

Editorial

Just by showing concern will not change until you act Mr. Chief Minister

If not all, majority of the people of the state wanted a change. A change Manipur- free from corruption and violence of an former citizen of the state have high respect for the rules of law is what most people expect. Of now Imphalites witness some changes and sections of people are now optimistic about the changes that might occurred in the coming days. The night life, bridging of relationships between various communities in the state, etc., are some of the hopes given to the general public. But then, high hopes sometimes are shattered on learning certain irregularities practice at higher government level. May be it's just a rumours but there is reason that some of such rumours have reason to be believe with the way its happening/seen today by common man. Many efforts had been seen by the present government to change the state into the right direction. But one thing which the government can never bring a change is the traffic regulation of vehicular movement in the heart of Imphal city.

The other day, people of the state witnessed Chief Minister N. Biren Singh post at which he update the street of Yangon, the capital city of neighbouring country Myanmar. The post show heavy traffic following rules of law of traffic regulation and the discipline of the citizens driving vehicles.

"Meegi lam Yangon, Myanmar traffic lambi magi magi line dagi hennade gari hengatnaba thoujannabagi HORN makhol tade" (In Yangon Myanmar each of them follow rules by driving on their own line, no horn heard for overtaking), this is what Chief Minister N. Biren Singh wrote in his post. The post showed that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh wanted the same to be followed in the state of Manipur. But the question is that have our Chief Minister taken up anything to streamline the traffic regulation since he assumed power?

Well in the first month when he becomes the Chief Minister, his government had instructed a probe over the installation of electronic traffic signal light as well the irregularities in the installation of CCTV. People now wanted know what had happened to the probe? A mere suspension of some few officials is not what people expect but to punish each and everyone responsible for the damage and reinstalled it again so that people sees working electronic traffic signals and working CCTV to check wrongs committed in the city.

Lately, a traffic control Wing Superintendent of Police has been appointed but government is yet to establish this traffic control wing as a fully fledged Police Station. As per information from the SP of the Traffic Control Wing, they can't file FIR against any defaulter, even as they can fine them.

Some of the critics sometimes said that drivers of vehicles are responsible for the traffic mess. But the reality is that it is the traffic regulation enforcers that are responsible for the traffic mess in the city. An example can be cited from those people who had drive at city like Delhi or any other metropolitan city outside the country. These drivers follows the traffic rules in the city like Delhi or outside the country, but then when they return here in Imphal they don't bother to follow the regulation as no one is enforcing the rules.

To be frank the traffic control police assign on duty are serving for the convenient of the WVIP, VIPs and son and daughters of VIPs.

Discipline of the state is also highlighted by the way that the traffic regulations are followed by the people and definitely it is the traffic regulation enforcers that people should be force to follow the rules. For that more legislation to empower the traffic control police is needed.

If Hon'ble Chief Minister is serious for a discipline traffic movement in Imphal, He should definitely spare extra time to this Traffic control wing of state police besides convening regular meeting of Traffic Regulation and Parking Committee (TRPC) for at least once a month.

THE POWER OF THE BUDDHA'S METTA (LOVING-KINDNESS) AND KARUNA (COMPASSION) FOR ALL SENTIENT BEINGS - Part III

SUNITA- Sunita was born a *chandala*, a member of the untouchable class. He was not educated; in fact, by laws he wasn't allowed to learn. It would have been a grave offence if he had been caught writing or speaking even one words from the Vedas (the holy teachings of the Brahmins). He wasn't allowed to enter a place of worship, and he had been overheard reciting one of the Vedic prayers, his tongue would have been cut out. If he was caught even listening to them, he would have had a spike driven into his ears. This was their law.

He was born near the Rajagaha area, and people who belonged to the untouchable caste survived by cleaning streets, drains and toilets. They disposed of dead animals and did other "dirty" unmentionable work that no one else would do. They wore scraps of cloth, which barely covered their nakedness, and weren't allowed access to the public wells. To touch the water reserved for the higher-caste people was to pollute not only the water, but the caste people who used it as well.

Any contact and the high caste person had to perform extensive rituals to cleanse themselves, and the untouchable would be severely punished.

