

CM greets people on Christmas Day

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24: Chief Minister Okram Ibobi greets the people of the state on occasion of the Christmas day. In his message, the Chief Minister wish the people to listen and take the message of Christmas with utmost seriousness, shun involvement of oneself in any manner of evil activity and involve oneself in the work of spreading peace in the state. Okram Ibobi also appealed to all concerned organisation to abandon the path of violence so that every family may enjoy Christmas in the spirit of happiness and joy.

Postal Service to hold Dak Adalat

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24: Director Postal Service, Manipur Division, Imphal is organising Dak Adalat on December 27 at 1 pm in its office premises located at Imphal head Post office, Babupara. Customers and well wishers of the department of post can put up their grievances regarding any section of the Postal department. A Statement by Superintendent of Post Office Manipur said that the staffs of the department will try their level best to resolve their issue and the suggestions would be received with a view to establish better relationship between the Postal Department and its customers.

Imphal Times will not have its publication on Dec. 25, 2016 on occasion of Christmas celebration. We in the Imphal Times wish all our well wishers and patrons warm and joyous Christmas. May you all have a peaceful and meaningful life with the coming of the Christmas Day. We also pray all community to restore the peaceful co-existence in the coming day.

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UNC rolls heads over lifting of economic Blockade

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 24: Members of the United Naga Council (UNC) have rolled heads over lifting of 53 days long indefinite economic blockade from both the National Highways which connect the Main land India with Manipur. A Highly reliable source said that pressure to lift the blockade by Union Home Ministry through its parent body the NSCN-IM, has left with no choice with the UNC but to find a reasonable may to lift the blockade as soon as possible the UNC functionaries are looking forward to lift the blockade as Christmas gift, the source added. The source also added that

some frustrated leaders of the Naga body decried the idea of lifting the blockade as soon of the demand made by them has been considered. The UNC has been demanding rolls back of the new district creations and release of the two UNC leaders without condition. On the proposal for release of the two UNC leader who are in police custody without any condition, some leaders of UNC argued that their demands has nothing to do with the release of the two functionaries. They stand firm on their demands for roll back of the decision of creating 7 new administrative districts.

Meanwhile, a team of UNC had reportedly left Senapati for Dimapur to discuss the prevailing situation with their parent body. With the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election knocking at the door the BJP ruled central govt. is unlikely to miss any opportunity to main the heart of the people of the state which will be heart breaking to the UNC. Meanwhile Congress ruled state govt. is getting bonus with its stand against UNC. Skipping UNC gave maximum opportunity to the party that now it stopped worrying about coming back to power for another 5 years.

AMWJU urges Union Minister Rajnath to end the economic blockade

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24: A delegation of the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) today met the union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and urged him to wipe out the suffering of the various communities in the state due to the ongoing economic blockade called by the United Naga Council. AMWJU President Wangkhemcha Shamjai, General Secretary Jit Ningomba, Vice president Asem Bhakta and Executive member Sunzu Bachaspatimayum today met the Union Home Minister at his residence at Akbar Road New Delhi at 9.30 am. The team deliberated the Union Home Minister about the suffering of the people arisen out of the prolonged economic blockade by UNC. A statement of the AMWJU said that Union Home



Minister Rajnath asked them whether the economic blockade is still underway. He also stated the AMWJU that everything that could be done from the side of the Union government has been done by assuring all possible help to the state government. He also said that even the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju had been sent and to Manipur to take stock of the situation beside writing letters to the CMs officially to contain the ongoing blockade. The AMWJU team had also seek appointment to meet the prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Besides the team will also meet the DoNER Minister Dr. Jitendra to apprise him issues relating to Journalist Welfare Activities. On the other hand the AMWJU statement stated that the AMWJU team also met members of the UNC. During the meeting the UNC team expressed its concern about the suffering of the common people due to the economic blockade, however the UNC said that the Government of Manipur did not accepted the proposal of the UNC to hold dialogue to end the ongoing blockade.

