

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, October 14, 2015

MGEL - Is it still valid?

Desperate times calls for desperate measures. It would only be fooling ourselves to think otherwise. Despite the rosy pictures and the recent indication of the Government finally waking up to the realities, we still have a long way to trudge along and uncountable promises to be kept before we can truly call ours a stable and well-governed society - a common knowledge yet to be acknowledged by those who matters. What is still beyond comprehension and logical reasoning are some of the most baffling questions on the minds of all the thinking public - baffling as to why the problems - if one could ever term them as such - are allowed to exist in the first place. Instances like increasing transparency in governance: the bitter truth can be sampled if one has the patience of a saint - to try and access information of various departments through the numerous obsolete official websites launched with much fanfare and reams being written about, updated every decade with unerring accuracy.

MGEL (Manipur Government Employee's List): is it still valid? What is the current position of the project? Teachers not in the list still get their pay. Relevance of such protracted exercise? If authentication and verification of employees of the Government is the target, why couldn't it constitute a separate and dedicated body to do the work? Has the department heads and employees been apprised of the procedures and workings of PIS and EIN? Is the NIC handling the technical support as efficiently and regularly as they should?

Drugs: why haven't any breakthrough been achieved till date regarding the source, the supply route and the people behind such mammoth hauls - a cartel that obviously enjoys the support and collusion of those in the highest echelon of power and influence? Pulling up and shoving a few pawns up our faces to earn few brownie points does not impress anyone. Everybody knows of the existence of a virus that is spreading the vicious disease - apparently behind a wall of immunity and protection. Sewage project: what exactly was the purpose of the whole project? When is the completion period, after factoring in the delays in funding and others? Who will be the beneficiaries? How are the sewage from private residences be connected to the main pipe - is there any provision for it at all? How about the drainage system along the roadsides that sits way above the roads seeping water down in the middle of the road and flooding stretches of otherwise perfectly good roads?

PDS (Public Distribution System) Translation - a system conjured up to efficiently distribute Government largesse and benefits amongst the people elected by the public. Terrorism and Militancy: the most prospective and fastest growing commercial venture in the region, with the armed personnel of the State Government proving to be great catalysts (read - more armed personnel being caught posing as militants and extorting money and terrorizing the public) Just a few of the realities facing the society today. Bottomline - it's high time to take the velvet gloves off and deal with the issues as they should be. Things can change, and for that to happen, people entrusted with making the changes must start acting their part without further delay - or else they need to be changed.

MSPDCL POWER DRIVE

A team of Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL) during one of its drives conducted on 13th October 2015 caught the following defaulter power consumers for theft/ unauthorized connection from various location.

- In IED - III
- S. Tampakleima Devi of Singjamei Okram Leikai
 - S. Prabha of Singjamei Okram Leikai
- Total amount fined as penalty from the above two defaulters - Rs. 6000/-
- In IED - II
- A. Momo Singh of Sagolband Bijoy Govinda Fined Rs. 7800/- as penalty for multiple connection
 - Y. Khamba Singh of Sagolband Bijoy Govinda Fined Rs. 500/- as penalty for unauthorised Connection
- In IED - I
- Md. Ibomia of Hapta Gollapati Fined Rs. 21434/- as penalty for meter bypass

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US

A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



Automobile Engineering Works-1
-R K WORKSHOP-
New Checkon Road, Purana Rajbari
Imphal East,
Manipur - 795 001

ALL KINDS OF SPARE PARTS AVAILABLE

AFTER SALES SERVICE TO YOUR SATISFACTION

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**
(A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)

National & International

Violence in Punjab town after 'desecration' of holy book, 15 injured

HT Faridkot, Oct. 14: Members of several Sikh groups protesting against the alleged desecration of their holy book, Guru Granth Sahib, clashed with police in Faridkot district of Punjab on Wednesday, leaving at least 15 people injured.

12 cops, including Bathinda inspector general of police Jitendra Jain, were among those injured.

Police used batons and water cannons and fired in the air to disperse members of the Sikh groups who gathered in Kotkapura of Faridkot district early on Wednesday to protest the act of sacrilege in Bargari village. Several policemen were among the injured.

