

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, February 11, 2016

Traffic travails

With the laudable distinction of being one of only four states in the country to have achieved the target of constructing a specified length of roads for each state among 30 states of India where PMGSY is implemented for 2015-16, Manipur can be considered the forerunner amongst the North Eastern states to have successfully implemented the scheme, the other three states being Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The achievement is no mean feat taking into consideration the volatile and disruptive law and order situation and tense social atmosphere. It also means that communication and interaction between hitherto difficult and inaccessible places can be reached and explored with greater ease and comfort. This is a vital development in bridging the sense of alienation and indifference being felt by people living in the hills and will definitely help in fostering understanding and appreciation of the different customs, cultures and traditions which are the defining features of the many communities in the state.

But to sit back and rest on the laurel, however tempting it may sound, would be a fatal mistake. With increased connectivity comes the inevitable increase in vehicular traffic and the resulting congestion. It would not be an overstatement to say that the problem of traffic congestions in the state has become unmanageable, especially due to the lack of a planned approach to traffic management. The problem is compounded by the fact that the traffic lights being set up at important junctions has not been utilized and are causing to be more of a hindrance to the smooth flow of traffic. Most of the busy intersections are being undermanned, and the absence of dedicated parking spaces at strategic locations around the city markets is proving to be a nightmare for motorists. Total failure of public transport system by the state government reflects its indifferent and ignorant attitude towards the increasingly worsening problem as also the inability to effectively administer its departments. There are more than enough laws to tackle traffic nuisances and violators, but the lack of implementation and enforcement has failed to deter defaulters and violators. Traffic cops turning the other way from the defaulters for a "tea and water" consideration is an ubiquitous sight around the capital, and despite complaints and reports of such misdeeds, the state has not been able to rectify its own employees, consequently putting the health and life of other commuters in peril. One of the most effective and perhaps the best step the government could take up to ease the problem would be to develop cycle lanes along the wider roads along with dedicated parking slots with railings to secure the cycles. Initiatives to encourage cycling can be taken up which could include rebates or reimbursements on purchase of cycles. Certainly nobody would want the state to have a clogged, stinking and congested city, not to mention the pollution, even if it is certain to become a smart one.

Delhi University set to host three-day 'gender mela'

PTI
New Delhi, Feb 10: A three-day mela scheduled to be held at Delhi University from 11 February will see boys and men standing shoulder to shoulder with girls and women to question and bust myths and stereotypes associated with the issue of gender equality. The programme is being organised at Miranda House in collaboration with MenEngage Delhi, an alliance of NGOs working with males to promote gender equality. Speaking about the event, Akash, a volunteer associated with CFAR-

Wajood initiative on stopping domestic violence, said the mela is for "connecting with youth in different parts of the city so that we stop being bystanders and do our bit to better to improve gender equality." Speaking on behalf of Women's Development Cell, Miranda House, Bijayalaxmi Nanda, said, "The initiative will provide young people with the space to bond with peers, set new learning goals, explore multiple issues, clarify their values and, last but not the least, do all of this with the necessary support and guidance from faculty and experts.

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.

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

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 (0)

National & International News

58 die in Nigeria suicide bomb attacks

AFP
Maiduguri, Feb. 11: Two female suicide bombers killed at least 58 at a camp for people made homeless by Boko Haram's Islamist insurgency in northeast Nigeria, emergency services said on Wednesday, in the latest violence to hit the remote region. The attack happened in Dikwa, some 90 kilometres (55 miles) from the Borno state capital, Maiduguri, on Tuesday morning and is believed to be a reprisal for a military strike on Boko Haram strongholds in the area last week.

It will again raise security fears about the safety of internally displaced people (IDPs) and put pressure on the government, which maintains it has the upper hand against the insurgents and is pushing for the return of civilians caught up in the violence. Nigeria's Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo, deputising for President Muhammadu Buhari who has been on holiday, described it as "regrettable that the heartless terrorists chose to unleash their wickedness on people who were taking refuge from previous acts of destruction in their homes".

He promised those behind the attack would be hunted down and ordered that "formidable security in and around the IDP camps in the country be beefed up and renewed measures put in place to guard against future occurrences". The head of the Borno State Emergency Management Agency, Satomi Ahmed, earlier told AFP 35 bodies were recovered from the camp, which houses some 53,600 people, with 78 injured. He later said the other dead had been buried locally, leading to the revised toll.

