

Editorial

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 acts 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.

Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my original certificate and admit card for my HSLC Examination appeared in the year 1983, issued by BOSEM on the way between Keishamthong to Paona Bazar on Sept. 13, 2017.
Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.
Sd/-

Elangbam Dilip Singh
S/o E. Raghuraj Singh
Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai
Contact No. 9774222476

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Swachh Bharat Abhiyan giving wings to Babu's dream of Clean India

By : Vikas Khanna

It will be a stock-taking exercise for the government when India celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary this year as it will also mark the completion of three years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship cleanliness drive - the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan". The Modi government has set an ambitious target of Open Defecation Free India by October 2, 2019 when Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary will be celebrated. Given the giant strides made in a short span of three years, the government seems headed towards meeting the 2019 deadline of providing toilets to every household. Under the Swachh Bharat campaign, more than 4.90 crore toilets have already been constructed since October 2, 2014. According to Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, more than 2.44 lakh villages have been declared open defecation free and 203 open defecation free districts as on September 24, 2017. What makes the programme noteworthy is that several public sector as well as private institutions have joined hands with the government to make it a grand success. Many business houses have adopted several villages in this connection under the Corporate Social Responsibility. It is no surprising then that the country's sanitation coverage has leapt from more than 68 per cent compared to just 38 per cent in 2012. But still much more needs to be done. Keeping this in view, the government has launched a fortnight long 'Swachhta Hi Seva' (Cleanliness is Service) campaign

which will culminate on Gandhi Jayanti next month. Under the campaign, several programmes have been planned to give a fillip to the nationwide cleanliness drive. The purpose is to reinvigorate the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" which was started as a national movement three years ago. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, which is spearheading the campaign, has been joined by various other ministries, government departments and non-government organizations to spread the awareness of cleanliness.

October 2, 2014 will go down in the history books as the biggest campaign for "Swachh Bharat" when Prime Minister Modi himself wielded a broom and swept the dirty streets of New Delhi. The people responded to his clarion call to join him in this endeavour to give a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, who wanted to make sanitation a priority for India more than a century ago. The campaign aims to end the wide-spread practice of open defecation, build more toilets and improve waste management, among other goals.

While underlining the importance of cleanliness, the Prime Minister has often said that the idea of Swachh Bharat has nothing to do with politics, as it is inspired by patriotism. One is reminded of Gandhi's saying that "Sanitation is more important than independence."

While the father of the nation championed the cause of self-service in cleanliness and end the despicable practice of untouchability, the movement faltered after independence.

Though several programmes were undertaken since then by several governments, it is a sad commentary that the twin issues of sanitation and untouchability continue to haunt the country even almost 70 years after Babu's death.

Poor sanitation leads to several health-related diseases and untimely deaths. A charity organization "WaterAid" had painted a grim situation in one of its reports in 2014. It had then reported that less than a third of India's 1.2 billion people had access to sanitation and more than 186,000 children under the age of five used to die every year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. It has its economic pitfalls also. It is estimated that the country is losing 6.4 per cent of GDP annually as poor access to sanitation results in diseases and deaths. But all that is set to change now as various government agencies are working on war footing to meet the challenge.

Quoting the World Health Organization, the Prime Minister has said in the past that an average of Rs. 6,500 per person is lost in India due to lack of cleanliness and hygiene. He said Swachh Bharat would therefore make a significant impact on public health, and in safeguarding income of the poor, ultimately contributing to the national economy. He said sanitation should not be seen as a political tool, but should only be connected to patriotism (rashtrabhakti) and commitment to public health.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which carried out a

survey to estimate the cost of benefits of the Swachh Bharat Mission, has in a recent report said one rupee invested in improving sanitation helps save Rs 4.30. It said that each household could save Rs. 50,000 every year if there is Open Defecation Free society because the medical costs will come down, the value of time savings and the value of mortality will be averted. It also said the benefits are highest for the poorest quantile of the population. But to make the programme successful, the local bodies and state governments will need to redouble efforts to create more awareness and educate people to change their age-old attitudes towards hygiene and purity. Despite best of governmental efforts, a large number of people in the hinterland still believe that it is unclean to defecate inside. The government and business houses may construct toilets, but one needs to draw people out from the open fields to the confines of a toilet in order to realize the full health and economic benefits of sanitation. There is an urgent need to educate people through awareness campaigns to help eliminate such negative notions. The success of the programme will be largely dependent on people's participation. It is therefore imperative that people rise to the occasion to make India clean and healthy. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

The author is a senior journalist and columnist. He has worked with several newspapers, news agency and television news channel in his 29 years career. Presently, he is a guest faculty at Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

National & International News

Delhi HC to hear Honeypreet's anticipatory bail plea today

PTI New Delhi, Sep 26: The Delhi High Court today agreed to hear the anticipatory bail plea of Honeypreet Insan, who is wanted by the Haryana Police in connection with incidents of violence following conviction of the Dera Sacha Sauda chief. The plea for urgent hearing of Honeypreet's application was mentioned before Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar who sought to know why they are "super-excited now". "You must be anticipating this," the

bench asked advocate Pradeep Kumar Arya, who sought three weeks transit anticipatory bail for Honeypreet.

