

Centre rejects plea for separate flag, constitution for Nagaland

Courtesy: Monoj Anand
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The Union home ministry has rejected the demand of a separate flag and constitution for Nagaland and has decided to conclude the ongoing peace talks with the Naga rebel groups soon, by the end of this year. Saying that the Naga rebel groups have been insisting on their demand, authoritative security sources told this newspaper that Nagaland's powerful civil society body had asked the armed rebel groups to sign the peace deal even if the Government of India does not agree to a separate flag and constitution for the state. Noting that Naga civil society

was firm in its opinion that a peace agreement between the Naga rebels and the Government of India should be signed at the earliest, security sources said they are of the view that the Naga people may continue to fight democratically for these issues, which could not be accommodated in the ongoing peace talks. Refusing to comment on the frequent statements by the NSCN (I-M) in the media against the peace talks, the sources said that the posturing of the outfit before the media had various internal dynamics. "So far as the demand of a separate flag and constitution for Nagaland is concerned, the stand of the Government of India has also been clarified by Nagaland

governor R.N. Ravi at a congregation of civil society groups on August 16," a source said, adding: "The congregation, which was attended by members and representatives of all civil society groups of Nagaland, was called to felicitate Mr Ravi. In his address to the large gathering of civil society groups and their members, Mr Ravi had noted that the Government of India had not agreed to the demand for a separate flag and constitution." Indicating that the demand for a separate flag and constitution would not delay the peace process, the sources said all the Naga armed rebel groups engaged in the peace talks have also agreed to lay down arms.

Asserting that there will be only one solution to the Naga political problem, the sources said that the "Framework Agreement" signed and sealed on August 3, 2015 between the Centre and NSCN (I-M) had laid down the roadmap for the ongoing peace talks, which were now almost in the final stage. NSCN (I-M) general secretary Muivah in a statement has also welcomed all stakeholders to be a part of the peace process. The outfit called on all rebel groups to resolve their differences and seize the opportunity in finding a solution. The security sources also said the NSCN (I-M) leadership had often claimed that their statements had been blown out of proportion by the media.

The 3rd State Level Youth Convention 2019 cum Cultural Meet held at Raj Bhavan

DIPR
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The 3rd (Third) State Level Youth Convention 2019 cum Cultural Meet organized by Service Bridge Agency was held today at Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Imphal with a theme 'Be the voice of New India'. Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest, Governor Dr Najma Heptulla said that Manipur is a beautiful State with different indigenous tribes living in peaceful co-existence, tolerant attitude and unique hospitality. Hence, it is significant and appropriate that this Youth Convention is organized with an objective of youth empowerment, to encourage the young people and giving them information, guidance or resources they need in order to take charge of their own lives and make healthier decisions. She stated that this Convention will take concrete decisions for the socio-economic development for the State. The Governor also reminded the gathering that at the turn of the century, morals among the youth started crumbling which affects personal life as well as society. The signs of development were seen everywhere in the pursuit of healthcare, in infrastructure science, education, energy and agriculture. As people and society prospered and as materialism took centre-stage, the values and morals came under severe onslaught from consumerism and globalization. She stated that India is considered the youngest nation with the world's maximum number of youth, about 34% of the total population of the country. This 34% is enormous human resources and constitutes for the country's future. If we can harness this powerhouse in the right direction, then the

country can reach the lofty heights. Youth today is a major resource for not only development of financial prosperity but for social changes as well. However, despite holding such importance, their energy is still not being channelized in the right direction. She appreciated the organizer of the 3rd State Level Youth Convention for doing a commendable job in uniting the youth of different parts of the State on a single platform. Such Convention should also be organized in different parts of the State, spreading the right message and infusing the right spirit, the spirit of love, peace, compassion, hard work and commitment in youth and their pivotal role in socio-economic development of the State. Youth empowerment can catalyze major social developments like poverty eradication, good education standard, good governance and crime reduction which will reduce the rate of poverty to a significant level. Similarly, empowered youth can understand the importance of education that leads to social improvement of the country by rejecting the status quo and pave the path for better governance and also a skill to sustain a livelihood as well as preventing him from doing crime. She further mentioned about the ill effects of drug addiction among the youth and the impact of drug use in communities and the sheer desperation of parents to rescue their children from drug menace. Unfortunately, the State is substantially affected by drug trafficking and its concomitant issues. Due to unemployment and poverty, Ganja and poppy are widely cultivated, she added. Expressing grave concern over the scale of drug menace in the state, the Governor said

she had taken an initiative for the State Government to co-host with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for South Asia a 2-day Regional International Conference-cum-Meeting on the theme, 'Comprehensive Approach to combating illicit trafficking of Afghan Opiates and Drug Situation in the North East' at Raj Bhavan, Imphal on 30 September - 01 October, 2019. Representatives from 6 South Asian countries and 7 States of the NE will congregate to hold brain storming deliberations on issues relating to drug trafficking and drug abuse. She also encourages the youths to stand up against the scourge of drug abuse, which is detrimental to the prospects of young generation. She expressed her confidence that if youth abstain from all these bad habits, they will be able to surely shoulder the important responsibility for socio-economic development of the State and the country as a whole. As a part of the Convention, Technical sessions and discussions were held. Prof. Dr. R.K. Lenin Dept. of Psychiatry RIMS Hospital gave a speech on the topic "Internet Addiction & its impact in our Health", Dr. Lucy Duidang Jt. Director (CST) Manipur State AIDS Control Society gave a speech on the topic "Know your status and get Treated", Prof. MC Arun, Manipur University gave a speech on the topic "Drug Problems and Need of a State Drug Policy" and Dr. Ibomcha, SP, Thoubal Police gave a speech on the topic "Cyber Crime an uses of Mobile Phone". Minister Karam Shyam, attended the Convention as President. And numbers of student from different schools also attended the Convocation.

