

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, January 7, 2016

Taming the traffic

One of the most prominent albeit inconvenient indications of development and economic progress in the state would have to be the increasing congestions on the streets. And now, things have come to such a state that it has become impossible for the public to find proper parking space anywhere in the city. The problem has been felt for quite some time now, and the irresponsible nature of parking by many of the vehicle owners and drivers have added to the woes. On the other hand, we have yet to see any positive changes by way of development of dedicated parking spaces in strategic points in the city, as every and all measures to regulate traffic and parking has been evidently temporary in nature. The recent measures taken up by the state traffic police have yet again evoked mixed response from the public.

Setting aside the perceived inconveniences and drawbacks, the traffic control authority must have to be applauded for its efforts to streamline and ease the increasing problem. It is true that a lot needs to be done and adjustments made to make the system as perfect as humanly possible, given the not so insignificant limitations in terms of space and resources being faced by the department, but the enthusiasm and professionalism with which the personnel are going about their duties cannot be mistaken.

But streamlining and regulating the flow of traffic and parking norms is just a part of the larger problem plaguing the state. With the manifold increase in vehicular traffic, accidents and injuries due to distractions resulting from use of mobile phones while driving is another concern that needs to be addressed at the earliest. Using hands free accessories or pulling up by the side to attend to important calls, while enforcing strict observation of the law against using phones while driving with fines and other applicable penalties could reduce the danger significantly. Another aspect that could improve the scenario is the strict regulation and enforcement of emission rules. The state Pollution Control Board at present exists only on paper as emission checks have all but become redundant. It would be an understatement to say that the small capital has already begun to be choked by the grime and toxic fumes from the vehicles, some of which have posed serious pollution problems while nothing has been done so far in this regard. Reintroducing the use of signal lights instead of deploying traffic personnel amongst the speeding traffic could definitely help in improving the regulation of traffic and would go a long way in educating and familiarizing the hereto ignorant public to the universally accepted traffic norms and rules.

The problem of traffic congestion and pressure on parking spaces is bound to increase with time. The state government should waste no time to set up dedicated parking spaces and make provisions to provide an enduring solution to the problem. For now, the most positive outcome is perhaps the unexpected opportunity for the public to take that much needed walk.

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.

Mark Sheet lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Admit card and mark sheet issued by Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur bearing Roll No. 14572 of 2012 (registration No. 18358) and Admit card and mark sheet issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur bearing Roll No. 5914 of 2011 (registration No. 0901650064) on the way between Porompat to Heingang on 24/12/2015.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

Calvin Laiphprakpam
S/o L. Surjit Singh

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International and National News

Mufti Sayeed passes away, Mehbooba likely to succeed as CM

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 7: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a crafty politician who took on the powerful Abdullah family and rose to become the country's first Muslim Home Minister, died today at AIIMS here after his platelets dropped dangerously.

Sayeed, 79, who took charge of the state on March 1 last year heading a PDP-BJP alliance, breathed his last this morning after remaining on ventilator for the past few days. He was flown from Srinagar in a special plane on December 24 and admitted to the AIIMS where he was diagnosed with sepsis (life threatening complication of an infection) and pneumonia. During hospitalisation his platelets had dropped dangerously, doctors said.

He is the second J and K Chief Minister to die in office, the first one being Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah who died on September 8, 1982.

Sayeed's daughter 56-year-old Mehbooba is expected to take over as the first woman Chief Minister of the state with PDP leaders throwing their weight behind her. But this will require the approval of BJP.

Sayeed is survived by his wife, three daughters and a son. Jammu and Kashmir government

has declared a seven-day mourning and holiday today. Flaws will be flown at half mast.

The mortal remains of the Chief Minister would be flown to Srinagar where the body will be kept for people to pay homage. He is likely to be buried in his ancestral village Bibbera in South Kashmir, about 48 kms from Srinagar.

Sayeed took over as chief minister of PDP-BJP coalition on March 1 last year. In the 87-member J and K Assembly PDP won 28 seats and BJP 25 while opposition National Conference got 15 and Congress 12.

Condoling the death of Sayeed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it left a huge void in the nation and that the leader who provided a healing touch would be missed.

"What stood out about Mufti Sahab was his statesmanship. In his long political journey he won many admirers across the political spectrum," Modi said.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh will be flying to Srinagar to attend Sayeed's funeral.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi also expressed grief over the demise of Mufti as she communicated her condolences to his wife and Mehbooba.

"In his death, the state of Jammu and Kashmir as indeed the entire nation has lost a great leader," she said.

Vice President inaugurated DG NCC Republic Day Camp



PRO Defence
Imphal, Jan 7: Vice President of India Shri M Hamid Ansari formally inaugurated the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2016 at the DGNCC Camp adjacent to Garrison Parade Ground in Delhi Cantt. On his arrival, the Vice President was received by the Director General NCC, Lt Gen Aniruddha Chakravarty.

2069 Cadets including 695 girl cadets drawn from 17 NCC Directorates covering all the States and Union Territories of the Country are participating in this camp that culminates in the Prime Minister's Rally on 28 January 2016. The cadets attending the camp will be participating in a number of activities, like Cultural Programme, National Integration Awareness and Institutional Training Competitions.

