

# Editorial

## Traffic woes continues

Appointment of a Superintendent of Police for Traffic Control Wing makes no difference to the problem of locomotion her in the Imphal. Driving or walking, both suffer equally if it is the street of Imphal. The comforts expected from driving a car is now a distant dream with traffic managers in the state fails to prove their efficiency. The construction of Bir Tikendrajit Fly over and the widening of the roads seem to have no use with the authority failing to manage the situation. We do not simply blame the authority, the people too have responsibility. But it is the paid government authorities who are assigned for the job to make the traffic flow smoothly.

The state of Manipur has been witnessing a phenomenal increase in the amount of vehicles an indication of the rising social status of the public and improving economic conditions in the state. While these factors are welcome sign, the fact remains that the concerned authorities have failed to keep pace with the times and the changing social scenario in the state resulting in heavy traffic jams and delays which needs to be addressed immediately. The short term policies and systems being implemented from time to time in an attempt to ease the congestions and traffic jams have not been able to alleviate the problem in any way, on the contrary these ad-hoc measures have managed to confuse the public and compound the problem the authorities have been trying to solve.

The formation of Traffic regulation and parking committee has not been of much help, and one can only wonder if they are functioning at all. Queries put up to the concerned departments have only resulted in more bewildering responses a classic example of the effectiveness of passing the buck around that has been at work in all government set ups. While formulation of policies and systems to control and regulate traffic may be a beginning in the right direction, the fact remains that the increasing number of vehicles need additional space to accommodate them and juggling acts of the traffic system by the experts, however efficient and experienced they may be, will not bear fruit. Construction of additional parking spaces at strategic locations, bypasses and flyovers, and most importantly providing subways at important and crowded junctions will go a long way in reducing these problems. Construction of public utilities does not automatically guarantee improvement their proper usage is as important an obvious example being the use of footpaths by the vendors and shopkeepers to stock and ply their goods forcing the pedestrians to walk on the road. The need to streamline and re-orient the traffic police personnel by empowering them with more appropriate is also being felt by the public. Turning a blind eye to the irregularities being committed by the drivers of various public and commercial transport vehicles in consideration for a "quick handshake" has been well documented despite the dangers and inconveniences such greedy acts causes. The present government ministers and high ranking officials may not be feeling the burden such traffic jams causes as they seem to have a prerogative of the right of use of the road over the common public but unless some concrete steps are taken up very soon, the only option that would be available to them would be to use their feet with their retinue of escorts and assistants wading through the impossible traffic surely a distracting relief for the stranded common public on the road.

## Jet flight lands back in Delhi after 8 hours

**IANS**  
New Delhi, Nov. 11: A Jet Airways flight carrying 150 passengers on Friday landed back in New Delhi after eight hours due to non availability of taxi way at Patna airport, police said on Saturday. The Jet Airways flight 9W 730

departed from Terminal-3 at the IGI at 2.30 p.m but "due to non availability of taxi way" at the Patna Airport the flight was diverted to Varanasi, however, the flight landed back at Terminal-3 at 9.30 p.m. Deputy Commissioner of Police Sanjay Bhatia said.

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# National and International News

## 11 Trade ministers reach deal on Pacific trade without US

**AP**  
**Danang, Nov. 11:** In a major breakthrough, trade ministers from 11 Pacific Rim countries said they reached a deal on Saturday to proceed with the free-trade Trans-Pacific Partnership deal that was in doubt after President Donald Trump abandoned it.

A statement issued in the early hours Saturday said an accord was reached on "core elements" of the 11-member pact. The compromise was delayed by last-minute disagreements that prevented the TPP leaders from meeting to endorse a plan on Friday.

"Ministers are pleased to announce that they have agreed on the core elements of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership," the 11 nations said in a statement.

It said that the ministers maintained "the high standards, overall balance and integrity of the TPP while ensuring the commercial and other interests of all participants and preserving our inherent right to regulate, including the flexibility of the parties to set legislative and regulatory priorities."

In January, Mr. Trump pulled out of

the deal that was championed by his predecessor Barack Obama. Leaders of the 11 countries remaining in the TPP had been due to meet and endorse a deal worked out in last-minute talks overnight. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said earlier on Friday that the 11 leaders had to postpone their meeting on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Danang, Vietnam. Mr. Abe spoke after meeting with Canadian Prime Ministers Justin Trudeau, who had said days earlier that Canada would not be rushed into an agreement. The TPP member countries are trying to find a way forward without the U.S., the biggest economy and, before Trump took office, one of its most assertive supporters. Mr. Trump has said he prefers country-to-country deals and is seeking to renegotiate several major trade agreements to, as he says, "put America first."

