

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, November 27, 2015

Failed management

Driving or walking, it does make differences one suffers equally if it is in the street of Imphal. The comforts expected from driving a car is now a distant dream with traffic managers in the state had failed to prove their efficiency. The construction of Bir Tikendrajit Fly over and the widening of the roads seem to have no use with the authority failing to manage the situation. We do not simply blame the authority, the people too have responsibility. But it is the paid government authorities who are assigned for the job to make the traffic flow smoothly.

The state of Manipur has been witnessing a phenomenal increase in the amount of vehicles- an indication of the rising social status of the public and improving economic conditions in the state. While these factors are a welcome sign, the fact remains that the concerned authorities have failed to keep pace with the times and the changing social scenario in the state resulting in heavy traffic jams and delays which needs to be addressed immediately. The short term policies and systems being implemented from time to time in an attempt to ease the congestions and traffic jams have not been able to alleviate the problem in any way, on the contrary these ad-hoc measures have managed to confuse the public and compound the problem the authorities have been trying to solve. The formation of Traffic regulation and parking committee has not been of much help, and one can only wonder if they are functioning at all. Queries put up to the concerned departments have only resulted in more bewildering responses- a classic example of the effectiveness of passing the buck around that has been at work in all government set ups. While formulation of policies and systems to control and regulate traffic may be a beginning in the right direction, the fact remains that the increasing number of vehicles need additional space to accommodate them and juggling acts of the traffic system by the experts, however efficient and experienced they may be, will not bear fruit. Construction of additional parking spaces at strategic locations, bypasses and flyovers, and most importantly providing subways at important and crowded junctions will go a long way in reducing these problems. Construction of public utilities does not automatically guarantee improvement- their proper usage is as important- an obvious example being the use of footpaths by the vendors and shopkeepers to stock and ply their goods forcing the pedestrians to walk on the road. The need to streamline and re-orient the traffic police personnels is also being felt by the public. Turning a blind eye to the irregularities being committed by the drivers of various public and commercial transport vehicles in consideration for a "quick handshake" has been well documented- despite the dangers and inconveniences such greedy causes. The present government ministers and high ranking officials may not be feeling the burden such traffic jams causes as they seem to have a prerogative of the right of use of the road over the common public but unless some concrete steps are taken up very soon, the only option that would be available to them would be to use their feet with their retinue of escorts and assistants wading through the impossible traffic- surely a distracting relief for the stranded common public on the road.

Gas card lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Gas card bearing card no. CI/6213 and SV no. 11600640001381 issued by Canchi Indane, Kakwa Naorem Leikai on the way between Kishamthong to Kakwa.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned. Sd/- Subhalaxmi Laisom Keishamthong Laisom Leirak

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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Manipur Cultural Integration Conference (MCIC): A Long March In Manipur

By: Dr.R.K.Ranjana Singh
Former CDC Director, MU

Manipur is a natural landscape inhabited by communities of same racial affinity migrated from different direction, since time immemorial. It is also believed that human migration touch on this part of the world as early as seventy-fives thousand years ago as indicated on the human flow mapping of the National Geography and IBM project on the origin of Human kind. The flow of human movement in the territorial ambit of Manipur has been classified into two, namely the *Nongchup Haram* (Human flow from Western side) and *Nongpok Haram* (Human flow from Eastern side). The route of human migration in this part was on the ridges of mountain ranges. It is also believed that during the flow of human migration, most of the landscape of the present state was under water. Evidences of early evolution of human settlements in the state are on the mountain along the river channels (*Khamkhuiand Mova* caves along the Thoubal River, *Tharol* Cave along the Barak, *Phukoi/Ningthou* Cave along the Chakpi River). As the submerged water area receded and the formation of Manipur valley begins with the evolution of human settlement in valley simultaneous with the creations of principalities

(Khumam, Luwang, Angom, Mangang ...). With the growth of human society and civilization the Meitei Nation was founded with the amalgamation of all clans and principalities in the state. For more than two centuries we have together been co-existing and also maintain socio-cultural practices for symbolizing the relations between the highlanders and valley dwellers. Most of the Valley dwellers are most probably originated from the highlanders as stated by the then British ethnology. However, in the process of civilizational advances, some missing links have occurred which is to a large extent instrumental for the hill-valley dichotomy. Religious divides among the hills and valley following the adoption of Ramandi/Hinduism by the valley dwellers and conversion to Christianity by those in the hills can just be cited as an example. It was then followed by the British Divide and rule policy, the legacy of which is continued by the modern Indian system). Because of this missing link the state becomes an inter-communities conflicting arena. One of the major events of Hills and Valley Divides in the year 1947 was erupted at Mao (led by Daiho) killing 2/3 persons by Assam Rifles personnel deployed by the then

Governor General Md. HyderiAli (Interim Government of MKPB Singh). The Second movement of Mizo Union in the Southern Manipur, was subsided by Maharajkumar Priyabrata Singh and Major Bob Khating, respectively, the then Chief Minister and the Ministry of Hill Affairs, Manipur. With the sense of social insecurity started looming large, some of the prominent personalities from both the hills and the plain convened public meeting and decided to establish an organization called MANIPUR CULTURAL INTEGRATION CONFERENCE on Sunday, 15th October 1967. Founder president was Late Nongmeikapam Nabakishor and Late Laimayum Raghunani Sharma as founder General Secretary. Following its establishment, Maharajkumar Priyabrata (MK PB Singh) afterwards chaired the organization for live-long during his lifetime. The legacy of MCIC is with A. Brajkumar Sharma as the Chairman. The main objectives of MCIC were to bring a harmonious society in the state of Manipur basing on the principle of secularism and compassionate humanitarianism. The MCIC started its long march by holding several study circles, camps, on spot studies, meetings. Learned papers were generated for

reiterating the cultural similarities and dispersal from *Makhel* to different directions, located at different places with different ethnic entity. Those who settle in the highland are hill tribes while those in the valley are plain people. But we are all from the same ethnic affinity. Till today Valley people performed *MERAWAA-YUNGBA* to mark the survival signals to their big brother in the highlanders. As the civilization progresses in the state *Mera Hou Chongba* have been celebrating science time immemorial, till date to mark the bond of tie in between the highlanders and the Valley dwellers. At different sequels there have been many evidences of the people of valley taking shelter at the hill villages and converted as highlander. Similarly many highlanders were merged with the valley people. Meiteiloi, or better known as Manipuri language which belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family is the only language-franca in the region. There are similarities of higher degree in different forms of games and sports, dance performances, musical instruments, music's nodes, etc.