A contingent of smartly turned out NCC cadets drawn from all the three wings of Army, Navy and Air

Force, presented a "Guard of Honour" to the Vice President on his arrival. The Vice President also visited the Flag Area where he listened to the young cadets briefing about their respective States and appreciated the various social themes displayed in the Flag Areas prepared by them.

In his address, the Vice President complimented the efforts of National Cadet Corps, the largest uniformed organization in grooming the youth of the country and its contribution towards "Nation Building". He also mentioned that NCC is and would be in the vanguard of all activities of our youth helping to channelise our youth into a creative force to usher in social changes through spectrum of activities. The Vice President also appreciated the impressive turnout of the "Guard of Honour". He urged the NCC cadets to avail the best of NCC training and be more responsible and empowered citizens of the country.

RC book lost

I, the undersigned, have lost the RC book for my vehicle bearing Registration No. MN 04- 8029, Chassis No. SB3081N516767, Engine No. FOBIN764166, on the way between Thangal Bazar to Keishamthong Moirangningthou Leirak on January 3, 2016.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the

S/-
L. Nandakishor Singh
Keishamthong Moirang Ningthou

More state News

AR relief work for earthquake victims



IT News
Imphal, Jan 7: In the wake of the disaster that struck the state of Manipur in the wee hours of 04 January, 2016, units of HQ IGAR (South) carried out rescue and relief operations for earthquake victims on 04 January 2016.

A massive earthquake with magnitude 6.7 hit the region at around 04:35 am on 04 January 2016. Rescue teams of the unit immediately rushed in to assist the locals at locations of massive damage like Deuhlaland, Mimuthong, Ema market, Babupara

in Imphal West District of Manipur state. A total of nearly 40 people were assisted in escaping from the debris and their precious lives were saved. Troops of the unit, while helping in rescuing injured people, administering first aid and clearing the debris, also helped in instilling the feeling of safety and assurance to them. The local populace was extremely thankful and expressed their sincere gratitude for the assistance provided by Assam Rifles for working towards their rescue and relief.

CRAM expresses concerns over the damage of govt. building in the recent 6.8 magnitude earthquake

IT News
Imphal, Jan 7: The Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur (CRAM) has extended their deepest condolence and heartfelt grief to all those who lose their lives in the 4 January Earthquake in Manipur with epicentre close to Noney in Tamenglong District. In a statement, CRAM shares the grief and suffering of all those families who lose their near and dear ones in the recent Earthquake and also to those whose homes were destroyed in the tremor.

The Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur also expressed serious concern over several mega-structures, especially those built for public purposes by the Government of Manipur with Corporate bodies, have fallen apart or have developed cracks, including the famed women's market, sacred temples at Kangla, the lone flyover etc all in Imphal Town. It is highly concerning that Singda dam close to the epicentre of the tremor, had also developed cracks as had reported by nearby villagers.

Further, there are reports of some of tunnels of Trans Asian Railway in Tamenglong and the towers of World Bank funded High Voltage Transmission lines had caved.

The inability for these mega development structures to withstand the Seismic activity on 4th January at 6.8 Richter scale indicates the seismic aspects and impacts, especially in Manipur which is juxtaposed in high and active seismic zone, within the folds of Himalayan Mountain range, has either not been considered or disregarded. There's

also an additional issue of low quality of works and aspect of fraud and corruption of the construction works by corporate bodies involved in the construction works.

The epicentre of the January 4 tremor in Tamenglong District should be an occasion for due consideration and sensitivity to the repeated assertions from academicians, the technicians, civil society organizations, that Manipur's proximity and location in very high seismic zone 5, requires a cautious and inevitable consideration of seismic aspect and impacts in all development planning and processes.

The proposed plans for building Tipaimukh Dam, Pabram and Irang Hydel projects and other mega dams under the Manipur Hydro Power Policy, 2012, the proposed Oil Exploration Plans in Tamenglong and Churachandpur districts, the extensive tunneling and construction works for both Trans Asian Railway and Trans Asian Highway and multitude of other large scale development projects within Manipur need serious introspection for their feasibility and rationality in places like Manipur. There should be clear review of the existing mega development structures like Mapithel dam, the Singda dam, Khuga etc for their compliance or due consideration of Seismic impacts. This natural calamity should also lead to a development decision based on rightful participation of all indigenous communities and all those concerned with a just and a sustainable development in Manipur.

AR assists locals in fire fighting

IT News
Imphal, Jan 7: Tamenglong battalion of Assam Rifles of Senapati Brigade under the aegis of Red Shield Division rose to the occasion and assisted the civil administration and locals in fighting a fire that broke out at a shopping complex near Medical Gate of Tamenglong Town on 01 Jan 2016.

On being informed, troops of Tamenglong battalion Assam Rifles immediately rushed to the site alongwith a water bowser and fire fighting equipments and commenced fire fighting efforts to extinguish the fire. Six wooden shops were completely gutted by

the fire due to storage of inflammable products inside the complex which with timely intervention of fire fighting column of the Assam Rifles battalion resulted in prevention of spread of fire to four adjacent shops. The likely cause of the fire was due to electric short circuit which resulted in bursting of an LPG cylinder kept in a small hotel of shopping complex. The fire was finally extinguished after sustained efforts of civil administration, locals and Assam Rifles troops for one and half hours and no injury or casualty occurred during the incident.