

36-Hour 'Path Bandh'

Programme From Today

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By A Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Dec. 30—

The 36-hour "Path Bandh" called by the All Assam Students' Union and the All Assam 'Jana Sangram Parishad' will start tomorrow at 5 a.m., as the second phase of their current month long agitation on the foreigners issue.

The programme covering all forms of road and water transport will also bring under its purview the rail services during the last twelve hours of the 'Path Bandh' which concludes at 5 p.m. on the New Year's Day.

All forms of vehicles including State Transport buses, private buses, automobiles, rickshaws, thelas, bicycles have been asked to remain off the roads during the programme. The ferries and private boats also have been asked not to operate during the 36-hour of the Bandh.

The sponsors of the movement have appealed to the people of Assam to work for the success of the programme. They have also appealed to the drivers of the Government and private vehicles not to drive any vehicle tomorrow and the day after.

A similar appeal have been made to the owners of vehicles to keep their vehicles off the roads during the 'Path Bandh'

EXEMPTIONS

The sponsors have announced the following exemptions vehicles connected with the essential services like medical, milk-supply, water-supply, fire-services, newspaper, maintenance vehicles of ASEB Police, CRPF and also vehicles engaged in law and order duty.

The sponsors have also exempted a limited number of vehicles carrying Sikh people with religious flags to enable them to celebrate the anniversary of Guru Govind Singh. The Indian Airlines coaches have also been exempted.

The All Guwahati Students' Union, in a statement said the Christians have been given exemption to use vehicles to attend Church-services from 9-30 p.m. tomorrow, December 31 to 3 a.m. of January 1 and 6-30 a.m. to 11 a.m. of January 1.

GOVT. MEASURES

Meanwhile, the Government deployed all available forces and taken precautionary measures to maintain the road and rail communications. Steps have also been taken to keep the National Highways and other important roads free from any obstructions.

The Army was alerted yesterday to come to the aid of the civil authorities in any eventualities during the 36-hour programme.

An official Press release said, steps have been taken to run the Assam State Transport buses in convoys under police escort in the Guwahati-Dhemaji, Guwahati-Tinsukia, Guwahati - Shillong - Silchar, Guwahati-Mancachar and Guwahati-Dhubri routes. Private vehicles desiring to join the convoy may contact the nearest police station, the release added.

Several organisation have extended their support to the 'Path Bandh' programme.

In a statement, the co-ordination committee of all the Karmachari Parishads in Assam while extending full support to the month-long agitational programme of AASU and AAGSP called upon all employees, workers, teachers and officers to guard against the disruptive and anti-social elements that may try to create disunity and disorder.

The Sadou Asam Japajati Mahila Santha has also extended support to the programme.

PTI adds: Armed escorts would also be provided in all trains and, if necessary, in the ferry services.

Sri Ramesh Chandra, the Chief Secretary to the Assam Government said some arrests had been made in the district as precautionary measure.

Apart from "field pickets", the security forces would be in constant patrol duty on the National Highways and all important roads.

The Assam Tribune, 31/Dec/1981