Sunita collected night soil, human waste, and took it to the fields in two large buckets suspended on a pole carried on his shoulders. You can imagine how filthy he was, and how foul the ugly smell was that exuded from every pore. Flies and

other insects covered not only the buckets, but his body as well. His unkempt hair was matted and his skin as black as night from dirt and excrement. He was never but an inch away from starvation; every borne in his body protruded against his leathery, sundried skin. He had no home; he slept on the side of the road wherever he happened to wind up at the end of the day.

Sunita was late on his collection rounds collecting one morning and when he looked up the street, he saw a group of monks approaching. **There was a beautiful golden aura surrounding them and he could tell by their bearing that they were of the higher castes.** Sunita knew that he was not allowed to make an eye contact with anyone outside his caste, nor was he to let his shadow even fall across theirs. Immediately afraid, he started to look for a place to hide. He felt ashamed and he didn't want the monks to see him. He didn't want to be accused of unlawfully looking at them.

There was nowhere to go, no alleyway , nearby , so stood up against the nearest wall , put down his pole , and with his arms folded in front of him bowed as low as he could. He hoped with all his heart that they pass by without ridiculing him or complaining that he was fouling the air they breathed or the earth they walked.

Sensing the group of monks close by, he couldn't believe it when he heard a voice call out, **" Dear friend; would you like to join us?"** Now his fear was combined with a

I am a human being and I am not perfect. So, please kindly read the message and not the messenger - By Sanjoo Thangjam

tentative feeling of joy. He couldn't bring himself to raise his head or even answer the speaker.

The Buddha had stopped in front of him. Sunita whispered, " I am a *chandala*, my Lord. I am not even allowed to speak to you. I am grateful for your words; no one has ever spoken kindly to me before. Your voice brings joy and light to my heart."

The Buddha stood there waiting patiently. Sunita found himself feeling stronger and happier by the second. Finally he was able to say, **"If you would have this miserable, wretched untouchable, I would gladly go with you to become a monk."**

The Buddha said, " Come, O monk!" and that was Sunita's ordination.

Sunita followed the Buddha and the other monks to their monastery. He was shown where to bathe and his head was shaved. Ananda, the Buddha's chief attendant brought him how to dress. Everyone at the monastery was so kind that day and every day. Not a day went by that Sunita didn't bless the Buddha and his brother monks for their limitless (Karuna) compassion."

Sunita blossomed very quickly. The Buddha gave him an object for meditation, and told him to find a secluded corner of the monastery

and practice. Sunita was so grateful for the Buddha kindness. He felt like he owed him - and all the of the Sangha members - to try his very best to strive for the highest goal. And Sunita did become enlightened, an **arahat**. It was far beyond his wildest dreams ; in fact, before meeting the Buddha, he had never dreamed at all.

From that moment on, the people of all ranks respected and paid homage to Sunita when he taught them the way to attainment. His attainment set an example for all time. The Buddha showed the world the true meaning of nobility; a person was noble because of good actions. Sunita's story also demonstrated the fact that social conventions are meaningless when viewed in the light of the unlimited (Karuna) compassion and vision of the Buddha.

The Buddha taught that everyone's tears and blood are the same colour. By birth no one is high or low caste, it was by their actions that people were judged high or low. Just as the water of each river has its own name, but upon reaching the ocean the river water became ocean water. Likewise, when any person enters the order, he becomes one with the sangha.

The writer is a lay Buddhist and a Human Rights Activist for People Who Use Drugs (PUD).

National and International News

Powerful earthquake on Iran-Iraq border kills 207 people

AP Tehran, Nov 13: A powerful earthquake shook the Iran-Iraq border, killing 207 people and injuring 1,686 in the mountainous region of Iran alone, Iranian state media said. The Baghdad government did not immediately give word on casualties in that country, though Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi yesterday issued a directive for the country's civil defense teams and "related institutions" to respond to the natural disaster. The magnitude 7.3 quake was centered 31 kilometers outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja,

according to the most recent measurements from the US Geological Survey. It struck at a depth of 23.2 kilometers, a shallow depth that can have broader damage. Magnitude 7 earthquakes on their own are capable of widespread, heavy damage. The quake was felt as far west as the Mediterranean coast. Its worst damage appeared to be in Iran's western Kermanshah province, which sits in the Zagros Mountains that divide Iran and Iraq. Residents in the rural area rely mainly on farming to make a living. Iranian social media and news agencies showed images and

videos of people fleeing their homes into the night. Some 50 aftershocks followed. Iran's state-run television reported the increase in casualties early today and said rescue work was continuing overnight and would accelerate during the daytime. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered his condolences this morning and urged rescuers and all government agencies to do all they could to help those affected, state media reported. The semi-official IRNA news agency said at least 14 provinces in Iran had been affected by the earthquake. Officials announced that schools in