The clash erupted in the main square of Kotkapura when police tried to arrest the leaders of the protestors. The protestors also tried to block highways leading to Moga and Bathinda towns.

The situation in Faridkot district

is tense but under control, officials said. A strong police contingent has been deployed in the area to maintain law and order. Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal and his deputy Sukhbir Singh Badal appealed to the people to maintain calm. The chief minister said those found guilty would not be spared.

Kotkapura has been tense since more than 100 pages of the Guru Granth Sahib were found scattered in a street leading to a gurdwara in Bargari on Monday. The pages were allegedly torn from a 'bir' or copy of the Guru Granth Sahib that was stolen from Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village, located 5 km from Bargari, in June. Tension flared on Tuesday when hundreds of Sikhs assembled for a dharna at the main square of Kotkapura, 12 km from Faridkot, after police rounded up more than 200 people at 2.30am. Sources said police rounded up the people to prevent radical Sikh leaders from organising an 'akhand path'

— reading of religious scriptures — at the spot with the torn pages from Bargari village.

Police took the torn pages, which were kept in a 'palki' or palanquin on a tractor trolley, to an undisclosed place. The protestors were reportedly taken to Muktsar, Moga, Ferozepur, Bathinda and Faridkot.

Prominent Sikh preachers Ranjit Singh Dhadrianwala and Panthpreet Singh Khalsa, former Takht Dandama Sahib jathedar Giani Kewal Singh, Dandami Taksal Ajnala head Amrik Singh Baljit Singh Daduwal participated in a dharna to protest against the alleged desecration.

Surjit Singh Arian Wala, executive district president of the Shiromani Akali Dal, told Hindustan Times, "We have been protesting in a peaceful way since June 1, when a bir was stolen from Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village. But no action was taken against the accused." Wala said a handwritten poster

pasted near Burj Jawahar Singh Wala gurdwara on the night of September 25 contained "foul language" against the Guru Granth Sahib. "Now we are holding a peaceful protest here and it would be called off only when the police arrest the accused," he said.

The Sant Samaj led by Dandami Taksal chief Harnam Singh Dhuma has called for a shutdown in Malwa on October 15 to protest against the alleged desecration.

Dhuma said the 'bandh' was called to pressure the government. "Those responsible for the sacrilege of the scripture should be arrested immediately," he added.

The bandh will be observed in Faridkot, Moga, Fazilka, Ferozepur, Muktsar, Bathinda and Barnala. Health services have been kept out of its purview. Dhuma asked Sikhs in the Malwa belt to maintain peace during the bandh.

Only CNG Cabs to Ply on Delhi Roads, Says High Court

PTI New Delhi, Oct. 14: The Delhi High Court Tuesday made it clear that only those cabs which run on compressed natural gas (CNG) can ply on the national capital's roads. Justice Manmohan said that since he has already passed an order against ANI Technologies, the company that owns Ola, prohibiting it from running diesel cabs, then same would apply "across the board" to other companies including Uber.

"I cannot discriminate against them (Ola). I can't say Ola has to comply and Uber need not. You have to comply with my order on CNG. That's all," the judge said. He also said that his decision has been affirmed by the division bench, so it means the order applies to everyone, so he need to abide by that order.

"How can people take law in their hands? You will have to behave in accordance with law," the court said, adding that "since Delhi government has come out with some scheme, why don't you (Ola and Uber) comply with it?" Uber India, which was represented through senior advocate Rajiv Nayyar, said that it can replace the diesel taxis with CNG cabs within six months.

"It cannot be done overnight. It can be done in a phased manner. I can only say that from today no new diesel taxis would be used," Nayyar said.

Hearing which the judge said that Ola undertook to make the change in a reasonable time period, "so you need to be realistic and do the same in time bound manner and tell us".

Nayar said he needed time to seek instruction from Uber on this aspect of the time frame in which they will phase out diesel taxis. Thereafter, the court listed the matter for Wednesday by when Nayar has been asked to take instruction from Uber.

The court was hearing a plea filed by Association of Radio Taxis, represented by senior advocate Nidesh Gupta, who contended that the court's order upholding a ban on diesel cabs providing point-to-point service in the national capital was being implemented only against Ola while other app-

based taxi services were violating it with impunity.

