

NTC appeals all negotiators to be magnanimous; CFMG-NSCN (I-M) discuss ceasefire rules

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Stating that it had high hope that years of political negotiations between Government of India and Naga negotiators was about to be brought to its logical solution, Nagaland Tribes Council (NTC) appealed to all negotiators to be magnanimous and bold enough to hammer out the positive result without hesitation or delay and within the scheduled time. NTC particularly appealed to the Naga negotiators to contain any amount of irritations at the moment for the sake of paving the way for solution and not to be reactionary as this could boomerang on "us". NTC also reiterated its adopted stand that when land integration was not possible at the moment, "we cannot opt for

population integration". As and when Nagas attained sovereignty and integration, there would be demographic changes, but till then the State of Nagaland would remain as it was rather than Nagaland seizing to exist. This was stated in a press release by NTC president Tonho Yepthomi and general secretary Nribemo Ngullie. Meanwhile, 11-member delegation of the NSCN (I-M) Tuesday held a meeting with the chairman of the Ceasefire Monitoring Group (CFMG) Nagaland, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Shokin Chauhan at the state VIP guest house in Kohima. The meeting that dwelt upon ceasefire monitoring and other ground rules is said to have ended on a 'positive' note, a News18 report stated. "The meeting focused on the ground rules – basically,

ceasefire violations that crop up between NSCN (I-M) and security forces. They were very positive. Except for minor ceasefire violations, they have kept peace," said Chauhan, adding that the IM leadership assured they will try to "reduce ceasefire violations". The two sides also discussed the issue of taxation on trade and commerce in Nagaland, with NSCN (I-M) maintaining that "legitimate taxation" would continue, the report stated. "We had a very healthy discussion. Points were discussed and noted down by both sides. They mentioned about extortion, which is actually legitimate taxation by a legitimate government, and it is of a political nature," said Karibo Chawang, member of the NSCN (I-M) Ceasefire Monitoring Cell.

MPSC Raw : Fate of many youths in dire straight due to erroneous system

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With the case to the alleged irregularities to the selection of candidates being reserved by the Manipur High Court, fate of many youths are in dire straight due to the erroneous system which went unnoticed until 42 MPSC aspirants petitioned to the High Court seeking justice. Any ruling of the double bench of the Manipur High Court will shock either of the two party and it would have been difficult time for Justice Nobin and Justice Shimray. "To be or not to be" the famous quote from Shakespeare's play would have occupied the mind of the two justices. Well, the Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC) had conducted the MCSCCE 2016 Examination for selection to 62 posts of MCS, MPS, SDC, EO. These said posts are the top posts

in state that commands huge respect and corresponding accountability. It is unfortunate that so many controversies have come up in this examination. The findings of the enquiry committee constituted by the order of the Manipur High Court is in public domain and it has concluded that there were indeed irregularities in the conduct of the examination. Huge totaling errors, unevaluated answers, marks being awarded on the front table but not inside the respective answers, marks awarded inside the answer scripts but not on the tabulation column, over attempt questions being awarded marks, absence of examiner's signature, invigilator's signature, supervisor's signature in many answer scripts, no record of handling over of answer scripts to examiners, different signature of same examiner. Alterations of marks without initials, and in some

cases by a totally different signature, tabulation sheet found signing only by the Chairman and no one else, are some of the irregularities mentioned in the enquiry report. In addition to these, there was no Head Examiner, no evaluation guidelines, no Model answer paper as per RTI information. Furthermore as per the submission of MPSC in the High Court, some answer scripts were taken by the then Secretary who knew the code numbers for evaluation outside Manipur. Upon query whether doing so won't disclose the confidentiality, MPSC was not able to produce any document /rule where it was permitted to do so by the Secretary who already knew the code number. It was also confirmed that for Public Administration the evaluation got over only on 03/09/2016 and the final result was declared the very next day in the morning on 04/09/2016. Some examiners evaluated more than 75+ answer scripts in a day. Above

all this, another point worth noting is that the then Chairman was due to retire on 7th November, 2017. Without going into the merits of the allegations, the fact that such illegalities and irregularities took place in the conduct of such a reputed examination call for a serious introspection to find out if there was more than what meet the eyes. MPSC has indeed failed in performing its constitutional duties and accountability should be fixed. Now that final judgment is expected shortly, all eyes are now on Judiciary as to what decision it will deliver. No doubt the case and the judgment will remain a watershed moment in generations to come and everyone starting from youth to old, in unison, is expecting the judgment to help in rooting out corruption and transform Manipur.

