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'Communal BJP' and 'corrupted NPF': Congress fires double-barrelled salvo

Our Correspondent Kohima, Sep. 8 (EMN): Kicking off its campaign for the 2018 state general election, the Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) Thursday held a public meeting at Congress Bhavan, Kohima, attended by a host of NPCC leaders and party members. Addressing the gathering, NPCC president, K Therie observed that Nagaland was under threat from communal forces led by the BJP, and that the Congress would go all out to 'wipe out BJP from the soil of Nagaland.'

Stating that the BJP was a political wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) – whose ideologies were solely for Hindutva – Therie termed it as a 'threat' to the Christian communities across the country if BJP keeps on propagating Hindutva ideologies.

"It is one of our major endeavours to remove the RSS ideologies and communalism from the soil of Nagaland. And this includes the political wings of BJP," he said, maintaining that "Article 371 (A), which safeguard and protect the rights and interests of the Nagas, is also at threat un-



NPCC President, K Therie speaking at the public meeting at Congress Bhavan, Kohima on September 8.

der the rule of the BJP government." "Today, we are under threat from a uniform civil code. Our churches got damaged, while we are asked to worship cows and idols," he said, adding that "BJP MPs have declared war against Christianity."

"Despite the threats to the Christian community, our regional political parties are harping them (BJP) just for political gain," Therie observed adding that "the only way to send a

strong message to the people is to remove BJP and its alliance from Nagaland."

Commenting on the ongoing political impasse between the NPF legislators, he termed it as a trap set by the BJP in Delhi. "The BJP have plans to establish a Hindu Raj. This is a trap and they have arrived to play. And to do this, they will shower money to gain votes," he stated.

Voicing against the 'misrule and mis-governance' during the 15 years

NPF-led DAN government, he said it was time for Nagas to wake up for change.

On the decades-long Naga political issue, Therie said his party would welcome and abide by any solution that is honourable. Expressing hope that the Congress would return to power in the next election, he said the party would reach out to the people, to all villages, districts and every nook and corner of the state against the 'misrule and mis-governance' during the last 15 years of the NPF-led DAN government.

To this, he also appealed all the voters of Nagaland to support political parties by understanding the election manifestoes.

"Verbal commitments can disappear anytime. So do not depend on that, but depend on election manifestoes," he said maintaining.

Former Minister and CLP leader, I Imkong also hit out at the Modi government for its communal policies and ideologies against the Christian community across the country. "We are against Muslim fundamentalism, but we are equally against Hindu fundamentalism," Imkong said adding that "we can-

Old political hands' attempt at 'relevance' gives Nagaland Reformation Party

Staff Reporter Dimapur, Sep. 8 (EMN): Seeking 'relevance', the Nagaland Congress party – formed in June last year by some former members of the Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee – on Friday changed its name to Nagaland Reformation Party (NRP).

The word 'reformation', according to Z Lohe, NRP treasurer and one of its chief architects, has become 'most relevant' in Nagaland today – thus the decision to

rename the party. According to him, the 'chaos' in Nagaland today was in dire need of 'replenishment.'

Lohe said that the issues brought to public domain by the NRP recently were not mere propaganda but 'realities of our times,' understanding this need to 'replenish' Naga society, he said, the NRP has been named thus.

The function to rechristen the party was held at Tourist Lodge, Dimapur. NRP president, Nillo Reng-

ma reminded the gathering that the party was formed to fight for corruption, and stand for transparent governance, equal opportunities for all, clean electoral process and to protect the "traditional and constitutional rights" of the people of Nagaland.

The turnout of what was printed as the 'official session of central council' of the party was quite disappointing. Hardly 30-40 party members attended the meeting.

Broom Service



Students of Livingstone Higher Secondary School are seen cleaning the streets of downtown Dimapur early Friday morning. (Report in page 5)

Students and patients not exempt from 'bandh', says auto drivers' union

Dimapur, Sep. 8 (EMN): The Dimapur Autorickshaw Drivers' Union (DDADU) on Friday informed that its proposed strike to remain off Dimapur roads on September 11 next would commence from 5 am onwards.

