probably on February. State government of Manipur decided to pass the Vote on Account as it feels not appropriate for the incumbent Government to pass a full Budget for the ensuing year (2017-18) particularly when the election code of conduct would have come into force, since Budget is a major policy instrument of the Government where major policy decisions are taken.

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IT Desk
Imphal, Dec 2: The unambiguous directive of the state High Court for doing the needful to neutralize the ongoing indefinite blockade and for deploying central security forces at vulnerable points along the national highways not only to protect the bridges but also other vital installations, and the subsequent steps taken up by the machinery with unmatched alacrity has elicited a collective sigh of relief from the much harassed people of the state. It would be an understatement to say that the people of the state irrespective of caste, religion or community have borne the brunt of the economic blockade far too frequently for far too long, and the present development should pave the way for a sustained solution to the incessant disruptions which have been hampering development and progress further. The state has been held at ransom for far too long, and it is the common people who are bearing the brunt of these whole exercises all along, while the powerful and the influential to which the whole exercises were ostensibly directed have had it easy. It would also be naive to think that those responsible for

the disruptions and blockades are ignorant of the fact. The incredulous truth is those who are spearheading such inexplicably vindictive steps are city slickers who hobnob with the offspring of the high and mighty ones in the state, if not the state leaders themselves. On the other hand, the state government, while given a shot in the arm with the court directive as well as the assurance of assistance from the central home ministry, should consider the development as a beginning to iron out the simmering social and political issues for enduring peace without which development or progress will not be possible. Relying on central interventions and assistances for each and every social disruptions and unwanted interventions will prove impractical and even counterproductive in the long run. Those who have professed and are elected to represent the society should be pragmatic and gutsy enough to crack the whip in time before any maverick can influence and increase the disruptions to the society. But in order to stamp its authority, the government must have to establish itself as a transparent, just, proficient

and stringent entity. Its decisions and deliberations should be based on maximum welfare and sustainable development and should not be swayed by any communal or one-sided considerations- a position easier said than to be in as has been proven time and again. Another unfortunate development is the emergence of different SCOs conducting counter-blockades in various parts of the valley. Though the majority of people in the valley can empathize with the spontaneous reactions after holding back for so long, yet the fact remains that it is mostly the simple people who are too busy making ends meet to consider the higher ideals of demanding a separate district, state or oppose the same as the case may be, who stands to be effected the most. The most important take away from the whole sordid incident is that there are no winners in such a situation. The only viable and lasting solution can be brought about only when cultural and emotional integration really takes place, and for that to happen, it is not blockades that we require but bouquets and bonding.

Implementing the inevitable: An encouraging spirit