Public hearing for construction of new Manipur police HQ held; affected owners not happy

IT News
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Social Impact Assessment Unit, Manipur(Directorate of Environment, Government of Manipur) conducted Public Hearing to seek the feedbacks of the affected persons on acquisition of 10.00 acres of land from 9-Chingmeiiong Nongpok village for finalisation of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report and Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) of the proposed construction of new Manipur Police Headquarter at the conference hall of

Autonomous District Council (ADC) Bhavan, Chingmeiiong as per Section 8 of "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent(Manipur) Rules, 2014". Dr. T. Brajakumar, Deputy Director, Directorate of Environment, Meibon Phaoimei, Corporator of Ward No. 26, Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC); Samuel, President, Paomei Colony Youth Club (PCYC) and Expert Members of State Social Impact Assessment Unit Manipur viz. Prof. E Bjoy, O. Biren Singh, G.A. Jaychandra Sharma, B. B. Sharma and Md. Abdul Salam graced the function as presidium members. Dr T. Brajakumar Singh gave the introductory remarks for conducting Public Hearing. He stated that Social Impact Assessment study is a part of

land acquisition process to study the social, environmental and economic impacts before actual acquisition of a proposed land as per "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013" and "Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent(Manipur) Rules, 2014". In lieu of this, state government constituted an independent body having eminent and well experienced persons from varied fields to conduct Social Impact Assessment study where Directorate of Environment is appointed as the State Social Impact Assessment Unit. He further mentioned that quantitative as well as qualitative data from the concerned stakeholders has been analysing from 25th May

2019. The findings of the study is prepared as draft report of Social Impact Assessment which is placed before the public hearing for their feedbacks and inputs. Local resident of Chingmeiiong who are affected for construction of Police head quarter expressed strong resentment over government decision to acquire land. For the construction of the Police head quarter a total of 20.81 acres of land is required and for that 10 acre of land will be acquired from individuals. Land owners of around 21 people including portion of land belong to a private school will be affected while acquiring the land. Some land owners are not happy with the government idea of acquiring land from the area and questioned the reason for choosing the area as suitable for construction of the Police head Quarter.

Online RTI portal: SC gives 4 weeks more to Centre, states to file replies on the plea

Agency
New Delhi, Oct. 16

The Supreme Court on Monday gave four more weeks to the Centre and 25 states to file responses on a plea seeking directions for setting up online RTI portals, enabling people to apply electronically for the information required instead of filing applications physically. A bench of justices N V Ramana, Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murari expressed displeasure that though the apex court had issued notice to the Centre and states on the petition on August 26, they have not filed their responses yet. The top court, while giving four more weeks for filing responses, made it clear that no further adjournment would be given in the matter. The bench was hearing a PIL,

filed by Delhi-based NGO 'Pravasi Legal Cell', which has said the Right to Information (RTI) Act is a "powerful tool" and its true objective could be achieved only by timely response to citizens' request. The plea said the Centre has established an online RTI portal in which any Indian citizen, including NRIs, can apply for information under the RTI Act with the desired ministry or department. It said the Centre in December 2013 had requested the state governments to explore the feasibility of implementing online RTI in their respective states but only Maharashtra and Delhi have established portals for that. "Online web portal will only help the Indian citizens including the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) by speedy

dissemination of information requested which in turn would only help in achieving the aim of the RTI laws of bringing transparency in administration," it said. "The RTI Act is a powerful tool in the hands of Indian citizens and the true objective of the legislation can be achieved only by timely response to citizens' request for government information which can only be achieved by making the entire application as well as appeal process online," it said. The plea has said in cases of NRIs, the present system of physical RTI applications makes it difficult, inconvenient, costly and attributes long delays in providing the desired information under the Act "which defeats the letter and spirit of the legislation".

Women's body form to fight against drug menace

IT News
Thoubal, Oct. 16

A women body called "Yaifa Thourang Nupi Lup Wanging" was formed yesterday at Wanging in Thoubal district to protect the youths of the state from the menace of drugs. The meeting of the newly formed body had unanimously agreed to prohibits selling of any intoxicating materials that might affect the human health, besides, agreed to organised awareness campaign against the menace of drug. The women body also agreed to support any kind of move by any organization against drugs and substance abusers.

Nazareth to rock the opening day Shirui Lily festival, X-treme band to perform on October 19

IT News
Imphal, Oct 16

The much awaited Shirui Lily Festival was inaugurated today by the Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (Independent Charge), Prahlad Singh Patel at Bakshi ground in Ukhrul is likely to be rocked with the performance of the internationally acclaimed hard rock band Nazareth. MLA Dr. Sapam Ranjan, who is the over all in charge of organizing the festival said that another internationally acclaimed rock band X-treme

is on its way to perform at the festival on October 19. "Love hurts", Nazareth's numbers that won the heart of million people across the globe is what people have been expecting to listen live, even as the band's lead vocalist Dan McCafferty will be replaced by Carl Sentance. The Scottish hard rock veterans Nazareth arrived here in the state yesterday afternoon to perform in the ensuing four-day ShiRock 2019, an annual rock music competition-cum-festival held as part of the Shirui Lily



Festival. The band members are attending the inaugural function of the Shirui

festival. Nazareth – which first gained international fame after their

cover of American songwriter Boudleaux Bryant's number, "Love Hurts", that featured on their sixth studio album, Hair of the Dog – had earlier performed in Mizoram in April 2017, sources said. However, American group X-treme, which was formed in 1985, will make its debut performance in India with the Ukhrul show. In recognition of the importance of the Manipur State Flower, the Shirui Lily Festival, which was upgraded to a State-level event in May 2017, is aimed

at spreading awareness about conservation of the bell-shaped flower and also "to develop and implement sustainable and responsible tourism in the State". It also serves as a platform to promote Ukhrul as a tourist destination of the North East. Live music, cultural shows, beauty pageants, exhibitions, programmes folk songs, traditional dances, and indigenous games and sports competitions will be the highlights of the festival, which will showcase the age-old traditions and culture of the inhabitants of Ukhrul district.