

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Public transport system in Manipur

The need for a viable public transport system in the state and especially in the valley areas has been felt for a long time, and the move by the Biren-led state government to reactivate the public transport services should be hailed as one of the more pragmatic and necessary decisions given the rapidly increasing traffic congestions and correspondingly decreasing civic sense of motorists. However, reports of the newly reintroduced inter-district and city bus services by the state government running at a loss hardly makes for interesting news, for the outcome has been expected, and one experienced before. The previous government even tried to privatize the operation but couldn't find any taker. What is interesting is the fact that despite the claim of loss which obviously would mean that there isn't any passenger willing to avail of the service despite the low fare and fairly good conditions of the buses, the roads around the city are still chock-a-block with private passenger service providers who would not have remained in business had there been no passenger. The contradictory situations clearly points to a grave anomaly - either in the planning of the routes or schedule or in implementation and monitoring the whole operation. Considering the lack of parking spaces and increasing traffic which inevitably increases pollution and noise, the public transport system presents a better and more sensible alternative to the people of the state, and should be presented as such. The government think-tank should consider ways and means to persuade the public to rely more on the public transport system rather than to use their own private vehicles as far as possible. Increasing parking fees might be one of the means to dissuade vehicle owners from using their private vehicles. Another move that would make a significant difference to the traffic problem being faced by the public at present would be to limit the area of operation of autorickshaws to the peripheries of the city and preventing them from entering the heart of the city, at least during the peak rush hours. Perhaps an opinion poll or campaign involving the public can throw light as to the root cause of the public transport services not being able to take off and be commercially viable despite the pressing need for it. Another aspect of the problem could be the lack of monitoring of the operations on the ground. Most of us who have used public transport services in other states would have been familiar with the practice of inspectors of transport making random checks on various routes regularly and penalizing ticketless travellers. Also a means of checks and balances on the transport crews can also make a difference to the whole operation. There is no reason why the public transport system cannot be a success in the state. But for that to happen, various steps need to be taken up. Taking into consideration the opinions and suggestions of the public who are the end users would go a long way in forming a practical and acceptable plan of action.

Opposition Presidential candidate Meira Kumar files her nomination

AIR New Delhi, June 28: Opposition candidate and former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar today filed her nomination for Presidential Election in Parliament House. The 75-year-old Ms Kumar is the joint opposition candidate of 17 non-NDA parties against the ruling NDA's nominee Ram Nath Kovind. Congress President Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, BSP leader Satish Mishra, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury, TMC leader Derek O'Brien, Karnataka chief Minister Mr Siddaramaiah and Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanswamy were also present on the occasion. Talking to media after filing her nomination papers, Ms Kumar said from today the fight for ideology has started. She said this ideology is of democratic values, inclusiveness, freedom of press and destruction of caste system. She said, she will be leaving for Sabarnati tomorrow to launch her campaign. Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi has said Meira Kumar represents values that binds us together as a nation which is against the ideology of divisiveness. In a tweet, Mr Gandhi said, he is proud to have Ms Kumar as opposition's presidential candidate.

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More State News

4 bodies of suspected HPC-D cadres recovered from Barak River

NENA Pherzawl, June 28: Four bodies, suspected to be cadres belonging to the Hmar Peoples' Convention-Democratic (HPC-D), were fished out from Barak River near Jiribam and Barak River at Palarbond, Silchar. It is suspected that the bodies were those robbers who had reportedly robbed doctors and nurses at Sivapukur Primary Health Centre, Pherzawl district on the intervening night of June 21 and 22, according to reports. The militant group HPC-D at Sinlung designated camp

reportedly shot dead some of its cadres believed to have been involved in the Sivapukur robbery incident and later threw their lifeless corpses into the Barak River. Reports claimed that HPC-D punished them to death for the excess they had committed against the medical staff of Sivapukur PHC. It may be recalled that on June 21 midnight some armed persons wearing camouflage dresses intruded Sivapukur PHC and there they reportedly robbed the doctor and nurses. The robbers then fled the site with Rs 10,000 and two mobile phones after firing three-four

rounds in the air to make their way. Fearing their safety, the doctor and nurses from Sivapukur and other neighbouring PHCs left their postings the next day. It infuriated the neighbouring villages. Demanding action against those robbers, irate villagers reportedly tried to storm Sinlung designated camp of HPC-D militants, the reports claimed. Two bodies were recovered from Barak River at Palarbond on Tuesday and another two bodies fished out from Manipur side of the river yesterday.

Awareness programmes held

IT News Imphal, June 28: The Departmental Troupe of Song & Drama Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Imphal Centre organized Publicity Awareness Programmes on the Importance of Yoga for Health and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan through Songs, Dances and Skits at the Conference Hall, Imphal Hotel, Community Hall, Nambol Sabaltongba and C.C. Higher Secondary School, Imphal successfully. The programme began on the 25th of this month and will continue till the 29th of this month.