During the hearing, the court asked Uber BV, represented by senior advocate Dayan Krishnan, to comply with its order.

The court maintained its earlier order backing the Delhi government which said tourist taxis with 'All-India' permits cannot run as city cabs.

Despite the high court's orders of July 29 and August 11 upholding the ban on diesel cabs, app-based services were still operating here, the association has claimed.

It said that "the court's direction was qua all app-based cab companies but was being implemented against only one".

On which the court said, "How can the Centre and state (Delhi government) be so helpless? If I have passed the order, it means my order has to be complied with and the authorities concerned have to take action."

Additional Standing Counsel Nausad Ahmed Khan, appearing for Delhi government, said the Centre is not banning their websites, so they are still operating. Central Government Standing Counsel Manish Mohan said that they have blocked the Internet address of the app-based companies and Delhi government should not make the Centre a punching bag.

To which Khan said that the police and Delhi government's enforcement team have impounded the vehicles plying

illegally. He further said that Ola is not providing information about the cabs and their drivers.

Senior advocate P Chidambaram appearing for Ola objected Delhi government's contention, saying we cannot share the data due to "issue of privacy".

The court further observed that if they (Centre and Delhi government) wanted to become a "laughing stock" and "make a mockery of themselves," let it be. "They are not ready to sit across the table and talk. How can they say that they cannot block the websites," the judge asked, adding that some senior official of the Centre should take up the issue seriously.

The court in its August 11 order had also said that Ola, operated by ANI Technologies Ltd, was "factually incorrect" to contend that non-CNG commercial vehicles like diesel cabs were not barred from plying in Delhi.

Delhi government had on January 1 banned the operation of app-based cab services till they complied with the guidelines of Radio Taxi Scheme of 2006, which was amended on December 26 last year. The scheme was amended after a woman executive was allegedly raped in an Uber cab last December.

The January 1 order was challenged by Ola before the high court, which on July 29 had passed an interim order upholding Delhi government's decision.

MH17 crash report suggests attempts were made to cover up causes of tragedy

ANI London, Oct 14: The long awaited report into the Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 crash released by the Dutch Safety Board has suggested that attempts were made to cover up the causes of the downing of the plane. According to The Guardian, the efforts to cover up the causes include a bungled autopsy on the captain's body, wherein foreign objects from a BUK missile were deliberately removed. Dutch investigators said in the report that a Russian-built BUK

missile explosion ejected hundreds of pieces of shrapnel into the plane with "tremendous force".

The chairman of the safety board, Tjibbe Jousra said that the BUK missile was fired from a rebel-controlled area. However, investigators, earlier, declined to apportion blame for who had downed the plane.

The plane was en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it crashed over eastern Ukraine on 8th July 2014, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew on board.

Police recovers live bomb from under a bridge in Bihar

ANI Patna, Oct. 14: Bihar Police on Wednesday recovered a live bomb weighing around 25 kilograms which was reportedly placed by Naxals under a bridge in the Dhangai area of Bihar's Aurangabad District. Further details awaited.

BSF seizes 12 kg heroin near Indo-Pak border

PTI Amritsar, Oct 14: Altogether 12 kg of heroin, having a street value of Rs 60 crore, was seized from an agriculture field at Chhina Bidhi Chand sector near Indo-Pak border in the wee hours today. The seizure was made by Punjab police officials and BSF in a joint operation. The drug consignment was pushed into India from Pakistan, BSF official said.

The smugglers managed to escape to Pakistan after being challenged by BSF's night troop, he stated. No arrest has been made so far and the matter is being investigated, the official said. On October 12, BSF had seized six kilogram heroin (drug) which was being sneaked into the country through Uddar Dhariwal Sector, the Indo-Pak border village post. BSF has so far seized 230 kg of heroin, with a street value of Rs 1,150 crore, in 2015, the official said.

Cell phone lost

I, the undersigned have lost my cell phone along with idea sim card bearing no. 9089353856 on the way between Wangkhei to Minuthong on 8th Oct 2015. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Sh. Subadani Devi
Brahmapur Thangapat
Mapal, Imphal East,
Manipur