

Govt initiates action as state employees go on strike 'Will hire new people', says CM

Agency
Imphal, Oct. 12,

Thousands of state government employees openly defied the state government's warning by participating in the first phase of the pen- and tool-down strike launched by the Confederation of Service Associations of Arunachal Pradesh (CoSAAP) on Thursday, crippling normal office business.

The state government had on Wednesday warned of serious disciplinary action against employees taking part in the strike.

Employees of several major departments abstained from their duties and the state government now finds itself at loggerheads with the CoSAAP.

"I have come to office and will be sitting the whole day here, but I will not be working," said a junior officer at the civil secretariat.

The agitation has reportedly crippled usual governmental functions as thousands of employees across the state joined the strike.

Employees at the civil secretariat sat around leisurely without working, and many of the office chambers, including the finance department and the budget section, were either deserted or were occupied by agitating employees.

"We are on agitation, so no one is working today," said an employee who preferred not to

be named.

The CoSAAP has been demanding the implementation of the 7th CPC allowances in toto, along with other service benefits for the employees, "on the strength of the provisions contained in the Statehood Act, 1986, and further Adaptation of Laws Orders of 1989."

When contacted by The Arunachal Times, Home Commissioner Ashish Chandra Verma, who is the chief secretary in-charge, contradicted the media reports, stating that most departments were "functioning normally," and that there was "minimal effect" (of the strike).

"Some of the employees were reported to be on agitation. The lists of such employees have been obtained, and proceedings to deduct one day salary has been initiated as per the principle of 'no work, no pay'," he said.

Later, in a press statement, the CS' office extended gratitude to "the majority of employees who chose to work in public interest in spite of inducement and threats by certain persons." It said if any government employee is found to be participating in the agitation on 12 October, "dies non along with 'break in service' will be initiated against the participating employee."

Verma inspected various offices on Thursday, and said mobile teams would be

constituted to check the situation in the offices on Friday also.

The CS in-charge also urged the employees to "refrain from any illegal action which may adversely affect public interest."

The government has already issued an order (No PERS-113/2018/202, dated 10 October) declaring the strike illegal, and warning the striking employees of action in case they resort to pen- or tool-down strike.

'We are happy to recruit fresh hardworking and committed employees', the chief minister says

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Thursday said the state government would not succumb to any pressure tactics by the Confederation of Service Associations of Arunachal Pradesh (CoSAAP).

Addressing a public meeting here, the CM said the government would not hesitate to terminate the agitating employees from service.

"We will be happy to do so, as we are eager to recruit fresh hardworking and committed employees," Pema said.

Terminating the CoSAAP's strike illegal, anti-development, and against public interest, the chief minister said "a few individuals under the banner of CoSAAP" were misusing their position for their own benefits and misleading the entire employee community.

"In fact, the majority of the employees do not approve of such kind of pressure tactics," he said.

"The BJP government in the state has neither intimidated anybody nor will be intimidated by anyone. Certain individuals, being aware of election timing, are trying to manipulate the situation for their own benefit and giving the issue a political colour," he said. Issuing a warning of "cautionary action" against the agitating employees, the chief minister said the 'no work, no pay' rule would be applied on the first day of the strike.

"If the strike persists for the second day, there will be 'break in service' for those employees taking part," he said.

Urging the CoSAAP to "rise above their self-interest and think for the larger interest of the state," Pema said that about 60% of the state's resources are spent on revenue expenditure, including salaries, wages, OE, and OC, "leaving a meagre 40% for development activities."

"Take a moment to consider the welfare of others, too. How justified are we if try to suck in all resources for our own benefit?" he asked.

"As and when the financial condition improves, the state government will implement the allowances for the government employees phase wise," he added.

94th Birth Anniversary of Rk Maipaksana held Rk Maipaksana journalist fellowship conferred to Manindra Konsam



DIPR
Imphal, Oct. 12,

The 94th birth anniversary of RK Maipaksana, organized by RK. Maipaksana Memorial Trust Imphal was held yesterday at the Lamyamba Shanglein, Palace Compound Imphal. The RK Maipaksana

Journalist Fellowship was conferred to former editor of the monthly journal 'Sanathong', Shri Manindra Konsam.

