



North East bandh against Citizen Amendment Bill hits NE states Protesters pelt stones, burn tyres across Assam and Manipur BJP office burnt in Gholaghat; Police detains 16 in Silchar, 20 in Dibrugarh 7 in Imphal

IT News
Imphal/Silchar, Jan 8,

11 hours bandh called by various organizations including the North East Students' Organisation (NESO) which began from 5 am today morning had seriously hit normalcy at almost all part of Manipur and Assam. The bandh is called protesting against the scheduled tabling of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Parliament.

In Imphal, volunteers and supporters of All Manipur Students Union (AMSU) which is a component of NES block road at many part of the state and vandalized some of the vehicles which violated the banh called by the student Union. Almost all shops and business establishment at Khwairambandh keithel and its surroundings were shuts, business establishment, entertainment houses, banks and other private establishment remains closed. Police picked up 7 volunteers of the AMSU from various part and detained in custody. Those arrested are identified as - Thoubia laishram, Yumkhaibam bijando, Pebam jet, Dhanachandra khaidem, Kangujam rohenjit, Singam jiteshor and Bidyasagar. Four of them were detained at City police station and remaining were reportedly detained at



Seram Herajit . protesting at Silchar minutes before arrested



MYFA President Herajit in custody



AMSU Volunteers burning tyres at Imphal

Imphal East Police station.

In Silchar, as many as 16 volunteers including leaders of various CSOs were detained in Silchar Police custody. Our Silchar correspondent reported that of the 16 detained by police for staging protest and blocking road against the Citizen (Amendment) 2016, some are leaders Assam Indigenous people protection committee (AIPPC), Manipuri youths front of Assam (MYFA), All Assam students union (AASU) and Assam Manipuri Muslim youths front (AMMYF).

President of AIPPC Monmahana Barman, MYFA president Seram Herajit, President of AASU Ainul hoque Choudhary, President of AMMYF Ahamed Hussein

Choudhary . Somitro Noth Gen Secy Of AASU, Chittaronjon Singha Member MYFA, Th Rajesh Singha Member MYFA, Anit Singha AIPPC member, Maruk Brolorkor AIPPC Member, Abdul Zahir Lorkor AIPPC member, Bapon Hussain Lorkor MDC member, Mojibin Hussain Brolokor AIPPC member, Rohan Lorkor AIPPC member, Imaj Uddin Lorkor MDC member and Robizul Ali Muzumder AIPPC member were among those arrested today

"If the Citizen (Amendment), 2016 has been passed, then the already endangered indigenous people of the North East region will be swept away", Seram Herajit, President of Manipuri youths front of Assam (MYFA) said

and said that the youths of the North East region is prepared to fight for protecting the indigenous people by taking up arms against them.

Herajit warned the government to prepare for facing the music if the Bill is passed in the parliament. Meanwhile, unconfirmed report said that bandh supporters today burnt the office of BJP at Gholaghat. Protesters in Tinsukia also have burnt tyres, vandalised a hospital canteen and burnt BJP posters in the town. Railway tracks in Makum, Assam have been blocked by agitators.

Security forces in Dibrugarh, used blank fire to disperse the bandh protesters in Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's home district,

where the protesters vandalized BJP office.

Agitated people came out in protest against the citizenship bill. The BJP office situated at Amolapatty, just 100 meters from Amolapatty police outpost was vandalized by agitated protesters.

The agitated protesters pelted stones on security forces. Additional SP(HQ) Surjeet Singh Paneswar bore minor injuries. Security forces lathi-charged the people to disperse them from Dibrugarh BJP office.

Some protesters stopped CRPF vehicle near the Dibrugarh University. Police used tear gas to disperse the supporters from the area. Later, the police used blank fire.

However, 20 protesters were detained by police from

different area of Dibrugarh till filling of the report. Two policemen were injured in the protest.

Talking to the media, Surjeet Singh Paneswar said he got injured over pelting of stones on security forces. He said they have identified the bandh supporters who vandalized the BJP office and pelted stones. In Chabua, the bandh supports burnt tyres at NH37 and smashed bus window. Violence has been reported from many places of the district and bandh supports burnt tyres in protest against the bill.

People pelted stones at moving vehicles and trucks in Nalbari, district in Assam. Several vehicles, including private vehicles and auto rickshaws, have been

damaged by protesters in Azara, outskirts of Guwahati. Agitators across Assam are carrying demonstrations by burning tyres and voicing slogans in Baksa, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Tezpur, Golaghat.

The 11-hour bandh started amid tight security at 5 am. Tyres were burnt at various places in Assam and vehicles were damaged in Guwahati, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts, the police said, an agency report quoted.