'Police to launch mass drive against liquor'

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Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has said that Manipur Police will launch a mass drive against illegal sale of liquor and unlawful manufacture of spurious liquor in the State. He made the statement while addressing a press conference held at Chief Minister's Secretariat on the backdrop of busting manufacturing units of spurious liquor by police in the past few months. The Chief Minister said that local liquor is being produced by some section of people as a part of their customary practice. However, this practice is uncontrollably turning into commercial exercise, which leads to adulteration and large scale production of liquor in the recent past, he added. As such, there is urgent need for formulating a concrete policy in consultation with experts to check rampant sale and production of liquor hazardous to consume in the State, he opined while seeking



support and co-operation from the masses in this regard. N. Biren Singh also urged the CSOs to suggest the Government on the possible measures which can be taken up at this juncture as complete check on manufacture of local liquor is not possible in the State due to customary obligation. Even as the Government is deeply concerned about widespread sale of adulterated local liquor across the State,

the Chief Minister said, detection of IMFL manufacturing units one after another has become another big worry. Stating that spurious and adulterated liquor causes different serious ailments, the Chief Minister asked all those involved in the business to stop such harmful practice, which may take human lives, immediately. Chief Secretary Dr. J. Suresh Babu and DGP Shri L.M. Khaute were also present at

the press conference. Items seized from a spurious liquor manufacturing unit located at Thoubal Athokpam, which was busted yesterday by Thoubal Police, were displayed before the media at the press conference. It may be mentioned that Thoubal Police had also earlier busted spurious liquor manufacturing units at Khongjom Bazaar on March 11, 2019 and Thoubal Athokpam on March 4, 2019.

CRPF distributes Water Storage Tank to marginalized peoples of Mongsangei area

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109 BN CRPF under the aegis of IGP Manipur and Nagaland sector conducted a civic action programme on 13th Sept 2019 at Mongsangei area. In this programme water storage tanks were distributed to the marginalized peoples of Mongsangei area. This programme was held with an objective to extend a friendly and helping hand to the villagers. R.K. Taruni Devi, President District Council, Imphal West, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and distributed water storage tanks to the marginalized peoples of Mongsangei Arubam Leiki,

Konjeng Leikei, Langthabal Mantrikhong, Mongsangei Matai Leikei and Mongsangei Makha Leikei in presence of dignitaries of local administration and Village Headman. Commandant Vinod Kumar, Deputy Commandant Vinod Sawant, Deputy Commandant Alok Ranjan organized the programme in befitting manner with an aim to connect the people. A cultural program was also organized on this occasion. In his speech, Vinod Kumar, Commandant 109 BN thanked the Chief Guest R.K. Taruni Devi and A.K. Singh, Guest of Honour for extending CRPF an opportunity to serve them and urged the local administration to fulfil the

needs of the local people. Vinod Kumar, Commandant 109 BN expressed his happiness in getting this opportunity to fulfil the longstanding need of villagers of Mongsangei area. He stated that unit will continue to serve the people of Manipur by carrying such humanitarian activities. He draw the attention of villagers by mentioning that fresh water sources are becoming scarce with the passage of time. He further emphasised that considering the current climatic condition, preventive measures are required to be taken. Rainwater harvesting is a sustainable process that helps in preserving rainwater for different purposes and for

the future needs as well. It is a method of collecting and storing rain water to be used for various purposes. In past, 109 BN CRPF has distributed walking stick, wheel chair, walker and hearing aid to All Manipur handicapped School and Old Age Home of the locality. 109 BN has constructed one passenger shed at Karong, Senapati and has carried many such civic action programme in last couple of years in Imphal west and Senapati Dist. Village president of various villages and distinguished guests present on the occasion praised the concern of the unit Commandant for its virtuous affiliation.

Foundation stone laid for the first museum of tribal freedom fighters at Makhel Village in Senapati

IT News
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The foundation stone for the first tribal freedom fighters' museum was laid today at Makhel by Minister of Tribal Affairs & Hills N. Kayisii. Speaking as the Chief Guest N. Kayisii said that the spot selected for the museum is very thoughtful and added that Makhel is a place where the Nagas believed that the progeny of the Naga started from the place and was later spread far and wide. He appreciated the people of Makhel for donating the large area of land which is about 23.6 Acres for the project. Stating that the museum is for the people of Manipur, Kayisii urge to make the museum an

important tourist spot of Manipur. PHED Minister Dikho said that as the place for the museum site is historically important, he added that it will bring unity, integrity among the different communities and tribes. Dikho continued that the project will have a great impact to the people of the land. Speaking on the sidelines of the foundation laying ceremony Directorate of Tribal Affairs and Hills C. Arthur Worchuiyo stressed that the project 'Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum was sponsored by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and was approved in the month of February 2019. With a total estimated cost of around Rs. 15 Crores for the

project, the Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museum in Makhel is the only museum of such kind in the North East and 7 others were already approved for the entire India till now. He added that the expert committee will visit different places to learn about the various narratives of the tribal freedom fighters especially in the context of British agitation. The foundation stone laying function was attended by Chief Secretary of Tribal Affairs and Hills Lektogon Haokip. Deputy Commissioner of Senapati Somorjit Salam as the dais members among others. Later four community halls at Makhel Khuman Village were also inaugurated by N. Kayisii.