

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, February 26, 2016

Integrating public facilities

Development is an ongoing and continuous process and one which cannot be prevented or ignored. It is one which should be embraced and utilized to the fullest to make our lives and future better. With the ever changing pace of progress the perennial nature of development takes a new and interesting twist in that the rate of progress has quickened to an almost breakneck speed, and while we may take solace in the thought, having nothing much else to cheer about as it were, there lurks the dark side of it all waiting to make its unwelcoming presence felt at the slightest slip up. And it may well be that we are now feeling the disadvantages of all the changes more prominently rather than its positive impacts. Hard as we might try and ignore the fact, the reality is becoming more glaring. Increasing incomes resulting in increasing vehicles clogging the roads while an apparent lack of preparedness or short-sightedness have resulted in the state government getting caught unawares and therefore the underprepared administrators and lawmakers are feeling the pinch, while the frustrated public is bearing the brunt of the confused and haphazard traffic arrangements which are more experimental rather than studied steps. With the vision to usher in an era of digitization and e-governance, transactions and payments for public services and utilities are increasingly being made through the bank and or service centers, but this has not resulted in providing better convenience or benefit to the public, yet. One very obvious reason is the inability of the state government to provide the needed infrastructures and facilities in time to reap the benefits of such changes.

But all hope is not lost yet. Common Services Centers Scheme (CSCs), a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme is a scheme which was conceived as part of the commitment by the central government in the National Common Minimum Programme to introduce e-governance on a massive scale. They are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society. They provide high quality and cost-effective video, voice and data content and services, in the areas of e-governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment as well as other private services. A highlight of the CSCs is that it will offer web-enabled e-governance services in rural areas, including application forms, certificates, and utility payments such as electricity, telephone and water bills. CSCs are more than service delivery points in rural India. They are positioned as change agents, promoting rural entrepreneurship and building rural capacities and livelihoods. They are enablers of community participation and collective action for engendering social change through a bottom-up approach with key focus on the rural citizen. According to the Department of Information Technology, Government of Manipur, there are 399 CSCs in Manipur as updated on 21-5-2015. The big question: are these CSCs really functioning as they were supposed to be? Is the majority of the general public even know of the existence of such a beneficial and enabling scheme conceived to make their lives more convenient, empowering and efficient? If the truth is anything remotely like what is being touted, then the truth should be made aware for the much harassed public to afford themselves some needed relief from the endless queues and running about to get anything done.

By : Mohen Naorem

"Does Meetei only represent Manipur Police? Several SP, DSP, SDPO, Inspectors and even Riflemen are from other ethnic communities like Tangkhul, Kabui, Maring, Kom, and Meetei Pangals. Then why NSF banned Meetei owned vehicles only in Naga dominated areas?"

Nagaland based student organization, Naga Student Federation (NSF) have released a press communiqué! Yes, a press communiqué, not press releases. It seems the said organization is either illiterate to understand who can make Press Communiqués or intentionally proclaiming themselves as a law making/breaking organization!

Some members of Naga Student Federation (NSF) came to Ukhrul via Senapati to attend the Tangkhul Seed Sowing Festival, Luita Phanit a week ago. On the way they were stopped and questioned by the personals of Manipur Police. On the same day, in the venue in Ukhrul Tangkhul Naga Long Ground (TNL), the Chief Minister of Nagaland T R Zeliang was sowing seeds of Communal hatred between Meetei and Tangkhul and among various ethnic communities of the State. Their leader speech was lambasted and reacted sharply by Congress MLA, N Biren Singh and R K Anand and several Civil Society Organisations based in Manipur. The matter was almost forgotten from the soil. However, NSF ultimatum to Government of Manipur and imposition of an indefinite ban on movement of Manipur vehicles from Saturday to protest against frequent harassment of Naga Organisations and people in Manipur.

The NSF statement issued by the Federation said, "We unanimously resolved to indefinitely ban movement of all Meitei/Manipuri-owned vehicles in the entire Naga-inhabited areas with effect from February 27, starting 6am onwards." Though the statement did not specify the areas, sources said the ban extends to all Naga-inhabited areas of the seven states.

NSF must read some news how people of Manipur are suffering from the Security forces in the last 3-4 decades. And also understand the impact of AFSPA 1958 in Manipur.

Every person living or already dead in Manipur might have faced the atrocities or misbehave of Security forces to some extent! How a Kohima based Student organization

singled out Meetei community only?