National and International News

US to help Indian armed forces it needs to support security in South Asia: Mike Pence

Agency New Delhi, June 28: The US Vice President Mike Pence has said that his country will help the Indian armed forces to obtain the resources and technology it needs to support security in South Asia. He said the process to approve the sale was underway and expressed hope that it would accurately reflect commitment to mutual security

among both nations. In a key note address to members of the US India Council in Washington yesterday, Pence said, the US and India can deepen their ties in many industries and areas. He urged India to enact the necessary economic reforms to ensure fair and reciprocal bilateral trade. He also said India and the US, are strong partners in fight against

terrorism. He said, the United States and India already collaborate to a significant extent. But in the face of terror networks that are ever-more sophisticated, ever-more dispersed. He said, both countries will continue to take renewed action to facilitate two-way information and intelligence sharing to confront this threat.

Mamata to boycott GST launch programme

Courtesy: The Hindu Kolkata, June 28: Expressing her strong reservations over the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 1, 2017 West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that this "unnecessary disastrous hurry is another epic blunder of the Centre".

The Trinamool Congress chairperson also announces that the Parliamentary Board of her party has decided not to attend the June 30, 2017 midnight programme at the Parliament House to celebrate GST, as a mark of protest.

"We feel, at least 6 months will further be necessary to notify all rules and procedures and give enough time to the stakeholders, particularly the Small and Medium Enterprises to successfully implement the GST. Otherwise a chaotic situation may arise in our vast economy for which the Government of India will be primarily responsible," Ms Banerjee said on social media.

The Chief Minister claimed that businesses in the small and medium ones are scared and confused. "Essential commodities such as medicines are not available in many places and prices of various commodities are rising for lack of clarity and mismanagement," she added. State's Finance Minister Amit Mitra have also pressed on the need of more time before the GST can be implemented all across the country.

"We have repeatedly said in the GST council that the roll-out must be done systematically. In other countries like Germany and Japan, they had given 12 to 18 months before the introduction of such tax system," Mr Mitra said. Meanwhile, in Kolkata garment manufacturers in Burrabazar area are observing strike over imposing GST on garments. A number of other shops sealing small engineering goods also remained closed in the city.

Centre makes linking of existing Aadhaar with PAN of taxpayers mandatory from 1st July

AIR New Delhi, June 28: The Government has made it mandatory to link existing Aadhaar numbers with Permanent Account Number (PAN) of taxpayers with effect from July 1. Amending income tax rules and notifying the same, the Government has also made quoting of the 12-digit biometric Aadhaar or the enrolment ID a must at the time of application of permanent account number (PAN). The revenue department said the rules will come

into force from July 1, 2017. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley through an amendment to tax proposals in the Finance Bill for 2017-18 had made Aadhaar mandatory for filing income tax returns and provided for linking of PAN with Aadhaar to check tax evasion through use of multiple PAN cards. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has said the linking of Aadhaar and PAN will be a must for filing of income tax returns and obtaining PAN from July 1. As many as 2.07

crore taxpayers have already linked their Aadhaar with PAN. There are over 25 crore PAN card holders in the country while Aadhaar has been issued to 111 crore people. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had upheld the validity of an I-T Act provision making Aadhaar mandatory for allotment of PAN cards and ITR filing, but had put a partial stay on its implementation till a Constitution bench addressed the issue of right to privacy.

Army and ITBP officers take stock of Sikkim border showdown with China

New Delhi, June 28: Officials in the Union Home Ministry on Tuesday reviewed the situation along the Sino-Indian border following tension in the forward areas in Sikkim after a scuffle between personnel of the Indian Army and the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The meeting, attended by representatives of the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, besides the home ministry, took stock of the border, particularly in Sikkim, officials said. Of the 3,488-km Sino-Indian border from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, 220 km falls in Sikkim. The scuffle between the Indian Army and the PLA led to Chinese troops damaging bunkers on the Indian side. The incident happened in the first week of June near the Lalten post in the Doka La general area after a face-off between the two forces, which triggered tension. After the scuffle, China stopped the travel of Indian pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar through the Nathu La border post in Sikkim. China on Tuesday lodged a protest with India over the alleged "crossing of boundary" by its troops in the Sikkim sector and demanded their immediate withdrawal. Beijing warned that future visits of Indian pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar will depend on the resolution of the standoff. Government officials described the incident in Sikkim as

an attempt by China to open another front along the border. There have been several incidents of incursion in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh in the past. However, the situation in Sikkim has been calm in the last 10 years as border in the state is demarcated. "As relations between India and China have been strained after the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, the incident could be an attempt by the Chinese side to open a confrontation in Sikkim," an official said.

NDA files 4th set of nomination papers for Ram Nath Kovind

New Delhi, June 28: NDA has filed 4th set of nomination papers for its Presidential candidate Ram Nath Kovind in Parliament house. Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu filed the nomination paper on behalf of Mr Kovind. Last week on Friday, Mr Kovind had filed three sets of nomination papers. Today is the last date for filing the nomination and scrutiny of papers will be done tomorrow. 1st of July is the last date for withdrawal of candidature. The election for the President post is scheduled for 17th of next month and counting of votes will take place on 20th of July.

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Department of Labour, Government of Manipur
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