The function was presided by former director Audio Visual Research Centre, Manipur University Dr. Lokendra Arambam.

As part of the programme, former principal D.M. College of Commerce Dr. Okram Kumar Singh delivered lecture on the topic, 'People of Manipur and some historical facts for the consolidation of the State', and a Souvenir was released, people paid floral tribute to the photo of RK Maipaksana.

Rafale row: PM corrupt, should resign if he can't respond to charges, says Rahul Gandhi; BJP hits back

Agency
New Delhi Oct 12,

Rahul Gandhi at a press conference in Delhi Thursday. Anil Sharma

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Rafale fighter jet deal, calling him a "corrupt person." He said the Prime Minister who had promised to be a "chowkidaar" for the country has turned out to be a "chowkidaar" for Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani. Rahul said the Prime Minister should resign if he is not able to respond to the charges with regard to the deal.

Rahul's fresh attack on the government and the Prime Minister came on the basis of French newsportal Mediapart's report that a top official of Dassault Aviation had explained to his staff in May 2017 that the firm's joint venture with Ambani's Reliance group for discharging offsets in the Rafale deal was a "condition", "imperative and obligatory" to win the deal for 36 aircraft from India.

Addressing a press meet at AICC headquarters, he said the report and the statement of former French President Francois Hollande earlier make it clear that "the Prime Minister gave a Rs 30,000 crore compensation contract to Anil Ambani." He also questioned Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to France and alleged that it is part of a "cover-up" attempt. He said

the Defence Minister is going to France to "pressurise Dassault to remain silent". "Dassault is sitting on a huge contract. Dassault is going to say what the Indian Government wants it to say. Now, there is an internal document of Dassault which clearly says what is going on, which is that the Prime Minister of India has said that without this compensation, this deal cannot be done. So, the whole idea right now is to put pressure on Dassault," he said.

"The #GreatRafaleCoverUp has begun. To try and show the deal is legit, Raksha Mantri will need to generate minutes of imaginary meetings held between the French & our MOD & both sides will need to agree on a common story to be spun to the media. RM left for France last night," he tweeted later.

Recalling the Prime Minister's 2014 remarks that he did not want to be the Prime Minister but chowkidaar of the country, Rahul said, "Now it has come to light that he is not India's but Ambani's prime minister... he has turned out to be a chowkidaar for Ambani... the Prime Minister is corrupt. The Prime Minister of India is a corrupt person but he came to power on the expressed promise of fighting corruption."

Asked whether he would seek the Prime Minister's resignation, he said the Prime Minister is not willing to talk about this issue. "The main issue in the country is

corruption... The allegation is that the Prime Minister has indulged in corruption. And the Prime Minister is silent... So the pressure is clear... if he is unable to respond, he should resign."

Rahul was asked about the MeToo campaign and allegations of sexual misconduct levelled against Union Minister M J Akbar and the Income Tax searches at the home and office of media baron Raghav Bahl. While he responded to the I-T searches, he parried the question of MeToo saying, "this is a press conference on Rafale. MeToo issue is a very big issue and I will comment on that issue at a further press conference." On the I-T raids, he said, "They (government) will raid, harass, attack, try to pressurise you..."

BJP: Rahul mocking national security

Hitting out at Congress president Rahul Gandhi for

calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi "corrupt", the BJP Thursday accused him of mocking national security and said he is trying to build his political career by spreading lies on the Rafale fighter jet deal.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra termed Rahul a "clown prince" and said Congress was trying to make him a leader by spreading lies on Rafale deal. Alleging that Rahul and his family had made money from every defence deal that took place before the BJP government took over in 2014, Patra said that the Gandhis were a "family of middlemen."

"You cannot lie and mock national security," he said. Patra also referred to Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa's remark that the Rafale deal is a "game changer". "Who should be believed? Rahul Gandhi or the Air Chief Marshal?", he asked.