"From what we gathered three female suicide bombers disguised as IDPs arrived at IDP camp at about 6.30 am (0530 GMT)," he said. "Two of them detonated their explosives. The third one refused to set off hers when she realised her parents and siblings were in the camp. She surrendered herself to the authorities." Ahmed said the woman told the

military why she refused to detonate her explosives and warned them of further attacks to come in the remote region. The injured were taken to the Borno State Specialist Hospital and the Umaru Shehu Hospital, both in Maiduguri for treatment, he added. The camp in Dikwa is currently home to people from six local government areas in Borno: Dikwa itself, Gamboru Ngala, on the border with Cameroon, and the towns of Marte, Kalabage, Bama and Mafa. - Revenge -

Last week, the Nigerian military attacked three villages considered Boko Haram strongholds near Kalabage, killing dozens of militant fighters and rescuing hundreds of women. The women were largely from the

Shuwa Arab tribe, who had been kidnapped, prompting the authorities to suspect the latest attack to be revenge for the military operation.

Boko Haram, which has increasingly used suicide and bomb attacks as the military pushes them out of territories it once controlled, has hit IDP camps before. On September 11 last year, seven people were killed when an improvised explosive device went off at the Malkohi camp, near Yola, in neighbouring Adamawa state. The camp had been used to house kidnapped women and children rescued by the military. IDPs fleeing Dikwa were also the target of a female suicide bomber as they tried to reach camps in Maiduguri on November 22 last

year. A woman disguised as an IDP blew herself up, killing eight.

On January 31, at least 85 people were killed in Dalori, some 12 kilometres from Maiduguri, when Boko Haram fighters attacked and burned down surrounding villages. Suicide bombers tried to get into the IDP camp, which is the largest around Maiduguri, but were prevented.

The Boko Haram insurgency has led at least 17,000 people dead and forced more than 2.6 million from their homes in nearly seven years of violence that has also spread to neighbouring countries. At least six civilians were killed and more than 30 injured on Wednesday in a double suicide attack in the village of Nguetchewe, in northern Cameroon.

100 kids fall ill in Madhya Pradesh after deworming

Indore/Bhopal, Feb. 11: National Deworming Day turned out to be a nightmare for over 100 children in over 9 districts of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday after being administered albendazole tablet at anganwadi centres and schools for free.

State health authorities, however, downplayed the incidence of kids falling ill across state, claiming only a small percentage of children developed complications and needed medical attention. They attributed it to 'large quantity of worms' in their intestines.

Senior paediatricians trashed the government notion and said complications due to drug does not depend on quantity of worms, rather it could be due to impurities in the batch of albendazole procured through central supply and distributed across the state. "Nausea is a common symptom among children when they have worms in intestines. Those who fell ill were taken to hospital and released after medication. All children are in good health. Albendazole was administered to around 1.2 crore children in our state and less than 100 falling ill is a small number. There is nothing to worry as kids have been released,"

mission director (Madhya Pradesh) National Health Mission (NHM), Jayshree Kiyawat told TOI. "Adequate preparations were made and instructions were also given," she said.

Speaking to TOI, health minister Narottam Mishra, said, "I received information from three places about uneasiness to children, who consumed deworming tablets. This is not a serious illness."

National Deworming Day was launched by Union minister for health and family welfare JPNadda at a function in Hyderabad on February 9.

Unofficial sources said, at least 172 school children in Madhya Pradesh were taken ill with symptoms of vomiting, abdominal pain and dehydration till now after they were administered albendazole tablets used for deworming on Wednesday. While official figures said 72 children were rushed to hospital in Petlawad town of Jabua, around 100 children were reported to have been treated at the medical centre, claimed hospital authorities. Other than Jabua, children fell ill at Raissen, Bhand, Sehore, Bhopal, Khandwa, Jabalpur, Mandasaur, Khargone and Hoshangabad. Children began experiencing

nausea and complained of pain as soon as they were administered the drug in schools. Seventeen students fell ill in Bhand district and were rushed to the district hospital. Of these, four were from Government Middle School, Dinpura, four from Bhand town and rest were isolated cases from neighbouring districts.

In Raissen district's Bareli tehsil, 15 children fell ill at Mariya Vidya Sadan School and rushed to the district hospital. All children were students of Class I to Class 5, said sources. Similarly at Sanchi, which houses the renowned Buddhist stupa, 25 children developed symptoms of nausea and stomach pain and were rushed to public health centre (PHC), and but were released after treatment.

Also, four children of Government Middle School at Rajpura village of Ashok Nagar district also showed complications and rushed to primary health centre.

In Rajgarh district, 3-year old student, Pinki, lost consciousness after Albendazole was administered to her at Government Primary School, in Berkedha village under Khilchipur tehsil. She was rushed to the Khilchipur Public Health Centre (PHC) where she was treated.

Contd. from page 1

Luingaini: Unique festival for peoples with

The biggest and first festival of Tangkhuls in a calendar year, 'Luira' which falls in February is a festival to commemorate the first seed sowing of crops, and is celebrated with dancing, singing and feasting in their best colorful costumes. Most interesting highlights of this festival are - 1. Thingreira-Khangakum (Tug of war); and 2. Lakhaaganui (virgin dance/ beauty contest). People who had gone out from the village would certainly come back home in time to participate in "Thingreira-Khangakum". When the whole village, men and women, young and old, have all come to participate in it, they hold the rope and sing a song, the meaning of which is, "ring out the old, ring in the new with all the blessing and bountiful harvest".

