

Union HM drills State Government over misuse of 13th Finance Commission awards

IT News
Imphal, Oct 20: Union Ministry of Home Affairs has seriously taken the misuse of fund by the state government which was sanctioned as grant under the 13th Finance Commission.

A reliable source said that the Union Home Ministry has turned down all justification regarding the utilization of the grant by the state government authority as no supportive evidences could be submitted till today. The source further added that on July first week

this year the Union Home Ministry officials had intimated the state government authority to furnish details of how the fund sanctioned under the 13th Finance Commission as grant has been utilized by the state government. A similar letter to furnish the report was again sent to the state government 1 July last week this year.

The Union Home Ministry has been looking into the matter as according to a complaint filed to the ministry against the misuse of fund

sanctioned under the 13th Finance Commission. Under the 13th finance commission a sum of Rs 8 crore has been awarded for Development and Maintenance of Kangla Fort; Rs. 10 crore for Renovation and Maintenance of Raj Bhavan; Rs. 84.00 crore for Upgradation of Manipur Police Training School (Pangei) to Manipur Police Training College (MPTC); Rs. 23 crore for constructions and renovation of Infrastructure for Police Stations in Rural and

Remote Areas; Rs. 25 crore for upgradation of internal roads, sewerage and drainage etc. under Border Area Development; Rs 100 crores as Special Upgradation Grants for Sports and Rs. 51 crore for procurement of Infrastructure for Autonomous District Councils. Mentioned may be made that the award under 14 Finance commission for the Autonomous council has been cancelled as the newly formed Niti Ayog has approved such grant for panchayat and urban local bodies only.

NEFIS protests DU's cultural chauvinistic decision to make Hindi compulsory

IT News
Delhi, Oct 20: North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) activists along with a large number of students from North-East as well as other regions protested against the compulsory imposition of Hindi on DU students, especially those who come from different linguistic backgrounds as another disgraceful attempt to discriminate against them.

Activists of Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) too supported the protest in solidarity with students from non-Hindi linguistic backgrounds. It should be known that as per the notification issued by the University on 23rd August 2016, it would become compulsory for every student who has not studied Hindi till class 8th to pass a paper, Compulsory Test in Hindi (CTH) in order to gain his/her undergraduate degree. Earlier, the students from North-Eastern states and foreign students were exempted from taking the test, but this has not been notified in the Resolution No. 10 of Academic Council of 19th July 2016, which was subsequently passed by the University.

This step gives undue importance to Hindi vis-à-vis other languages of non-Hindi speaking regions, the steps for which to be taught in the University are not being taken. Instead of creating more infrastructure to offer languages of non-Hindi speaking regions, especially of linguistically marginal/minority communities, thereby generating enthusiasm in students to genuinely take interest in languages of different regions and communities, the University has once again imposed its diktat on students from non-Hindi speaking backgrounds especially marginal/minority groups. This dismal situation is a by-product of the long standing bias and neglect on part of the government of India and the respective state governments in not ensuring that the distinct cultural identity and dignity of the marginal/minority groups and communities is preserved.

Delhi University acting in the same manner has once again tried to impose the culture and language of Hindi-speaking areas upon students from non-Hindi linguistic backgrounds in the manner of a haughty

conqueror. It is sad that now the university too has taken cue from the state in promoting cultural chauvinism.

Compulsory imposition of Hindi would cause immense hardships for the students who belong to communities that do not speak Hindi. This step amounts to nothing less than cultural chauvinism on part of the university administration directed against the communities from the North-East because most of them are not adept in the language. This neglect of the special needs of the students of the North-East is not a new thing. It is our observation that in the framing of university policies the interests of the students from the North-East is always neglected. It should be known that even in 2013 DU had attempted to impose Hindi/Modern Indian Languages (MIL) on DU students, but had to withdraw its decision due to militant campaign launched against it by NEFIS.

NEFIS submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor demanding that exemption which was earlier given to the North-East students should continue and immediate steps should be taken to develop the infrastructure, adequate faculty and syllabus for the languages of linguistic marginal/minority groups hitherto not offered by the university. They resolved to intensify their agitation if this recent attempt by DU authorities to discriminate against them is not withdrawn immediately.

