

**NORTH EAST
NEWS BULLETIN
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HEADLINES

- More than 1,000 Naga rebels arrested by security forces since banned NSCN-K attacked an Army convoy and killed 18 soldiers in Manipur two years ago.
- Improvised explosive device recovered by police from village in Imphal West district.
- Having failed to pay salary to its nearly 2,300 employees for the last one year, North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council planning voluntary retirement for around 1,000 staff.
- As part of annual commemoration of the 77th Death Anniversary of Khasi poet U Soso Tham, a team of youth staging musical drama called “Na Shata Dar” in Shillong.
- Two-day cultural extravaganza being organised in Assam's Dima Hasao hill district.
- Two-day *Dimchrang* Winter Festival – “A *Rendevouz with Culture*” at Ampati in South West Garo Hills concludes.
- State level ex-servicemen rally in Manipur organised by army to honour veteran soldiers.

MILITANT:

More than 1,000 Naga rebels were arrested by security forces since the banned NSCN-K attacked an Army convoy and killed 18 soldiers in Manipur two years ago. Officials said as many as 531 underground cadres of NSCN-K and 542 over-ground workers were arrested in Manipur and Nagaland following intensive operations. The operations are continuing even now and security forces have been able to restrict the NSCN-K's movement to a great extent, a home ministry official said. During the last two years, the security forces also killed 34 NSCN-K militants and recovered 571 sophisticated arms.

IED:

An improvised explosive device was recovered by police from a village in Imphal West district yesterday. The local people found it at a spot near Konthoujam and Lainam village under Patsoi Police Station. They immediately informed the police. A combined team of police and army personnel rushed to the area and cordoned the place and safely removed the IED and took it for disposal.

EMPLOYEE:

Having failed to pay salary to its nearly 2,300 employees for the last one year, the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council is planning voluntary retirement for around 1,000 staff. The Council has sent a 200 crore rupees proposal to the Assam government for approval. The North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, which controls almost all departments in the Dima Hasao district, has not paid any salary to its employees since November 2016. NC Hills Autonomous Council Employees' Union and activists have alleged massive corruption and leakage of funds. The council, however, has blamed huge non-required hiring by earlier governments for the current situation.

ANNIVERSARY:

As a part of the annual commemoration of the 77th Death Anniversary of the Khasi poet laureate and philosopher U Soso Tham, a team of young individuals – “Ki Mawshamok” is staging a short rendition in the form of a musical drama called “Na Shata Dar”. This play exhibits the first major element of his works portraying the beginning of his journey as an author revered widely among ‘U Hynniewtrep Hynniewskum’. This musical play will take place at ‘U Soso Tham Auditorium at the State Central Library in Shillong today. U Soso Tham is basically remembered for his beautiful poems. His “Ka Duitara Kshiar” (The Golden Harp, 1925) – a compilation of poems, is one of his most distinguished works.

FESTIVAL:

A two-day cultural extravaganza is being organised in Assam's Dima Hasao hill district, where one can enjoy song and dance by local residents after savouring the amazing Dimasa delicacies along with rice brew. The 'Judima Festival' at Haflong will also showcase the scenic beauty of the hill district, home to flora and fauna and breathtaking waterfalls. The festival will be held on December 28th and 29th. A unity bike rally for brotherhood and peace, Barail hill night trekking, heritage trek along a 19-kilometer strip of an abandoned metre-gauge railway track are part of the festival. The festival is named after 'Judima', the traditional rice brew of the Dimasa community. The festival aims to initiate the idea of an alternative livelihood for the local brewers and tourism among the ethnic groups residing in the district.

FESTIVAL-WINTER:

The two-day *Dimchrang* Winter Festival – “A *Rendevouz with Culture*” at Ampati in South West Garo Hills concluded on a high note with a rock concert by various bands from Garo Hills on Saturday night. Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma also shared the stage with the Indian Idol fame Amit Paul. The Chief Minister said that the scheme to have such winter festivals in every district was conceptualized for the benefit of the youth to provide them a platform to showcase and promote their talents.

RALLY:

The first ever state level ex-servicemen rally in Manipur was organised by the army yesterday to honour the veteran soldiers of the state and their respective families. The rally was held at the Leimakhong Military Station in Imphal West district. Veteran soldiers, widows of martyred soldiers and their dependents were given warm reception and felicitated with presentations. They were guided about the various facilities that can be availed from various departments. An agency report said that Manipur has the highest per capita officer cadre in the country.
