

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Smart city needs smart people

A couple of days back Chief town planner Mr. Gitchandra was talking about the concept of Smart city in a local TV Channel. Amongst the many things discussed - one particular idea, that we understand about Smart City is making the people smart to improve their standard of living.

For making the people smart it is indeed essential, a prerequisite rather, to provide 24*7 power supplies to all the people throughout the state- a common knowledge for all the people of the state that without regular and proper electric power supply people living on small business and entrepreneurship cannot march ahead, no less the grand plans, schemes and ideas being presented by the government for the welfare and benefit of the people. In this age of computer technology where the world has become a global village, without proper electricity people will be left isolated from the rest of the world as internet and mobile technology is entirely dependent on electric power supply.

Around 2013, when Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh felt the need for providing of 24*7 power supplies in the state, he blamed the people for not clearing their overdue bills, and finding a way to collect revenue from the power consumers was not an easy task for him as it would also affect his party's, as well as his personal political venture.

Thanks to whom ever bureaucrats who advised him to convert the failed state power department into a corporation, his commitment to provide 24*7 power supply to the people of the state is slowly yet steadily inching towards realization. At least for those living in Imphal, people are having no problems with power supply. They have been made avail of round-the-clock power supply almost daily with negligible power cuts as long as they keep charging the balance of their prepaid meters.

Having said so, it is still a big concern for all the people on whether the regular power supply being provided in Imphal area is being utilized properly or not. Reports about defaulters being fined for illegal or unauthorised connections, power thefts and tampering with the electric line either by bypassing or tapping the meter continue to appear in the media on a daily basis. This clearly shows the uncouth and depraved mentality of our own people. Some among the people who really do not understand about the benefit of getting regular power supply are indeed trying to sabotage the state government's efforts to make people smart so that they can meet the growing challenges posed by the invading technologies for improving the quality of life.

The urgent need of the moment is to utilize local volunteers to spread awareness and understanding of what the authority has been incessantly pursuing to make available nonstop power supply to all the people. For that, elected representatives-MLAs, Gram Panchayat members, Pradhans and even the local club officials and members of every locality or community need to sensitize the people.

It is common knowledge that the electricity that we are using is being bought by the Manipur State Power department (MSPDCL) and is being distributed to the consumer of the state at subsidized rate. For Imphal area the MSPDCL reportedly spend over rupees 10 crores in buying electricity but is successful in collecting only half of the amount.

A humble suggestion for those government authority entrusted with making Imphal a smart city: it should start mobilizing the public towards the need for authentic and authorized electricity connection to all the people living in Imphal to begin with.

Wanted Sub-Editor

Imphal Times is looking for an experience sub editor with excellent writing skill in English who can read Bengali written script. Working hour is 12 noon till 3 pm. Honorarium is Rs. 3000 p.m. Preference will be given to candidate who had already work in English daily as desk editor. Age no bar, and Imphal Times have no problem with those candidates working in other newspaper at night shift.

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How Smart Will Imphal Smart City Be?

In this era of science and technology, we have reached the moon, we are planning to live on the Mars and everyone has a desire to develop. Then the big question is, "how can we make it possible"?

We need a vision, which must identify the potential risks and bottlenecks and their possible solutions in order to mobilize efforts in a focused manner. It is neither a prediction of what will actually occur, nor simply wish-lists of desirable but unattainable ends. It is a testimonial of what we believe is possible for Manipur to achieve, by fully mobilizing all the available resources like - human, technological and natural resources. Our effective strategies should focus on fully utilizing the man, material, technological and natural resources that we possess—in the most rapid, efficient, organize and sustainable manner.

Every Nation or State, therefore, needs a vision, which should stir the imaginations and motivates its people to greater efforts. The denizens of Manipur should also share visions of prosperous Manipur, visions of winners, visions of leaders. Here, a vision is not just a public speech, conference proceeding, project report or a plan target—it is an articulation of the desired end results in broader terms.

Clearly, Imphal Municipal Council (IMC) has been experiencing the growth, parallel to some other cities of India. The contributions of Manipur to the World and India are already written in the golden book, because of which, today, we are known to many as, "Power House of Sports", "Land of Polo", "Land of Dancing Deer", "Land of Siroi Lily", "Land of Juko Lily", "Land of Loktak Lake", "Land of Women Markets" etc. These will clearly provoke our thoughts that,

"How smart will Imphal Smart City (ISC) be?"

To answer the above question, we need to have focused objectives, such as: To identifies and apply appropriate technological advancement and conservation principles for the betterment of the ISC urban infrastructures and food security by protecting the natural environment. To pioneer in developing a new ISC, rather than to copy or follow others. To commit in disseminating indigenous knowledge and cultures at local, national and international levels. To show-case our indigenous products all over the world through entrepreneurship. To target better economic performances of the ISC. The ISC should also have the goals for food security, sustainable livelihoods, poverty alleviation, quality educations and jobs creations by mitigating the negative impacts on various factors and by sustainably utilizing the available resources. Nonetheless, ISC will have many challenges to meet. Some of them are: Competition—no doubt Imphal City is supplemented by picturesque surroundings, still it has many growing challenges from various factors such as inter cities competitions, migrations and immigrations, environmental degradations, wastes problems, lack of proper infrastructures, pollutions, energy inefficiency etc. Health—lack of preventive, curative or palliative pharmaceutical or medical facilities to treat pandemic diseases. Urban Economy—lack of participation in building a strong financial capital of the State. Urban Safety—no Zero Accident City. Food Security—no proper facilities for processing and preservation of food grains, vegetables and fruits. Environment—no proper sustainable environmental

conservations and tackling the major issues in a holistic approach. To meet the above challenges, ISC needs to plan itself. The plans should be systematically identified and evaluated by competent authorities of IMC, so that it can be implemented by giving utmost importance.