MPP reacts

IT News
Imphal, Oct 20: MPP today slammed the Chief Minister of Manipur over its failure to control the activities of Naga Civil Society organisation which are trying to distort the integrity of the state. Vice President of MPP O Jugindro talking to media persons said that instead of intervening the anti social act, the Chief Minister of Manipur as a silent observer. He said by not interfering the use of Southern nagaland in Manipur territory the CM is indirectly supporting the UNC demand, he added.

7 top leaders of different armed group including 2 from Kuki rebels join NSCN-IM

IT News
Imphal, Oct 20: Seven top leaders of various underground group including 4 from NSCN-U who have defected from the NSCN-IM, and two from the Kuki rebel groups and another from Manipur Naga Peoples' Front had joined the NSCN-IM.

In a press statement issued by the MIP/NSCN-IM, the 4 key leaders of the NSCN-U who re-joined to the NSCN-IM are -A. Khampei Konyak, Deputy Kilonser, Konyak region,

Hetovi Chishi, Leacy of UT-I region, Akito Yeptho, Razou Peyo of UT-I region and Wangtson Jajo, a sergeant major of Konyak region. The Manipur Naga Peoples' front member who joined the NSCN-IM is Vaireiyo Jajo. He is an undersecretary of the outfit. The other two Kuki rebel group cadres who joined the NSCN-IM are Captain Ngulminthang Mangle of Kuki National front (S) and 2nd Lieutenant Thangjapao mate of Kuku National front (P),

both from KTU region. The MIP statement stated that the Joint Council of the Steering Committee Executive and the Cabinet of the NSCN warmly welcome the home comers from different Political groups. The members took a firm decision to follow the path taken by the veteran leaders who have joined the NSCN and expressed regret of their past mistakes for working under different organization without vision and hope, the MIP statement added.

NSCN-IM condoles

IT News
Imphal, Oct 20: NSCN-IM condole the untimely demise of Vitoulu (VST Swu), Under Secretary, Ministry of War Victim Welfare of the NSCN-IM after suffering from an illness at his residence at Kuhubuto village in Dimapur district today morning. An MIP statement of the group said that Late Vitoulu joined the NSCN-IM on November 13, 1998 and had served for the organization with utmost sincerity and dedication at various capacity.

World Osteoporosis Day

IT News
Imphal, Oct 20: Members of the Lions Club International 322D, Imphal Valley today organized a rally in the streets of Imphal city in commemoration to the World Osteoporosis Day being observed across the globe today.

The rally kicks off from Bheirodan High School, at Thangal Bazaar and snakes through Khwairamband keithel carrying awareness message about Osteoporosis & its impact on Fractures in the general public. The event is organised as part of continuing social responsibility project of Lions Club of Imphal valley.

Villagers close down Yairipok- Chandrakhong road



IT News
Thoubal, Oct 20: Late villagers of Yairipok area in Thoubal district today close down yairipok-Chandrakhong road since early morning today in protest against the non completion of the road widening as well as black topping works. Locals said that the road stretch between Yairipok Keithel to Chandrakhong has been under construction for widening and black topping by a company called ABCI and works for the construction had already begun since some months back. However, leaving lots of pot

holes, and big well for construction of culvert as well as pebbles spread all across the road the company had stopped construction works since the last 2 month. As a result people of the area are facing tremendous hardship in traveling in the road stretch. Announcing a stringing warning to the concern government authority, the villagers said that the road stretch will be closed down indefinitely if construction works including black topping has not started then the road stretch will be close indefinitely.

AMTDEU cease work strike enters four day

IT News
Imphal, October 20: The All Manipur Transport Department Employee's Union (AMTDEU) continued their cease-work strike for the fourth day freezing all works of the department.

Members of the Union continue their protest in front of the District Transport Office, Imphal. H Bijoy Kumar, Secretary of AMTDEU stated that the union will continue the strike until the demands are fulfilled. The department had already submitted a memorandum on July 29 and a reminder on September 29 demanding non-engagement of retired officers but State Government has failed to respond to the reminder and is acting against demand of the union. In these regards, the department has already given 15 days ultimatum and failing any positive response from the concern authority, the cease

work strike was launched which began from October 17, 2016. The department has also threaten that cease work strike will continue if the Government fails to fulfill their demands at the earliest. Meanwhile, public are facing problems related with their transport work. Amuba, a public, who came to registered for High Security Number Plate at the department said that if the cease work continued, there will be lots of problem to the public like him. On the other hand, Manipur Traffic Police still continues their drive against those who are violating the traffic rules like no helmet while driving, no proper documents and specially no high security number plate (IND). Amuba appeals the concern authority to look into the matter as public persons like him will be left with no choice to waste money to the traffic paying unreasonable fine only

for the government failing to fulfill the demands of the transport department which is still on cease work strike. Manipur Government Services Federation general secretary Purjiti Lairkyengbam said they have already submitted their charter of demands which include non-engagement of retired officers. He added re-engaging retired officials only hamper the aspirations of those still in office and at the same time violates the norms.

