

President Kovind back CAB amidst protest in NE

IT News
Imphal, Jan 31,

Mass protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016 in North East states of India turned deaf to the government of India, as President Ram Nath Kovind in his speech at Rajya Sabha today assured passage of the Bill in the Indian parliament. President Ram Nath Kovind addressed legislators from the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in the Central Hall of Parliament today on the first day of the Budget Session. He backed the Centre's Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, which has met with stiff opposition from political parties and people in the northeastern states. "The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill will make it easier to provide Indian citizenship to those who had to take refuge in India after facing oppression somewhere else," he said. The bill seeks to amend the

Citizenship Act of 1955 in order to grant citizenship to Hindus, Parsis and Christians from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan if they have lived in India for six years, even if they do not possess the necessary documents.

In his speech given at the Rajya Sabha today, the President said that the Bill will seek to address "injustice and deprivation" in society.

"Mindful of the injustice and deprivation in society, my government has been working towards reforming the legal system so as to ensure social and economic justice. The Citizenship Amendment Bill will help in securing of Indian citizenship by those victims who were persecuted and were compelled to seek refuge in India. These people cannot be blamed since they were victims of circumstances," he said.

Despite the BJP's insistence that the Bill will help "persecuted minorities" from neighboring Islamic countries, citizens of India, and

especially Northeast are wary of the consequences that the Bill might have on the demographic composition in the region, where illegal Bangladeshi immigration is already a huge concern.

It may be mentioned that the indigenous people of Tripura have been reduced to a small minority now as Bangla people make up a majority of the population. Leaders such as Assam's Akhil Gogoi have warned that a similar fate awaits the rest of the region if the Bill is passed. Student organization (AASU) leader Samujjal Bhattacharya has also slammed the Bill for its communal nature (as it deprives only Muslim migrants of citizenship status) and called it "unconstitutional."

The Week had also reported that the Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh has called for a review of the citizenship amendment bill (CAB). The news journal quoted Biren as saying - "Yes, I am going to Delhi. I have decided to ask the Union home minister to review the decision to pass

the citizenship amendment bill." Singh added that there was lot of misconceptions regarding the bill among people. "We must address it," he said.

Earlier, Rajnath Singh has asked all chief ministers from northeast to discuss the Citizenship Amendment Bill. The other three chief ministers from the BJP in the region, including Assam's Sarbananda Sonowal, Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu and Tripura's Biplab Deb, have decided not to express their personal views on the contentious bill. Interestingly, N. Biren Singh is the only Chief Minister among the four BJP CM of NE to question the Bill. It is to be mentioned that the Bill has been pending passage in the Upper House after it was passed at the Lok Sabha on January 8, with the opposition's raising of hue-and-cry over it leading to a twisidedly believed that the BJP will try to pass the Bill in the current budget session which is expected to last up until February 13.

Life in Manipur put to a grinding halt due to 24 hour general strike called in protest against CAB; effigies of PM, CM burns



IT News
Imphal, Jan 31,

Life in Imphal was put to a grinding halt paralyzing all wake of life in the entire state in response to the 24 hour general strike called by the Manipur People against Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 (MANPAC) against the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 which the BJP is putting all effort to pass at Rajya Sabha.

For the first time after the BJP led government under the chief Minister Biren Singh came to power in 2017, a total shut down was witness with no vehicles (except those of the police, press and Medicals) were seen moving on the road. The general strike called against Bill also unites both the Hill and the plain people with Hill people giving full response to the general strike called.

Effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Rajnath and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh were burnt at many places of the state. At Yairipok in Thoubal district, the protestor tried to hang the effigy of prime Minister Narendra Modi,

however a strong team of police came and foiled the attempt.

Imphal Times reporters said the whole area of Manipur stood still during the 24 hours general strike called by Manipur People against Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 (MANPAC) against the contentious CAB. However there is no report of any untoward incidents till the filling of the report.

MANPAC, a body formed by 72 different organisations comprising of different communities of the state to fight against the contentious CAB.

The General Strike which started from the midnight of 30 Jan 2019 severely affects the normal lives of the state. In view of the bandh, the roads were a deserted look; educational institution and other government institutions remained closed, shops and other business establishments shut down for the day.

Bandh supporters came out in street and blocked the roads; tyres were also burnt at the roads though essential services were allowed to move.

In many areas of Manipur people not only blocked the roads, they also staged sit-in-protest at various places.

Speaking to media persons while staging sit-in-protest at the gate of Manipur University, President of MUSU Keisham Lebanon said that they are staging the sit-in-protest as a mark to show their solidarity in the general strike called by MANPAC against the contentious CAB. He also condemned the atrocities done by Delhi police against the protestors of Manipur even manhandling of women protestors by male police. He added that if the said Bill is passed in Rajya Sabha and becomes and act the whole indigenous population of the North East region will be wiped out from the face of the earth. He finally appealed the authorities to stand firm against the bill and to withdraw it in the Rajya Sabha.

It can be mention that yesterday also Meira rallies was staged at various places of Manipur protesting against the Controversial Bill.

In a nut shell the general strike called against the CAB was a successful and a very effective one.

Sumang Leela artist missing in Cachar

IT News
Thoubal, Jan. 31,

Sumang Leela artist Ningthoujam Basanta Singh (Tabla player) of the "The Dedicated World Artist Union" who went along with his team at Cachar has been reported missing since January 29 after performing at various part of Cachar district of Assam.