All over the world, urban and peri-urban agriculture is contributing to employment opportunities and income generations of households, operating as individuals and organized as micro and small enterprise operators, cooperatives and investors. It has also become an area of investment opportunity. Producers are able to satisfy their food need and supply the market with agricultural products mainly grains, crops, vegetables, poultry, milk, livestock, fruits, honey, tree crops etc.

In this scenario, the utilizations of wastewater and biodegradable solid wastes have high potential for reuse in agriculture; an opportunity for increasing food and environmental security, avoiding direct pollution of rivers, canals and surface water, conserving water and nutrients, conserving lands and landscapes. Thereby, reducing the need for chemical fertilizer and disposing of municipal solid wastes and wastewater in a low-cost sanitary way. The WHO's international guidelines on wastewater reuse in agriculture and aqua-culture and recommendations of wastewater treatments are considered by many governments as the legal framework. Roughly, 10% of the world's urban wastewater is currently being used for irrigation. However, industrial wastes, such as heavy metals, acids and derivatives of plastics, and organic and inorganic components of human wastes—

Khwairakpam Gajananda (PhD), Associate Professor, Center for Environmental Sciences, CNS, Addis Ababa University, P.O. Box. 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. E-mail: gaikh@yahoo.com

pose serious health and environmental threats. Prolong contacts of solid wastes and wastewater poses numbers of health and environmental risks for users and communities.

Therefore, the preparations for growth and growth plan for ISC should be, to develop capabilities to meet the challenging demand for urban populations, industries and environment. Diversification of ISC into the emerging areas, in line with the changing trends of the World and the advancement of the infrastructures and technologies is required. There should be focus on the expansion of ISC activities with increase in workforces and infrastructures. IMC should also tap the potential Human Resources. Incorporate the improvements of the human life styles, health, environment, and mitigation of the urban poor. All these can be achieved through; improvement of work cultures, infrastructures, technologies, quality educations and health facilities.

Finally, realizing the ISC goals should not be an end in itself, but rather an essential condition for allowing the spirit of Manipur to emerge and flourish. The fresh minds and young Manipuri's have immense potentials and ideas within them—that we just need a push. It is a joint responsibility of all of us present today in Manipur, and also for the future generations who will lead tomorrow, to continue the pace of developments by leaps and bounds to fulfill the visions of our Imphal Smart City.

National & International News

Man Dies after falling from Mumbai Train, 2nd instance in a week

PTI Mumbai, Dec. 2: A 32-year-old man died after allegedly falling from a suburban Mumbai train, a day after Union Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu ordered formation of a committee to suggest steps to stop such incidents. The mishap occurred this afternoon when Naresh Mahadu Patil, a Khopoli resident, was travelling in a Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus-bound train, an official attached with Thane railway

police said. "In between Kalwa and Thane stations, he slipped from the train and fell down and received severe wounds. He was rushed to the Thane government civil hospital by the co-passengers but the doctors at the hospital declared him brought dead," he said. A case of accidental death has been registered in this connection, the Railway police said. This is second such incident in one week. On November 27, a 21-

year-old man from Dombivli, Bhavesh Nakhate had died after falling from a moving suburban local train in Thane district. The video of the incident had gone viral on social media. "(Suresh) Prabhu has directed immediate constitution of a committee consisting of representative of Railways, Maharashtra government, Mumbai Commuters Association and NGOs working in the area. The committee shall also hold public hearings and

submit its recommendations within a month," Western Railway had said in a statement yesterday. Meanwhile, two Shiv Sena lawmakers from the district - Rajan Vichare and Shrikant Shinde - met Mr Prabhu in New Delhi today and gave him suggestions, including introduction of self closing doors in the trains, running of additional 15 coach rakes and increasing of the height of the platforms.

Pak hangs 4 Peshawar school attack terrorists

Karachi, Dec. 02: Pakistan has hanged four terrorists who were involved in Peshawar's Army Public School attack that killed 144 people on December 16 last year. According to the Dawn, they were hanged at the Kohat Central Jail on Wednesday. The execution comes as the country prepares to observe the first anniversary of the attack on December 16. The army chief had signed the black warrants of Maulvi Abdus Salam, Hazrat Ali, Mujeeb Rehman and Sabeel alias Yahya on Monday. The terrorists stormed Army Public School in Peshawar on December 16, 2014, killing at least 144 people, most of whom were children.



New Office: Secured Office Complex A. T. Road, Imphal West, Manipur

PUBLIC NOTICE

It has come to the knowledge of the Corporate Office, MSPDCL that some staff/outsource personnel involved in prepaid metering and AB cabling are seeking payment from consumer towards execution of these tasks. MSPDCL hereby informs the General public that there is no cost to be borne by the consumer towards Prepaid metering and AB cabling except:

1. Prepaid Spot Activation for which cost involvement is Rs. 500/-
2. Service Cabling in Consumer's premises (from AB Cable - Insulation piercing connector to Consumer premises)

As per JERC regulations, the cost towards Service Cabling is to be borne by the Consumer. In case a consumer prefers MSPDCL to provide new Service Cable MSPDCL shall arrange the same. The cost towards this is Rs. 9/- per meter.

There is no additional cost to be borne by the consumer over and above these.

All MSPDCL consumers are advised to insist on receipt for every payment made by them. In case the Staff/outsource personnel refuse to provide receipt, the same shall be intimated to 7085055672 through an SMS. The identity of the consumer will be kept secret and fitting action will be taken against the concerned individual.

MSPDCL seeks co-operation of all Prepaid consumers in Manipur.

For all other Prepaid related problems, please contact 1912 (functional from 10/12/15).

IT Bill/AdvT/MSPDCL/2/12/2015