Vijaya Raje Scindia remembered on 99th birth anniversary

Agency
New Delhi Oct 12,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday remembered veteran politician Vijaya Raje Scindia on her 99th birth anniversary. Born in 1919, Scindia was an active member of the Jana Sangh which she joined in the late 1960s and then the Bharatiya Janata Party for years. In a tweet, Modi said, "For Karyakartas of the Jana Sangh and BJP, no words can

do justice to Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia's monumental efforts to build these parties." Calling her a source of inspiration for several people, Modi added, "We remember Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia on her Jayanti. She devoted her entire life to public service. Formidable, compassionate, always accessible to people and blessed with a futuristic vision for the nation, she is a source of inspiration for several people."

ALERT: Global internet shutdown likely over next 48 hours

Courtesy-ANI
October 12,

Internet users across the globe may experience widespread network failures as the key domain servers are slated to undergo routine maintenance over the next 48 hours. Russia Today reported that global internet users might experience network connection failures as the main domain servers and its related network infrastructure will be down for some time.

The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will carry out maintenance work during this time period by changing the cryptographic key that helps protect the internet's address book or the Domain Name System (DNS). This has been necessitated to counter the rising incidents of cyber attacks, the ICANN said. In a statement, the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) said the global internet shutdown is necessary for ensuring a secure, stable and resilient

DNS. "To further clarify, some internet users might be affected if their network operators or Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have not prepared for this change. However, this impact can be avoided by enabling the appropriate system security extensions," it added. Internet users could face difficulties in accessing web pages or making any transactions in the next 48 hours. Also, users could face inconvenience accessing the global network if they use an outdated ISP.

Bajrang, first Indian to get UWW World Championship seeding

World Championship scheduled from October 20-28 in Budapest, Hungary

From a correspondent
New Delhi, Oct. 11,

One of India's most consistent performers in the recent times, Bajrang Punia becomes the first Indian to feature in the top seeds of World Wrestling Championships to be held in Budapest, Hungary, from October 20 to 28. He is seeded third in his weight category of 65 kg class of the Freestyle event.

He is accorded the pride of place with 45 points in the ranking list released by the United World Wrestling, the parent body of wrestling. The world body has introduced the seeding system for the first time ever for the World Championship, utilizing the performance ranking points to determine the competitive seeds. This follows the new ranking series that was announced during the 2017 World Championships in Paris. Previously, wrestlers were pulled into the brackets via a random draw of lots. Turkey's Selahattin Kilicislaylan is the top seed (50 points) in the 65 kg class

weight category while Ilias Bekbulatov from Russia and the Indian grappler are positioned second and third respectively and Haji Aliyev from Azerbaijan is stationed fourth in the seeding list. Bajrang has been training for the last fortnight at the Mátraháza Olympic Training Center in Mátraháza, Hungary. He had reached Hungary before other team members arrived on October 10.

Understandably, Punia felt elated getting picked for seeding but he wants to match his performance according to the position accorded.

"I had come here early to get acclimatized to conditions and am fully focused. I hope I can live up to everybody's expectations and return home with a gold medal," said the CWG Gold Coast Medalist, Punia. The 2018 Asian Games Gold medalist had won a bronze at the 2013 World Championship and now aims to change the colour of the medal at the elite world event and wants to end the year on a high.

About Wrestling Federation of India (WFI)

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is the Governing Body for Wrestling in India recognized by Ministry of Sports, Govt. of India as National Sports Federation. WFI is registered under the Societies Act and affiliated to Indian Olympic Association and International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles [FILA]. WFI was formed in 1960 and Wrestling federations of all States/Union Territories are its Member Associations. WFI along with its State affiliates are entrusted to organize National Championships for all categories of Wrestling, players apart from Zonal, Inter State Championships and All India Ranking Tournaments in India. WFI also conducts various International Tournaments along with the various grassroots initiatives. WFI through its commercial partners Sporty Solutions initiates a historic partnership with Tata Motors who come on board as a Principal Sponsor for the Sport till 2021.