Civil society call for ending economic blockade

ANI
Imphal, Dec. 24: Taking serious note of the restive situation unfolding in the Manipur due to the United Naga Council's (UNC) indefinite economic blockade, a joint meeting of several civil society organisations based in the hill districts and valley districts of the state was held. The joint meeting, held at the Lamphelpat office of United Committee Manipur (UCM) on Thursday, was attended by representatives of 26 different CSOs met and formed a forum which has been christened

Joint Forum for Peace (JFP). Meanwhile UCM president Elangbam Johnson, who is also the convener of the Joint Forum for Peace, has rejected a wild allegation made by the UNC. Representative of civil society organisations held a meeting at Keishampat Leimajam Leikai Community Hall, and deliberated at length on the untold suffering being endured by the people of Manipur on account of the indefinite economic blockade. After the public meeting rally was taken out from the

Keishampat Leimajam Leikai and marched towards the chief minister's office to submit a memorandum. The rally was stopped by a team of police personnel at Nityaipat Chuthek from where a few selected representatives were taken to the chief minister's office for submission of the memorandum. During the meeting, a number of resolutions were adopted unanimously. The first resolution said that the forum would appeal to all concerned to lift the economic blockade

Army Chief Dalbir Singh reviews security situation in Manipur

ANI
Imphal, Dec. 24: Chief of Army Staff General Dalbir Singh arrived in Manipur capital Imphal on Saturday to review the security situation in the wake of a blockade imposed by the United Naga Council (UNC). General Singh will also visit Assam to review the security situation there. Meanwhile, a curfew from Lamlong Bridge to Pangei area has been relaxed from 6 am to 5 pm. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju had on Friday visited Manipur to take stock of the situation and asked the state government to step up its efforts in restoring normalcy. Earlier, expressing concern over the long blockade of a highway connecting Manipur, the Home Ministry on Thursday rapped the state government for "failing" to discharge its "constitutional"

duties in ensuring smooth flow of traffic on roads despite repeated requests. Home Minister Rajnath Singh also asked Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang to ensure there is no disturbance in the movement of vehicles passing through his state, as there have been reports of the Naga Students Federation calling for a blockade of vehicles in Nagaland. In a stern message to Manipur Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh, Rajnath said the state is

facing an extremely distressing economic situation because of the continuous blockade of National Highway-2. The blockade in the state was announced by the UNC after the Manipur Government decided to upgrade the Sadar Hills and Jiribam areas to full-fledged districts. Following the state government's decision on November 1, UNC militants blocked the Imphal-Dimapur and the Imphal-Jiribam highways indefinitely.

IGAR (S) greets on Christmas

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24: Major General Virendra Singh, VSM, Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) and All Ranks of Assam Rifles extend warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Manipur on the auspicious occasion of Christmas. IGAR (South) expresses hope that the

festival will herald an era of progress and prosperity in the region and promote unity, integrity and peaceful coexistence of all communities in the state. He also wishes the festival to bring joy, happiness and prosperity in the region by bringing people of all communities of Manipur together.

Health sector in Manipur transformed significantly

DIPR
Imphal, Dec. 24, 2016: Manipur has witnessed a drastic change in its health sector in the last 15 years. The government has been wise enough to know that health sector should be given utmost priority and over Rs 800 Crores was invested during this period. The state has invested around 4% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) annually in public health expenditure, as compared to the national average of 1.8% only. Health sector was improved considerably in both hills and valley areas alike, and hospitals in remote hill areas got a major makeover. New hospital buildings with all

necessary infrastructures and staff were inaugurated at Ukhrul, Senapati, Churachandpur, Bishnupur, Thoubal and nearing completion in the case of Chandel and Tamenglong. In total, 13 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 63 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 336 Primary Health Sub-Centre (PHSCs) and 343 staff quarters have been constructed so far. Moreover, the Government of India-initiative National Health Mission is being successfully implemented in the state with about 2000 trained staff supplementing health efforts of the state government. In a very laudable effort, the Government of Manipur has established Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS), the first state-run medical institute, with an intake of 100 MBBS seats. Also, a BSc Nursing College was established. Public-private partnership in health sector was made effective and hence, resulted in significant development of Shija Hospital, Sky Hospital, Jeevan Hospital and Christian Hospital. With this partnership, these hospitals are now charging less fees or providing free service to those patients under Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Economically Weaker Section