He continued the repeated re-engagement of retired officials only mean there are corruptions in the system. He added the federation supports the agitation launch by the AMTDEU to stop such action. Elaborating further he said retired DTO Imphal West M Mani Singh who was re-engaged as DTO Imphal West in 2014 has been again re-engaged as the DTO by a cabinet decision.

Battleground Manipur: Elections, integrity and rhetoric

IT Desk
Imphal, Oct 20: Neighbours Manipur and Nagaland have not been on good terms from the times when Congress ruled both the states and at the Centre. Now that Congress is alone, which is to say BJP is in office at the Centre and NPF in Nagaland, with the latter two parties having made an alliance, the Ijobi-government of Manipur seems to have little say whenever Nagaland does something in the interest of Manipur, be it 'forced' resignation of MLAs after instigations by leaders from across the state's border.

At the same time, a landlocked state like Manipur has been put at the mercy of Nagaland as the "only transportable road" to the outside world passes through the neighbouring state. Like an enemy state, at the behest of Naga leaders in Nagaland, hill residents of the state have been declaring the war-like strategy of economic blockade many a times and hold the Manipur people to ransom. Gradually, the state's integrity seems to be eroding with nothing concrete done to stop it.

While Manipur had a clear cut boundary since time immemorial, Nagaland was carved out from Assam. Now, this age-old boundary of Manipur seems to be under attack time and again even during the 21st century, and people from Nagaland are spreading misleading information as if this 2000-year-old history of Manipur never existed. It seems like, if India has a thorn in the form of neighbouring Pakistan; Manipur, a mini-India, has a Pakistan-like neighbour in Nagaland.

As the state elections get closer, the battle has now been partly focused on getting maximum of the 20 reserved seats of the hill districts to the Assembly so that those MLAs can speak up for "Southern Nagaland". This term has been introduced to Manipur when some signboards were put up in Senapati district nearly two decades ago to describe the Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur as part of the present day Nagaland. This time around, Nagaland CM T R Zeliang led the missile with an address to a huge gathering at the first ever conference of 'Naga Village Authority of South Nagaland' at the local ground of Tagaramphung in

Senapati district on Wednesday.

Indeed, Zeliang has done what NSCN-IM leader Th Muivah could not. While Muivah was not allowed entry into the state, Zeliang was accorded the status of a state guest. The intention of Zeliang and other Naga leaders could be interpreted as against the interest of Manipur, the long-term strategy of the Nagas and that of Zeliang is indeed laudable.

In his own state, Zeliang has his own tribal problems. The Central Nagaland Tribes Council (CNTC) in an earlier statement had said it never objected the Rongmeis being accorded the Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland state to those qualifying the norms of the Nagaland government notification dated the 28th of April 1977, No. AR-8/876. "However, the CNTC also makes the stand of the three tribes of CNTC clear to whomever concerned, that the recognition of Rongmeis with a tribal status of Nagaland state will be opposed and objected together with all the other Naga tribes of Nagaland till it is revoked. On the ongoing tussle involving the Rongmei recognition as an Indigenous

Tribe of Nagaland, the CNTC takes this step in opposing the recognition of the mentioned tribe in the larger interest of the people of Nagaland and for the sake of our future generations."

Despite problems like these, Zeliang has been able to display a view of "United Nagas" at least in Manipur. Manipur needs to learn a lot from a chief minister like Zeliang who could wield influence in neighbouring states. It is unthinkable of the Manipur chief minister going to Manipuri localities in neighbouring states and hold public meetings in the interest of Manipur, notwithstanding the fact that many problems exists in the state. Local and regional parties of Manipur are also unable to spread their wings beyond the boundary of the state, unlike the NPF, which is in office in Nagaland and targeting to get a double-digit figure in the upcoming Manipur Legislative Assembly elections.

In view of the above, it is high time that people of Manipur leave aside their differences for the better good of the state, at least for once and continue till stability comes to the state.