Even autorickshaws on "school duty" as well as those transporting "patient/patients" were not exempt from the purview of the strike, it informed. The union has requested members of the public to understand the problems' while expressing regret for the inconvenience.

NSCN (IM) 'kilonser' accused of beating up Phek youth

Dimapur, Sep. 8 (EMN): The Phek Town Youth Society (PTYS) has accused a top functionary of the NSCN (IM) of beating up a trader and threatening "the life" of another person in Phek town on Thursday last.

A press release from the PTYS on Friday stated that the accused NSCN (IM) leader, Thupuvezo Keyho, a 'kilonser' and also a member of the outfit's steering committee member, beat up the trader and threatened another "in a drunken state".

According to the statement, he was accompanied by one Kishore Singh when the incident happened. "It may be mentioned that both the culprits are habitual offenders (sic) of Phek Town for the past years in spite of their assurance (sic) to refrain from indulging in the anti-social activities.

"The public of Phek Town condemned the unbecoming action

meted out by a person in the rank of a kilonser. The public resolved that such action will not be tolerated by anybody and further asked the NPGs to refrain from enrolling the ill behaved (sic) people into their fray."

It also warned that if Keyho were to be found indulging in similar activities in the future, the public of Phek town would "levy the stringent action upon him."

"In connection to this, the public of Phek Town have filed an FIR against the culprit at police station Phek. It further requests the concern authority (sic) to deliver an appropriate judgment to the culprit."

Furthermore, the public warns the NPGs who had been collecting cow taxes (sic) from the dairy farmers or any other taxes from the public. It warns that anybody failing to abide by the resolution will be doing so at their own risk."

NE flash flood: Modi announces Rs 100 cr.

Our Correspondent Imphal, Sep. 8 (EMN): Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has announced Rs. 100 crore exclusively for conduct of 'a comprehensive study and action plan to check frequent flash floods' in north eastern states.

This was announced by the Chief Minister of Manipur, Nongthombam Biren Singh in Imphal on Friday. "The study will cover all the flood affected states of the NE region. We may also invite experts from abroad," said Singh.

This issue was discussed 'seriously' during the recent meeting of North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), he informed.

(Full report in page 4)

The winds and the waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators.

Edward Gibbon

Mirror Takes



There'll be no income from Monday onwards, so you can just pay whatever you want generously.

WEATHER TEMPERATURE	
KOHIMA	Max: 25° Min: 18°
DIMAPUR	31° 25°
KOHIMA	RF: 5mm RH: 92%
DIMAPUR	1mm 94%
* Rainfall (RF) * Relative humidity (RH) Temperature in State Capitals	
Atzawl	25° 20° Itanagar
Agartala	31° 25° Shillong
Gangtok	26° 17° Delhi
Guwahati	31° 24° Kolkata
Imphal	27° 20° Chennai

Civil service aspirants accuse NPSC members of bias

Dimapur, Sep. 8 (EMN): The Public Service Aspirants of Nagaland (PSAN) has accused members of Nagaland Public Service Commission (NPSC) of indulging in 'overwhelming manipulation and malpractice' during viva-voce phase of the state's annual competitive examination.

In a press statement issued today, the PSAN stated that "RTI replies" had shown cases of "many candidates scoring less than their fellow candidates in mains exams being unethically awarded generous marks and thereby, securing better posts while those who scored better marks in mains exam were whitewashed off (sic) their NCS and NPS dreams by NPSC interview board members by awarding unreasonably low marks."

"There were miles of differences in awarding marks to the candidates. While some candidates scored as high as 74.12 out of 75, some scored as low as 29 out of the same total mark. In particular, the candidate who scored 5th highest mark in mains exam (404) was awarded only 32 marks out of 75, thereby denying him of his deserving NCS/NPS post."