(To be contd.....)

National & International News

India successfully test-fires nuclear capable Agni-I missile

ANI Bhubaneswar, Nov. 27: India today successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni-I from Dr Abdul Kalam Wheeler Island off the Odisha coast.

Agni-I, the first missile of the Agni series powered by both solid and liquid propellants, can travel at a speed of 2.5 km per second and destroy targets nearly 700 kilometres away.

The user trial of the missile was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command of the Indian Army. Senior officials of the Indian Army and Director of Agni Project Tessa Thomas were among those present during the user trial.

Agni missile was first test-fired on January 25, 2002. Agni-I can be blasted off from both rail and mobile launchers. The missile weighs around 12 tonnes and can carry both conventional and nuclear payload of about 1000 kg.

ATM cash van driver who fled with Rs 22.5 crore arrested

HT New Delhi, Nov. 27: The driver of a cash van who disappeared transporting Rs 22.5 crore in hard cash for refilling AXIS Bank ATMs across south-east Delhi was arrested early on Friday.

Delhi Police recovered the cash from his possession. An amount of Rs 11,000 was said to be missing, sources said. A hunt was launched after SIS, the private security agency hired by Axis Bank to transport cash, rang up police control room around 5.30pm on Thursday to inform that one of its drivers fled with a Mahindra pick-up van stashed with money on the way from Vikasपुरi to Okhla.

The driver, Pradeep Shukla, is from Uttar Pradesh and had joined the agency recently. According to police, Shukla left the van near a petrol pump in Okhla and then hid in a warehouse. Shukla took the metal box with cash along in the godown and slept off while police teams suspected he had fled to his hometown in UP.

Shukla reportedly switched off his phone so that his location could not be traced through technical surveillance. Police traced the van fitted with a GPS tracker system near the Okhla industrial area. Shukla had left the bank's Vikasपुरi office along with armed guard Vinay Patel around 3.30pm. When they reached Captain Gaur Marg near Govindpur around 5pm, Patel asked the driver to stop as he wanted to go to the washroom.

As he got down, Shukla told him that he would keep driving and return because parking the vehicle there might cause a traffic jam. "Patel said the van never came back and he called the bank after waiting 10-15 minutes," an officer said. Axis Bank assured that the cash was "fully insured" and "neither the bank nor the customer would get affected". It said the van didn't belong to the bank and the driver was not its employee.

Nepal Govt. to deploy more forces on highways in Terai region

ANI Birgunj, Nov. 27: The Nepal Government has order deployment of more police as well as paramilitary forces to prevent obstruction on its highways to ensure the flow of supplies. The Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal has asked the forces to take all possible action against the Madhesi agitators on the highways in Terai to ensure that

there is no obstruction on the highways. "Sirict directives have been given to ensure that the roads are open. If protesters obstruct the highways, security agencies will use strong force," the Nepalese media quoted Home Ministry spokesperson Laxmi Prasad Dhakal as saying. As reported by the local media, the ministry has asked the Nepal

Police, Armed Police Force (APF) and National Investigation Department to deploy additional personnel along the highways and 'use maximum force if the situation demands'. The Communist Government has specified Sunsari, Siraha, Saptari, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara and Parsa districts of the Terai region as 'highly sensitive' areas.

Sources from the Home Affairs Ministry said around 12,000 Nepal Police forces and as many APF personnel have been deployed to guard in these districts. "We have conducted assessments and the reserve force will be deployed as needed," reported the Nepalese media quoting the Deputy Inspector General of Police Kamal Singh Bam, who is also the spokesperson for Nepal Police.

One killed in Bangladesh Shia mosque attack

ANI Dhaka, Nov. 27: In just over a month, Shia Muslims in Bangladesh have been attacked for a second time as armed men stormed a Shia mosque in Shibganj upazila and opened fire on people, killing one person and injuring three others. According to The Daily Star, the dead is Moazzem Hossain. He was a farmer and muzzem of the mosque. It is not yet clear who carried out the attack as police are still

investigating into the incident. Three gunmen stormed the mosque named Masjid Al Hussain at Haripur bus stop in Atmuli union and started shooting randomly at 30 to 40 Shia Muslims, according to locals and police. Hossain, 70-years-old, was hit in the head. He was taken to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, said Dr SM Zahidul Islam of the hospital.

Kerala assembly session to be held from Nov 30 to Dec 17: Speaker

IANS Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 27: A session of the Kerala assembly would be held from November 30 till December 17, Speaker N Sakthan said on Friday. He said he hoped that legislators would behave and act as responsible members of the legislature during the forthcoming session. "There is a desired level of decorum that members have to show. I am quite sure all of them know their duties and

responsibilities and the way they should conduct themselves in the house," Sakthan told reporters while announcing the dates of the assembly session. Responding to queries on incidents during the budget session early this year, when pandemonium broke out in the house, he said, "The crime branch of Kerala Police are probing the incidents that occurred on the floor of the house on March 13."