Apart from vehicles, railway tracks were blocked for a while in Guwahati and Dibrugarh district, however, trains resumed after the GRP removed protesters from the tracks, railway sources said. Train and flight schedules remain unaffected. Shops, market, financial institutions, educational institutions, private offices remained closed and private vehicles, including buses, kept off roads. People faced difficulty reaching their workplace as there was no availability of public transport, bringing normal life in the state to a halt.

News Agency ANI report said that All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) chief Badruddin Ajmal and All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 in the Parliament premises.

Left wing general strike begins

Two-day strike called by the central trade unions against the alleged repressive policies for workers adopted by the government begins today. Farmers across the country under the aegis of the Left peasant wings join the nationwide strike.

Tapan Sen, general secretary of CITU (Centre of Indian Trade Unions), said that the public sector employees, unorganised sector workers, port and dock workers, bank and insurance employees are going to observe the nationwide protest against growing economic crisis, price rise and acute unemployment on the call of central trade unions and mass organisations.

The CITU denounced the unilateral move of the government of India to amend the Trade Union Act 1926 in the name of bringing about "so-called transparency" and avoiding "duplication" as noted in the press briefing by the union cabinet. In Manipur, Asha Workers, Anganwadi Workers, Trade Unions and other groups supported the general strike.

"If required, we will leave india and form an independent country": Akhil Gogoi

Courtesy Inside NE
Guwahati, Jan 8,

Speaking at the *Dhikkar Diwas* held to protest the placing of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in front of the Parliament, KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi took to the stage to express his angst at the situation. "I think that today is one of the darkest days in Assam. Compared to the children in other parts of India, people from Assam have no rights", Gogoi said.

Gogoi also mentioned the naked protest in the national capital carried out by seventy protesting organizations.

"Seventy organizations protested the Bill and thirteen Assamese youths stripped naked in protest. It has even been covered by the BBC", he added.

He also stated that the controversial Bill is unconstitutional as it disregards both our 'Right to Equality' and 'Right to Equality before Law' as it discriminates based on religion.

He also called the Bill "unethical and illegal."

The KMSS leader warned that once this Bill is passed, the floodgates will open Hindu-Bangladeshis will open and Assamese people will lose

their identity once our country is flooded by Bangladeshis. He added that since they are yet to receive a response to the protests from the government, only two solutions are left to them.

Gogoi said that the first course of action is to defeat the BJP and RSS and remove them from the political hemisphere of Assam.

Secondly, Gogoi suggested that they would have to go to every village and go to the grassroots level to uproot the rot in Assam by spreading awareness among the people. Gogoi also added that if it is not possible for Assam to get justice under the federal law

of India, Assam will have to seek independence once again.

Gogoi finished by stating the primary slogan of the Assamese should be to ensure defeat of BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Talking about the silence of AGP about the issue, Gogoi said: "AGP have surrendered completely to the Delhi government for money and power. They should come back to Assam and join our struggle." Gogoi also called for unity and inclusivity and called for all the organizations and forces of Assam to save the Assamese "jati" together.

NESO thanks for supporting bandh; says will continue protest

IT News
Imphal, Jan 8,

The North East Students' Organisation (N.E.S.O) an apex body comprising of eight students organizations of the seven North Eastern states expressed gratitude to the people of North Eastern states and all the constituent organizations of NESO for their co-operation in making the North East bandh a total success.

In a press statement signed

by Chairman of NESO Samuel B. Jyrwa and Secretary General of NESO Sinam Prakash, the organization said that even though the bandh have caused inconvenience but for the purpose of highlighting the strong opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 the organisation have no other alternative but to resort to the form of agitation in order to show the unity of the people of North East state.

He added that in spite of the wide protest in North East, the Government of India passed the bill in Lok Sabha showing the disregard attitude to the North East people and claimed that the government did it intentionally to reduce the indigenous people of the North East to a minority in their own land.

Finally the statement added that NESO will keep following up on this issue and will take appropriate decisions regarding the matter and appeal the people to support so as to protect the distinct identity and the future generations.

Sit-in-protest stage against E-Pharmacy

IT News
Imphal, Jan 8

As a nationwide protest against E-Pharmacy, Manipur Chemist and Druggist Association (MCDA) was staged sit-in-protest today at Wahengbam Leikai.

Speaking to media persons President of MCDA Rajkumar Rakesh said that the government should ban and stop the illegal online sales of Pharmaceutical drugs in the interest of the public health. He added that

the practice of online sales of pharmaceutical drugs even without doctor's prescription will have an enormous negative repercussion. E-Pharmacy will surely lead to the increase of drug users since online pharmacies do not have a drug retail licence and they are out of drug Inspection regime prescribed under the drug and cosmetics Act, 1940.

It can be mentioned that a bench of chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao also directed immediate ban on the sale of medicines online.