"There were also discrepancies in the 2015 NPSC (non-technical) examination result. Some general category candidates whose mark was lower than BT candidates still managed for selection while others, in spite of their mark lower than grade-I posts got selected in grade-I post," it informed.

As such, the PSAN has placed the following demands:

- Minimize the viva marks from

the current 75 to 50.

- Set minimum and maximum benchmarks of awarding marks to candidates in viva-voce.
- Appoint retired IAS and NCS officials or professors as NPSC members.
- Immediately stop rampant appointment of politicians and bureaucrats as NPSC members.
- Declaration of marks for both mains and viva on the day of final result declaration, in line with UPSC.
- The mains marks should be kept out of NPSC members' knowledge so as to ward off any chance of manipulation by the NPSC members.

"The PSAN has also taken seriously note of the practice of 'favouritism' by NPSC members. It may be mentioned that the average marks of candidates who belong to the same tribe as that of NPSC members are much higher than of those whose tribes are not NPSC members. Further, on an average, the candidates who scored above 70 (out of 75) were also much higher among candidates who have their people from their tribe as NPSC members."

"The PSAN would like to remind that NPSC is not a private firm and that the viva-voce was supposed to be a "personality test" and not "whitewash brush" for the NPSC members. The NPSC members should resign on moral grounds if he/she does not adhere to interview norms or is unworthy of sitting in the chair," it stated.

32 killed as 'strongest quake in century' rocks Mexico



A man removes debris from a collapsed building felled by a massive earthquake, in Juchitan, Oaxaca state, Mexico, Friday.

Mexico City, Sep. 8 (IANS): At 32 people were killed as Mexico was hit by the most powerful earthquake in a century that struck off the nation's Pacific Coast late on Thursday, rattling millions of residents with its violent tremors and triggering a series of tsunami waves.

The quake hit offshore in the Pacific at 11.49 p.m. (0449 GMT), about 100 kilometres from the coastal town of Tonala, in far southern Chiapas state, Mexico's seismologic service said. A tsunami warning was issued for Mexico, with three-metre-high waves possible, and other nearby countries.

The epicentre of the earth-

quakes blaring over loudspeakers and a full minute of tremors.

Windows broke, walls collapsed, and the city seemed to convulse in terrifying waves. The quake even rocked the city's landmark Angel of Independence monument. The effects in the southern states of Chiapas and Oaxaca were probably more severe.

Alejandro Murat, the Governor of Oaxaca, told the Televisa network that at least 23 people had died in the state, and local officials said residents were buried under the rubble of buildings. Luis Manuel García Moreno, the secretary of civil defence for the state of Chiapas, said the toll there had risen to seven, and two children died in the state of Tabasco, one when a wall collapsed, the other after a respirator lost power in a hospital.

The effects were also felt in Guatemala, where at least one person died and homes along the border with Mexico were levelled. Many people sustained injuries in the 7.3 magnitude quake that hit the country just hours after the one in Mexico.

Schools in at least 10 Mexican states were ordered closed on Friday as

the President ordered an immediate assessment of the damage nationwide. In the hours after the quake, the National Seismological Service registered several aftershocks.

"We are assessing the damage, which will probably take hours, if not days," said Nieto, who addressed the nation just two hours after the quake. "But the population is safe over all. There should not be a major sense of panic."

Mexico is situated near several boundaries where portions of the earth's crust collide. The quake was more powerful than the one that killed nearly 10,000 people in 1985.

Mexican authorities alerted the coastal states of Oaxaca and Chiapas of the possibility of destructive waves of higher than 13 feet.

The US Tsunami Warning System said hazardous tsunami waves were possible on the Pacific coasts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and Honduras within three hours.

The quake comes a few days before the anniversary of the earthquake of September 19, 1985, that killed over 40,000 people in Mexico City.