Are they fulfilling the aspirations of some Communal warlords based in Manipur? Will All Naga Students Association of Manipur (ANSAM) or Tangkhul Katamnoo Saklong (TKS) support this new communal gift from the NSF? Every Manipuri as a good citizen and long sufferer of atrocities from the Security personals are condemning the incident of misbehaving. If those NSF students are really hounded and harassed, they could have contacted the North East Student Organisation (NESO) or any Student Wing affiliated to Political parties, leaving aside the Manipur based student organizations.

I can say these few Student leaders came with a plan, a cruel intentions to sow the seed of communal hatred in the State. Why Government of Manipur and Opposition leaders remain silent? These students can be charged with seditions, for spreading communal hatred in the region!

Even in Nagaland, the steps taken by the NSF was strongly condemned for inciting hatred among communities. Facebook reaction on NSF Press Communiqués shows there are young people in the region who don't want such Communal warfare. Instead they want peace in the region for communal harmony.

Young minds from Nagaland and Manipur wants peace, understanding the history and respecting each other, rather than inciting communal hatred at the behest of some opportunist leaders! Here's what they had to say on Facebook:

"One of the weirdest and most immature diktat or decision coming out from a respectable Organisation. I can't imagine any mature and responsible Student body would stoop that low... Let's give peace a chance and make our Northeast a paradise on earth where peace and tranquility are the hallmark. Seriously, I'm fed up of attacking and counter-attacking each other be it in verbal or non-verbal and isn't now the time we say, "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH"???"

Tahchapa MB Haokip, Engineer at PGCIL, Chennai
This is purely NSF's decision and does not necessarily carries the consent of all the Nagas. For me and many like minded people, we are not in support of such Bandh which is against the Manipuris. We do not encourage communal disharmony.
Renponi K Naga, Dimapur
Nope we general Nagas are not



Tetseo Sisters in Meetei Costume

supporting this stupid bandh on the communal lines against the Meiteis or Manipuris, this bullshit is between the NSF (group who went to Ukhrul) and Manipur Commandos..that's it. Don't make it a communal thing. There are actually educated people in Nagaland who have brains, who don't support this immature personal war of the NSF.

Paul Yephomi, Dimapur
Am fed up of such news. All i know is lam a Manipuri, tribal or not, that's not a question, will do whatever i can to maintain peace at least in my surroundings and give love wherever needed. Seriously am sick of tribal this that blah blah...
Kenny Reng Sialloa Komrem, Imphal
This cycle of bandh should be stop. I don't encourage it though I am a Naga...just because of some few people we cannot blame the Meitei community and just because of some few protesters we cannot blame the whole Naga community as well.

Kemp Runoyhu Keppen, Dimapur
Arguments aside, one thing for sure is that I will have nothing to do with the NSF bandh and I can only appeal to all the right thinking Naga's not to be a part it.
Daniel Swu, Hyderabad
I am Naga, But not Happy with this immature decision of NSF!!

Tiajungla Longkumer, Dimapur
This protest is nothing to do with Nagas or Manipur/Meitei. It's solely the so call mighty NSF decision. I don't support the lousy NSF protest so do majority of the Nagas .
Amen Jamir, Dimapur
My sympathy goes to the NSF victims of police high handedness in Manipur. But don't discriminate the Manipuris of Nagaland or disturb Nagaland. Banned the movement of Manipur police vehicles in the Naga inhabited areas in Manipur. NSF and Manipur police issue in Manipur is vociferously not the state problem between Nagaland and Manipur.

Samuel Sami, Dimapur
Lack of education, Lack of maturity, Lack of brain function and Height of Stupidity. Don't blame all Nagas.. lots of Nagas from Nagaland are here. They won't put up any negative comments but from our own pretended Nagas will. So please when you mention Nagas put a prefix Manipur Nagas. Don't hurt Nagaland Nagas.
Chingangbam Nivason, Imphal
NSF was assaulted by Manipur commandos, it doesn't mean to ban Meitei vehicles. Don't bring communal hatred among us, Manipur commandos consists of Meiteis, Kukis, Nagas and Nepalis
Thoiba Thangjam, Guwahati
Even a group of teens wouldn't take this immature decision. It is unbecoming for responsible organization like NSF taking this communal lean decision.

