

We Are a Step Ahead, Says ULFA-I Boss as Myanmar Army Cracks Down on Insurgents

Courtesy News 18
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Almost a month after the Myanmar Army launched its "clearance operations" against militant outfits ULFA-I and NSCN-K, the Commander-in-chief of United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) dubbed the success of the operation "impossible".

In a telephonic interview with News18 from an undisclosed location, Paresh Baruah said, "It's quite impossible to control insurgency in Northeast India and Myanmar at the same time."

The offensive was launched by the Tatmadaw, the official name of the armed forces of Myanmar, on January 29 in the Sagaing region, which shares its border with Nagaland,

Manipur, and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Stating that ULFA-I is confident of overcoming such operations, Baruah said that members of his outfit know the geographical terrain of the Sagaing better than the Myanmar Army. "We are a step ahead of them," said Baruah nonchalantly.

Baruah is one of the most wanted insurgent leaders of the northeast.

The ULFA-I commander claimed that till now, the outfit has only lost one officer, Major Jyotirmoy Asom, whose body is yet to be recovered. "Tactfully, our soldiers and other officers have moved out from the base camps to safe zones via various secret routes," Baruah said. The population of the Sagaing region has significantly shot

up since 1996 due to illegal infiltration of insurgents.

When asked about the reasons behind such an operation by the Myanmar Army, Baruah said the Tatmadaw is under pressure from the Indian government.

"The Indian government has invested billions of dollars in Myanmar for various developmental projects. Therefore, under Indian pressure, they began the operation to eliminate ULFA-I, NSCN-K and other Manipuri outfits," he asserted. However, Baruah maintained that fighting the Myanmar army is against their rules.

"The Myanmar Army is not our enemy. We understand their conditions," he said. Recalling the successful 'Operation All Clear', the military operation launched by

the Royal Bhutan Army assisted by the Indian government against Assam separatist groups in Bhutan in 2003, Baruah said that they were snapped by their own members at that time.

"It was a separate incident and some of our officers misled us and helped the Indian government. Thus, we lost the areas and our camps in Bhutan. But, here (Myanmar), our soldiers and officers are capable of handling every situation," said Baruah. According to Baruah, the Myanmar troops have so far captured a camp, arrested four insurgents and recovered weapons and ammunition. However, the Tatmadaw has claimed to have arrested six NSCN(K) members and seized 79 weapons and assorted ammunition.

Unknown person came and offer me Rs. 7 Lakhs for withdrawing my husband case - Tampha

IT News
Imphal, Feb 25,

Wife of a victim of custodial death alleged that some unknown person came to her and offered Rs. 7 lakhs if she withdraws the case filed in the matter at Law court. Athokpam Angousana, who was allegedly killed in police custody in 27th Feb 2011 by Thoubal police commando, is among the 1528 case filed by the EEVFAM and CBI has charge Sheeted but CJM Thoubal disposed the case as the state government had not give prosecution sanction. Athokpam Tampha, wife of the deceased, while speaking to media person at Manipur Press Club said that justice has not been delivered till today even after knowing that her

husband died in police custody.

The court disposed the case on the ground that there is no prosecution sanction from the state government. She appealed to sanction the prosecution order to deliver justice to the victim. She also added that she had turned down the offer to her by unknown person. She also said that the unknown person mocked at her saying that the accused will never be punished no matter how hard she tried.

Daughter of Angousana Athokpam, Athokpam Tanoubi said that they felt quite happy as the cases were handed over to CBI in the hope that justice will be delivered to her departed father who was murdered in police custody. She added that

with the recent judgment of her father's case due to the lack of prosecution sanction justice will be denied. She appealed the responsible authorities to give the prosecution sanction to continue the case further so that the victim get justice.

"We continue to live in fear as the accused threatened to murder their family if they filed case against them", says Tampha.

President of Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families Association, Manipur (EEVFAM) Renu Takhellambam demanded while talking to media person said that denying prosecution sanction of the accused by the government will denied in delivering justice to the victim of police atrocities.

Rs. 4171.14 lakh allocated for Tourism sector for 2018-19

IT News
Imphal, Feb 25,

A total of Rs. 4171.14 lakh has been allocated for development of Tourism sector for the year 2018-19. This was stated by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh who is also in charge of Tourism while replying to a question by Congress MLA O henery during question hour today. He said of the total allocation, Rs. 3703.14 lakhs has been earmarked for development of tourism infrastructure, organising state festival and promotion of tourism. The CM also said that steps taken up for implementation of Tourism policy in the state includes promotion of Manipur Tourism through state and local level festival and showcasing of local products to stake holders at domestic and international tourism events among others.

Govt. trying to introduce sports policy soon: CM



DIPR
Imphal, Feb 25,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the present government is trying its level best to rollout a "Sports Policy" so as to encourage and produce more sportspersons in the State. This was stated by him at the "Shannaroishingee Numit 2019" held at Main Stadium, Khuman Lampak today. Speaking as Chief Guest of the function, Chief Minister said that in order to encourage sportspersons in the State, the government has reserved 5 percent sports quota in government jobs and is offering government jobs to

gold medallists in National and International tournaments. Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of the local clubs in encouraging youths to get involved in sports.