Gaan-Ngai is the festival of the Zeliangrong which is also described as a New Year Festival. 'Gaan-Ngai' is also called 'Hegangang' among the 'Zeme' and 'Gin-Ngi' among the Liangmei. Gaan-Ngai performs the production of fire, 'Mairampe'. It was usually performed between the month of October and December depending on the state of the progress of agricultural operation. Later, the Kabui Naga Association, the progenitor of the present Zeliangrong Union decided in 1947 that Gaan-Ngai be performed on the 13th day of the Meitei month of 'Wakching' a month which usually falls in the month of January as per the Meitei calendar of the lunar year. Since then, it has been performed on 13th of 'Wakching' onwards. 'Chithuni' is the biggest and most important festival among the Mao

tribes of Manipur. It falls in the month of January (Chithunikhro). It is generally celebrated for five days at a stretch, but some villages continue up to the sixth day even. However the festive season extends upto 'Onianu', fifteen days later. The festival in accordance with the significance attached to it can also be called as the festival of: the Harvesting; the New Year; and the 'Seed Sowing'.

The genesis of the ethnonym 'Naga' is still shrouded in mystery. Tracing the genesis of the term 'Naga' from the Assamese word 'Noga', meaning 'mountain' or the word 'Naga' meaning 'naked' by the colonial historiographers are all rejected by the Naga scholars. E.W. Dun observed that Nagas have no generic name but used the tribal names only. He identified five tribal sub-groups of Manipur in the Census of 1881 as the Naga tribes. They are Luhupa, Tangkhul, Koyla(Khoirao), Kaupui, and Maring. Naga scholars who do not accept the colonial historiography on Naga identity came up with two proposed theories. One, Naga is derived from the Kachari word 'Nok', meaning warriors or fighters as the Kacharis came into violent conflicts with the Naga tribes like the Angamis and Zeliangrong. Two, RR Shimray in his work 'Origin and Culture of the Naga (1985)', opines Naga is derived from the Burmese word 'Naka' meaning 'pierced ears'. This is also accepted by Isak Chisi Swu in his book, 'From Generation to generation-stories of origin and Migration of the Nagas,

2001) as the most accepted and authentic version.

In the attempt to fashion an identity and history suitable to the political agenda of the present generation, the Naga Students Federation (NSF) put a ban on researches into Naga history and identity by the non-Nagas. It was in the first quarter of the twentieth century that the process of pan-Naga identity was experienced among some of the sub tribes in erstwhile Naga Hills. It was said that a great realization that they belonged to the same racial stock with cultural affinity, and consequent decision to come together as one people took place while they (Lothas, Rengmas, Aos, Changs, etc.) were sojourning in Paris as Labour Corps during World War-I. In 1918, a group of Nagas who had returned from military service in France met to form the Naga Club. The British administrators informally supported the Club. They ran a co-operative store and held several meetings and discussions. The Club submitted a memorandum signed by 20 different signatories who claimed to represent all tribes belonging to Angamis, Kacha Nagas, Kukis, Semas, Lothas and Rengmas when the Simon Commission came to the future of India. One Kuki was also there among the signatories, but no tribes from Manipur who are afterwards to be identified as Naga. The memorandum expressed its desire to the British government when they requested the later to continue to safeguard their rights against all encroachments from other

people who were more advanced than them. The club also wanted their (Naga) country to be placed directly under the protection of the British. The territories they so claimed as Naga country doesn't include any part of Manipur.

There is confusion as to the actual number of Naga Tribes. Lt. Gen. (Retd) Sushil K Pillai, former IG of the Assam Rifles, proposes a working figure of 35 Naga tribes. Prakash Singh, former DGP in Assam, refers to 14 major Naga tribes. The memorandum submitted to the Simon commission in 1929, by the Naga Club, mentions eight tribes within the administered area. Murkot Ramunny, an Indian Frontier Administrative Service officer who retired as Adviser to the Governor of Nagaland, says there are about twelve major tribes."

The view of the Naga insurgent outfits is also important as their actions have the capacity to influence macro-level phenomena and continue to determine certain collective praxis. V. Sumi and K. Timothy's compilation 'Cry for Justice', published and brought out by GPRN, NSCN (IM) in the later part of 1990s mentioned 38 tribes living in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Eastern Myanmar as belonging to the Naga. Out of that, 18 of them belonged to Manipur, namely, Aimol, Anal, Chiru, Chothe, Kharom, Kaireng, Kom, Maring, Mayon, Monshang, Lamkang, Mao and Maram, Thangal, Pounai, Tangkhul, Tarao, and Zeliangrong.

(To be contd.....)