The bench, however, listed the matter for today after the counsel pressed for hearing the petition on an urgent basis.

Arya informed the court that even the DGP Haryana has gone on record to say that there is "danger" to her life.

Priyanka Taneja alias Honeypreet, the adopted daughter of the jailed Dera chief, tops the list of 43

persons 'wanted' by the Haryana Police in connection with incidents of violence that had followed Ram Rahim's conviction in the rape cases.

Ram Rahim was convicted by the special CBI court in Panchkula on August 25, following which violence and arson had erupted in Panchkula and Sirsa districts of Haryana which had left 41 people dead and several others injured. The CBI court on August 28 had sentenced Ram Rahim to 20 years in prison for raping two of his

disciples in 2002.

Honeypreet had accompanied the Dera head when he had come to the special CBI court on August 25. She had also travelled along with him in the special chopper which ferried them to Rohtak from Panchkula after the conviction.

The controversial sect head is currently lodged in Sunaria jail in Rohtak district of Haryana. Several teams of Haryana Police have travelled across the country, including the Indo-Nepal border, to trace Honeypreet.

J&K: Army foils infiltration bid along LoC, one militant killed

Agency Kashmir, Sept. 26: A militant was killed today (Tuesday) as Army foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. "An infiltration bid has been eliminated in general area Zorawar of

Uri sector. One terrorist has been killed," an Army official said.

He said a weapon has been recovered from the site of the encounter. The operation is on and further details are awaited, the official added.

On Monday, Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat had said that terrorists will keep

coming, we are ready to bury them two feet under the ground. Surgical strikes were carried to send a message to the adversary and if required these can be repeated, he added.

Yesterday, Indian Army gunned down four terrorists and recovered war like stores in an anti-terrorism operation near the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla's Uri.

According to a senior army personnel the terrorists were planning to carry out a September 18, 2016 Uri-like attack. The September 2016 attack was

carried out by the terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammed, in which at least 23 army jawans were killed and several others were injured.

Harpreet Singh, Deputy Commander, Uri Brigade, said, "Army foiled a major terrorist attempt in Baramulla district. The terrorists gunned down in the operation were here to carry out a major attack at an army camp."

The Army officer added that the terrorists were planning to attack the Kalkai camp in Baramulla district of the valley.

Nawaz Sharif appears before accountability court

PTI Islamabad, Sep 26: Pakistan's ousted premier Nawaz Sharif today for the first time appeared before an accountability court here to face the corruption charges filed against him by the National Accountability Bureau in the Panama Papers scandal. Sharif, who returned to Pakistan yesterday, reached the court located in the judicial complex this morning. During the brief hearing, 67-year-old Sharif informed Judge

Muhammad Bashir that his wife was unwell and he needed to attend her, following which he was allowed to leave.

The appearance was just a formality to ensure that the accused was ready to face the trial. Sharif stayed at the court for about 10 minutes.

He was accompanied by his lawyer Khawaja Harris who would represent him as a counsel in the corruption cases. The next hearing has not been set as yet.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Chingakhom Rajani Lejima**, of 86 Wabagai Kadajit, Wabagai village PO, Wabagai, PS Kakching, District Thoubal, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Nameirakpam Rajani Lejima**, as I have assumed my new name **Chingakhom Rajani Lejima**.

Sd/-
Chingakhom Rajani Lejima
Wabagai Kadajit

Karnataka HC Judge who ordered CBI probe in Ishrat Jahan case quits

Ahmedabad, Sept. 26: The senior most judge of the Karnataka High Court Justice Jayant M Patel has resigned close on the heels of the Supreme Court collegium ordering his transfer to the Allahabad high court. The resignation is perceived to be a result as an attempt to prevent Justice Patel from becoming the acting chief justice of Karnataka when the incumbent Justice S K Mukherjee retires on October 9.

The office of Justice at the Karnataka High Court confirmed that the judge had sent in his resignation. Justice Jayant Patel is best known as the judge who ordered a CBI investigation into the killing of Ishrat Jahan and three

others in Gujarat when Narendra Modi was the chief minister.

Justice Patel, 61, was appointed to the Karnataka High Court on February 13, 2016 after serving as the acting chief justice of the Gujarat High Court from August 13, 2015 to February 2016. He is considered an upright judge by lawyers who have presented arguments in his court. "This decision to resign is clearly because of the way he has been treated. Knowing Justice Patel it is a serious decision that he has taken and is unlikely to now change his mind. He seems to have chosen to go on his own terms," a senior advocate in the Karnataka High Court said.