(EWS). 75 out of 85 PHCs and 7 PHSCs were made into 24x7 delivery centres. 102 (One-Zero-Two) Call Centre dial-up ambulance facility have been made functional too. On the other hand, health indicators saw a significant improvement in the last 15 years. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), which was 29 before 15 years, has now been reduced to 11; and immunization coverage increased by 17% from 76.2 to 93.1%. Number of Doctors in Position increased from 615 to 1068. The HIV menace in the state, too, witnessed sharp decline. During this period, the HIV Sero Positivity Rate reduced drastically by 94%. This rate, in the case of pregnant women, also reduced by 91%. Significant number for various posts of health sector were created and recruited. At present, the State has over 1700 MBBS doctors, including 265-plus PG Holders and 350-plus Clinical Specialists. Also, adequate number of nursing and para-medical staff have been recruited and deployed. The number of ANM/FHW in position increased from 412 to 543; while Dental Surgeons in Position saw 140% increase from 37 to 89 Allocation of the Health Plan Budget from the total Plan Outlay was increased from 2.8% to 7%, which is much higher than national average, during these last 15 years.

Respecting federalism or intentionally ignoring facts?

By: Rupamala Yambem

If one carefully listen to what Union Home Minister of State Kiren Rijiju had stated yesterday regarding the existence of NSCN-IM camp here in the soil of Manipur, it is easy to guess that either the state government or the Union government is befouling the people of the state. Rijiju had stated that the Union government had no knowledge about any illegal activities carried out by NSCN-IM in the state of Manipur as the state government has not informed about any such matter to the Union government. His statement is a blow to the state government. When he said that the state government has not informed any such illegal acts of NSCN-IM to the Union government he definitely meant that state government is not rendering its service if in case any unwanted activities are carried out by NSCN-IM here in the soil of Manipur. Perhaps, the Union Minister of state was trying to unfold the game being played by the state government. Over the many

years, people of the state has been facing serious problem due to certain dictate by the NSCN-IM. State government agency had perfect knowledge of how the NSCN-IM authorities are taking their share from any contract works if taken up in Hill districts where the NSCN-IM cadres are active. Transporters had many times produced slips which showed NSCN-IM collecting illegal taxes. Recently, in the wake of the political differences and the simultaneous act of the group having political differences at Hill district, photos of NSCN-IM cadres openly conducting duty amidst the general public in Nungba area were uploaded. If the kinds of happenings are not informed to the central government authority then the state government has every reason to be blamed. Had it been true that the central Government has no knowledge of any illegal act committed, then we the people of the state have every right to dethrone the Okram Ibobi Singh led Congress party from the soil of Manipur. But if Mr. Home Minister of State was trying to throw the ball

to the court of the state government then the result of the upcoming Manipur Legislative Assembly Election will definitely be against the party which he belongs to. On the other hand the silence of the state government authority to the statement of Union Home Minister of State also spelled out some ugly truth to the part of the government. The Union Minister of State had rightly stated that India follow the doctrine of federalism and while respecting the federal structure of the Indian Constitution the central government has no right to interfere the state problem. One thing need to be appreciated Mr. Rijiju is that, he assured any form of assistance if the state government desires. This meant the state government is intentionally trying all its effort to throw the BJP which is in government in center by not showing its sincerity to them. Why couldn't it present all the information that is needed to them when it comes about illegal activities committed by the NSCN-IM. Something seems not going right. The ugly truth is going to make the people pay in the coming days.