LP Haokip, Silchar
They are not students, just some paid dogs of some communal organisation.
Laiashram Dayananda, Tawang

Communal Intentions of Naga Student Federation (NSF) Exposed in Social Media

National & International News

Left protest in Tripura against JNU student arrest

ANI Agartala, Feb 26: Left parties took out a protest demonstration here over police action against Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students and demanded unconditional release of those arrested and the withdrawal of the sedition case against them.

According to the protester, BJP functionaries are openly threatening democracy and the right to debate and dissent thereby weakening the very foundations of Indian constitutional rights.

Led by CPI(M) state secretary Bijon Dhar along with leader of the Left Front - CPI, RSP and Forward Block, cadres demonstrated protest against police action in the JNU case and saffronization of higher education by the BJP led NDA government at the centre.

"Against the fascistic attack of the central government and the JNU administrative body and it is for protecting the constitutional right of right to expression which is being attacked by the BJP led central government. This is a part of conspiracy of formation of Hindu nation," said Dhar. When asked if his party supported

the 'anti-national slogans' allegedly raised in the JNU Dhar categorically said that there is no question of supporting 'anti-India slogan'.

"I think you have heard already the student union leaders and the student union itself they condemned this type of anti-national slogan. So the problem you see when Hitler launched attack against Leftist, Communists and Socialist then there was a campaign that the Parliament Reichstag was burned by the Communist and then crackdown was there. This type of falsehood is going on so we must be careful as they can do anything. Even in our state we must be prepared to face all these odds," he added. The protesters raised slogans against the 'hate campaign' targeting students and Left parties. They charged that NDA wants to capture universities and run them like RSS shakhas, which is the designs of the BJP party and its affiliates.

The protesters demanded withdrawal of the cases of sedition and immediate unconditional release of all JNU students who

have been arrested following a protest on their campus against the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru where anti-national slogans were allegedly raised. The protesters also raised slogans against 'saffronization of

universities' and asked democratic forces to get united to resist the onslaught of 'communalism'. The Left parties are campaigning throughout the country in defence of people's constitutional rights which according to them are under attack by the RSS-BJP.

4 dead, 14 wounded in Kansas shooting

AFP Los Angeles, Feb. 26: Four people were killed and 14 were wounded, several of them critically, when an employee opened fire at a lawn mower factory in a small Kansas town, police said. Harvey County Sheriff T. Walton said the dead included the gunman, an employee at Excel Industries, located in a tight-knit community north of Wichita.

Walton said the first officer to arrive at the scene shot the gunman, saving "many, many lives." "This is a horrible situation, just terrible," Walton said, adding that his department received a call from the White House after the incident.

Walton said authorities had information on "some things that triggered this individual," but he would not elaborate. The sheriff initially had said that up to

seven people had been killed and up to 30 wounded but later revised the toll downwards.

The carnage was the latest in a string of mass shootings in the United States, where such attacks have become commonplace. Walton said the gunman, who he declined to identify, first fired at two motorists from his car, steering one of the victims' pickup truck before heading to the factory. He shot a woman in the parking lot with an assault rifle and then entered the facility unleashing a volley of bullets as people ran for their lives screaming "run, fire, fire," according to one witness.

Local media identified the gunman as Cedric Ford, 38, who worked as a painter at the factory and had posted a picture of himself on Facebook with an assault rifle.

MSPDCL POWER DRIVE

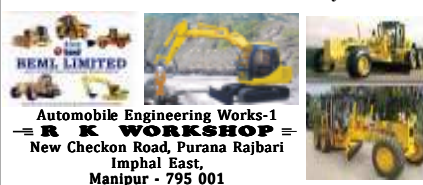
A team of Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (MSPDCL) during one of its drives conducted in the month of February 2016 at different locations in and around Lilong area caught the following defaulter power consumers for illegal use of electricity and have lodged FIR on them.

DEFAULTERS' LIST

1. Md. Baniyamin Haji S/o (L) Noordin from Lilong Haoreibi Mayai Leikai for power theft
FIR No. 10(2)2016 135(1)(a) Elect. Act. 2003
2. Md. Tajuddin S/o Md. Ramijuddin from Lilong Lou Tara for power theft
FIR No. 09(02)2016 135(1) (a) Elect. Act. 2003
3. Md. Harun S/o (L) Abdul Helim from Lilong Leihaokhong for power theft
FIR No. 11(2)2016 135(1)(a) Elect. Act., 2003
4. Md. Suraj Khan S/o Md. Ayub Khan from Lilong Muslim Bazaar for power theft
FIR No. 12(2)2016 135(1)(a) Elect. Act. 2003

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)