Kermanshah and Ilam provinces would be closed today because of the tremor. Iranian state TV also said Iraqi officials reported that at least six people died today in Iraq, along with more than 50 people injured in Sulaymaniyah province and about 150 in the town of Khanaqin. Iran sits on many major fault lines and is prone to near-daily quakes. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam, killing 26,000 people. The last major casualty earthquake in Iran struck in East Azerbaijan province in August 2012, killing over 300 people.

Foggy Monday morning in Delhi, 69 trains delayed

IANs New Delhi, Nov. 13: saw a moderately foggy Monday morning with the minimum temperature at 12.4 degrees Celsius, a notch below the season's average. At least 69 trains were delayed, 22 rescheduled and eight trains were cancelled due to the shallow fog in northern India.

"The sky will remain mainly clear during the day with moderate fog in the morning," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Humidity at 8.30 a.m. was 93 per cent and visibility was 400 metres. The Rajendra Nagar Terminal-New Delhi Samporna Kranti Express was delayed by over 24 hours while

the Sitamarhi-Anand Vihar Lichavi Express was delayed by over 25 hours. The cancelled trains include — New Delhi-Varanasi Mahanama Express, Delhi-Azamgarh Kaifiyat Express, Anand Vihar-Delhi Express, Sriganganagar-Delhi Intercity, Delhi-Fazlika Intercity, Delhi-Alipurwar Mahananda Express

and Raxaul-Delhi Sadbhawana Express. According to the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), no flights were delayed or cancelled. Sunday's maximum temperature settled at 28.4 degrees Celsius, the season's average, while the minimum was 13 degrees Celsius, a notch below the season's average.

Tillerson to deliver warning in Myanmar over Rohingya crisis

AFP Washington, Nov 13: In the face of widespread "atrocities" against ethnic Rohingya people in Myanmar, the United States has been cautiously stepping up pressure on that country's army, while taking care to avoid endangering the civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi. As the US takes a more active role in the region — several American delegations have passed through in recent weeks — Secretary of State Rex Tillerson plans to travel to Myanmar on Wednesday to meet Suu Kyi, the nation's leader, as well as army chief General Min Aung Hlaing. Myanmar is the country formerly known as Burma. Tillerson is expected to adopt a firm tone with military leaders there, whom he has deemed "responsible" for the crisis facing the Rohingya, an

embattled Muslim minority that has seen more than 600,000 of its members flee to neighboring Bangladesh in two and a half months. In the name of putting down a supposed Rohingya rebellion, the army has since late August waged a sweeping military campaign in the western state of Rakhine, burning villages and sending thousands into what has become the largest exodus in today's world. The United Nations has denounced the campaign, including allegations of killings and mass rape, as "ethnic cleansing." Recently returned from Myanmar and the overflowing refugee camps in Bangladesh, Simon Henshaw, the State Department official responsible for refugee and migration issues, said the scene in the camps was "shocking."

"The scale of the refugee crisis is immense," he said, adding: "The conditions are tough. People are suffering." "Many refugees told us, through tears, accounts of seeing their villages burned, their relatives killed in front of them," Henshaw said. "The world can't just stand by and be witness to the atrocities that are being reported in that area," Tillerson said last month. But it is unclear what steps the United States might take. Up to now, the State Department has merely strengthened a few punitive measures aimed at Myanmar's army. The initial condemnations were "important," Sarah Margon of the organization Human Rights Watch told AFP, "but they stopped and there has been very little concrete action since then."

She called for targeted economic sanctions meant to bring an end to "some of the most brutal and horrific atrocities that have been seen in years." In the absence of more determined action from the White House or State Department, several members of the US Congress are calling for sanctions to limit military cooperation with Myanmar and ban its army members from US soil. A draft bill would also ban the importation of rubies or jade from the country. "The bill is an important, although belated, first step in pushing the Myanmar military to end the violence in Rakhine state," said Joshua Kurlantzick of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations. Now, he said, other parts of the government "should take action as well."

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



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