Ningthoujam Basanta Singh (51) son of N. Kokin hail from Heirok Part-I, Heitupokpi Leikai in Thoubal district.

As per statement of the "The Dedicated World Artist Union" representatives, the troupe left Imphal on January 19 to perform at Jirbam and at some places of Cachar district.

After performing at various places of Cachar, Bashanta reportedly went from the place where they stayed at around 2.30 pm of January 29 and since then he has been found missing.

The following day the artist filed a missing report at Joypr Police Station of Cachar district.

Passport lost

I have lost my passport bearing passport No. M7917887 and file No. GU1078645338215 On the way between Takley SAI to Wangkhei Ayangpalli on 30th January 2019. Finder are Requested to handover to the Undersigned

Sd/-
Hanjabam Karmajit Sharma
Wangkhei Ayangpalli
#9612674443

9 political parties stage rally against CAB at BT road

IT News
Imphal, Jan. 31,

Leaders and supporters of nine political parties today staged rally at BT Road here in Imphal shouting slogan against the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016.

The protest rally of the nine political parties - CPI, CPI - M, RSP, FB, AAP, NCP, PRJA, BSP and JD(S) started from Irabot Bhavan at Rup Mahal Tank and proceed towards the Western gate of Historic Kangla along the BT road. From the traffic Island at western kanglagate, the representatives of the political



parties march towards Khwairamband keithel carrying their party flags and concluded at the place where they start.

In the Middle of the Khwairamband keithel, those attending the protest rally

shouted slogans denouncing the Citizenship Amendment bill. There were large number of police seen at khwairambandh keithel area but as the rally was rather peaceful no untoward incident occurred.

NSCN set to appoint new Chairman; Q. Tuccu likely to be sworn in today

Agency
Kohima, Jan 31,

Kohima, January 30: The National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) is set to have a new Chairman with all indications pointing at the impending appointment of Naga leader Qhehezu Tuccu to take reign of the group.

Popularly known as Q. Tuccu, he is expected to be sworn-in as Chairman of the NSCN (Isak-Muivah), according to sources, including NSCN (IM) insider.

Earlier there were some names doing the round but at the end of the day Tuccu's name turned out to be the consensus choice and he is expected to be sworn-in by Thursday.

According to one source, Tuccu will be sworn-in Thursday in presence of several top functionaries of the group.

After the death of Isak Chishi Swu on June 28, 2016, the seat of Chairman has remained vacant. The NSCN (IM) has not taken the chance to immediately appoint a new Chairman, which might create rift in the group at a time when the Naga peace process has reached a crucial stage.

The post of Vice Chairman is also vacant after the demise of Khole Konyak in December last.

Tuccu has been associating with NSCN (IM) General Secretary, Thiungaleng Muivah and former Chairman Swu. He will also be the President of Government of the People's Republic of Nagalim (GPRN); the NSCN government.

On the political front, the NSCN (IM) appears not optimistic of an early solution, as they want an out of the box solution. Sources said solution will not be possible

before the Lok Sabha election and might even take time if the solution is not out of the box. New Delhi's interlocutor R N Ravi had said that there will be only one agreement with the Naga groups, but NSCN (IM) is unlikely to sign any agreement which would be like that of 1975 Shillong Accord. NSCN (IM) source said they will never repeat Shillong Accord and would pursue for a solution which would be acceptable to the people.

Recently there was a report that Naga peace process was not moving on expected line. But as usual the Union Government said the "peace process is on the right track".

NSCN (IM) has been demanding a separate constitution and a flag, which are thorny issues, and which the Centre is unlikely to accept.

"More Agricultural Cooperative Success Stories – Need of the Hour"

IT News
Imphal, Jan 31,

Deputy Chief Minister, Y. Joykumar Singh inaugurated the Mess and Dining Hall of Hostel Complex and "Outreach Workshop on Strategies for Doubling of Farmer's Income in Manipur State by 2022" & 2nd, 4th & 6th Semesters of BBA Programme yesterday at Institute of Cooperative Management, Imphal. While inaugurating the Programme, the Deputy Chief Minister mentioned that there is huge potential in agriculture sector in Manipur. He further emphasized the need for green revolution in North Eastern Region in general and particularly in Manipur. He suggested that ICM, Imphal should take up the responsibilities of having similar programmes on success story from

Agricultural Producers Organisations (APOs), Farmers Producers Companies (APCs) in particular so that the success stories are emulated in other part of the State. Prof. Amar Yunnam, Director Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Manipur University mentioned in his address that in neighbouring countries like Myanmar, China, Cambodia & Vietnam progressive farming techniques have already been adopted during the last decade by giving sustainable growth and development to farmers communities. He further said that the State of Manipur has full potential for adoption of latest technique in farming technology & integrating with professional

marketing approach for the agricultural products. Mohan Kumar Mishra, Secretary, NCCT, New Delhi urged upon to treat agriculture as enterprise so that the farmer communities are not only treated as farm producers but farmers welfare is truly translated. He said that there is a huge scope of farm development i.e. post production activities in the State and agriculture logistic and agriculture marketing with support of cooperatives and FPCs. He also emphasized for cooperatives active role in Soil Health Card System and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to provide advisory service to the farmers. President, Manipur State Cooperative Union, L. Tompishak Singh that cooperative play a vital role in the Manipur and farmers.