Stating that sports helps in building discipline and character among our children, Chief Minister stated that we need to produce more sportspersons and reduce the number of hospitals in the State. He highlighted that sports helps in inculcating positive values which finally leads in building a progressive and healthy society.

Chief Minister stated that Manipur occupies a prominent place in the field of games and sports in both

National and International arena. He mentioned that President of India Ram Nath Kovind referred Manipur as "Sports Capital of India". Chief Minister said that Manipur has produced a number of National and International players including 1 Padma Bhushan, 4 Padmashri, 18 Arjuna Awardees, 3 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardees, 1 Dronacharya, 1 Dhyanchand Awardee, 17 Olympians.

Minister for YAS Shri Letpao Haokip, Secretary YAS Shri Bobby Waikhom, Director YAS Shri Armstrong Pame, officials of MOA and SAI, coaches and players attended the function.

Education Minister appeals to make education a free zone

DIPR
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Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam urged to all stakeholders to make education sector a free zone. He stressed that education in the State will only grow and progress when all the hindrances like bandh, blockade and pressure for individual interest on the educational institutions is prevented.

The Minister emphasized that an educational institution is an education institutional whether it is private or government.

Every educational institution imparts knowledge educating the young minds for a better society. He appealed not to indulge in any form of violence and destruction in the educational institution and to encroach on the school property. He said violence in any form brings only damage to society.

Th. Radheshyam congratulating the UNACCO Social Development Trust UNACCO School, Meitram on the inauguration of the second school said that the school will have huge



contribution in the education sector. These schools also need to be established at the hill districts too.

Speaking about the recent visit to the border villages of Ukhrul District and Kamjong District, he said that the unachieved need to be reached. Recollecting the experiences of the visit, he said that the conditions of the villages at the border of the State are in a very poor condition. He stated that the connectivity, health and education sector are three main priorities need to be attended. He opined on need to take up the initiative for introducing such schools at any of the remote areas of the hill districts by tying up with

local NGOs. He said that the act could help in building bond as well as in bringing a positive change in the State through education.

The Minister said that the knowledge being imparted to the students should be focused on making it relevance for future and present. He said that changes are taking place in a very fast pace and it is therefore important that the education being provided is up to date and be upgraded with the change of time. Children need to be made innovative and creative rather than live in the world of copy and paste. He said that through education the children should be made to learn to face the challenges that life would throw to them. Chairman, Manipur Tourism Corporation, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, Ex - Speaker Manipur Legislative Assembly, Dr. Haobam Borbabu Singh, Director ICM, Imphal Dr. N. Ranjana Devi, former Vice Chancellor Manipur University, H. Nandakumar Sharma and the Chairman UNACCO, School, N. Irababanta, teachers, students, guardians and locals attended the ceremony.

RPF celebrates 40th Foundation Day

IT News
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Proscribed group, Revolutionary People's Front today celebrated its 40th Foundation day as "Independent Demand Day". A statement of the armed group said that the Independent Demand Day was held at the outfit's general head Quarter, Council Head quarters, Central Bureau, Sub Divisions of Central Bureau, SR-1, SR-2, SR-3, General Head Quarter of PLA, Technical Command, Strategic Command, 252 Mobile Battalion and other units,



department and station of the PLA.

The statement further said that flags, stars and festoons related with the outfit were played during the ceremony organised along with the people of the region.

Paying of tribute to the revolutionary martyrs by hoisting the flag of the party mark the day, the statement said and added that message of the President of the outfit Irengbam Chaoren was read out on the occasion.

109 BN CRPF paid rich tribute to the Martyrs of Pulwama martyrs

IT News
Imphal, Feb 25,

109 Bn CRPF today paid fitting tribute to the martyrs of the CRPF who had laid down their life during a local Civic Action Programme organized at Makha Leikai ground, Mongsangei, Distt. Imphal (West). The programme was organised under the aegis of IGP M&N Sector, CRPF.

Chief Guest of the occasion Brig. (Retd) S.K. Sharma, DIG, Range Imphal while paying rich tribute to the martyrs of

Pulwama incident of J&K, inaugurated Blood donation camp.

Further walking stick, wheel chair, walker and hearing aid were distributed to 35 villagers of 08 villages, All Manipur handicapped School and Old Age Home of the locality. On the occasion Sh. Vinod Kumar, Comdt 109 Bn, CRPF along with 26 CRPF personnel, and 8 villagers donated the blood and lauded the pious donation for the services to the humanity, Brig. S.K. Sharma, DIG and Sh. H.K.

Kanaujia DIGP during their speech praised the 109 Bn CRPF for its continuing social services and reaching out the local populace. Village president of various villages and distinguished guests present on the occasion praised the concern of the unit Commandant for its virtuous affiliation with the Old Age Home and All Manipur Handicapped People's Organization. Local boys and girls also presented splendid cultural programme. Sh. Vinod Kumar Comdt, 109 Bn, CRPF

stated that unit will continue to serve the people of Manipur by carrying such humanitarian activities.

Blood donation camp was organized in association with the "India Red Cross Society" Manipur State Branch to pay the befitting homage to the gallant soldier of CRPF who attained martyrdom in Pulwama attack (J&K). All village president thanked the Chief guest and 109 Bn CRPF for its social concerns and speculated the stronger bonding in coming days.