Mr. Trump reiterated his markedly different stance on trade before the 21-member APEC summit convened late Friday with a gala banquet. The U.S. president told an APEC

business conference that "we are not going to let the United States be taken advantage of any more." He lambasted the World Trade Organization and other trade forums as unfair to the United States and reiterated his preference for bilateral trade deals, saying "I am always going to put America first."

Mr. Trump said he would not enter into large trade agreements, alluding to U.S. involvement in the North American Free Trade Agreement and the TPP.

In contrast, Chinese President Xi Jinping told the same group that nations need to stay committed to economic openness or risk being left behind.

The Chinese president drew loud applause when he urged support for the "multilateral trading regime" and progress toward a free-trade zone in the Asia-Pacific. China is not part of the TPP.

APEC operates by consensus and customarily issues non-binding statements. TPP commitments would eventually be ratified and enforced by its members. But even talks this week on a declaration to cap the APEC summit

had to be extended for an extra half day as ministers haggled over wording. It's unclear what the exact sticking points were, but officials have alluded to differences over the unequal impact more open trade has had on workers and concerns over automation in manufacturing that could leave many millions in a wide array of industries with no work to do.

As a developing country with a fast-growing export sector, this year's host country, Vietnam, has a strong interest in open trade and access for its exports to consumers in the West. The summit is an occasion for its leaders to showcase the progress its economy has made thanks largely to foreign investment and trade. Danang, Vietnam's third largest city, is in the midst of a construction boom as dozens of resorts and smaller hotels pop up along its scenic coastline.

APEC's members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the U.S. and Vietnam.

## Roy Moore denies allegation of sexual encounter with teenager

**AP**  
**Washington, Nov. 11:** Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore flatly denied allegations he had sexual contact with a 14-year-old girl almost four decades ago and denied ever knowing his accuser, calling the story a politically motivated attack a month before the election.

"I don't know Ms. Corfman from anybody," he said Friday on Sean Hannity's radio show, referring to Leigh Corfman, the woman who told the *Washington Post* about her encounter with Moore in 1979. "I've never talked to her. Never had any contact with her. Allegations of sexual misconduct with her are completely false. I believe they're politically motivated. I believe they're brought only to stop a very successful campaign, and that's what they're doing."

Moore acknowledged knowing two of the women who told the *Post* that the Alabama Republican pursued them for dates when they were 17 and 18. Although he said he didn't recall the dates, Moore denied anything inappropriate happened. "If I did, I'm not going to dispute anything" about having dated them, he told Hannity. "We never had any sexual activity."

Moore has defied calls from some congressional Republicans to drop out of the race, in which he faces Democrat Doug Jones in a 12 December special election. The allegations shake up an already tumultuous campaign, where Moore was the favourite to win in the solidly Republican state. Moore, who was twice removed as chief justice of the state Supreme Court for defying federal court rulings, is on the ballot after defeating a primary opponent supported by US President Donald Trump, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell and the rest of the party establishment.

Moore was backed by Steve Bannon, the chairman of Breitbart News and Trump's former chief strategist, who said on Friday he's standing behind the candidate. He said he believes the *Post* story was a hit piece planted by Moore's enemies, though he offered no backing for the claim.

"This is deeper than politics—it's about trying to destroy a man's life," Bannon said in a telephone interview. "I've seen this before with Trump."

Breitbart published Moore's pre-emptive denial of the *Post* report just minutes before it was published on Thursday.

A poll conducted after the allegations surfaced, by Opinion

Savvy, an Atlanta-based organization sponsored by Decision Desk HQ, showed the race tied with Moore and Jones both at 46%. In late September, the same polling group had Moore up by 5.7 percentage points. Of the 515 people surveyed Thursday, 82.2% said they were aware of the allegations.

**Growing list**  
Trump joined a growing list of top Republicans saying Moore should withdraw from the race if the report is substantiated that he pursued the 14-year-old and three other teenagers when he was in his 30s and a deputy district attorney. During his presidential campaign, Trump denied accusations of sexual misconduct made by several women.

"Like most Americans, the president believes we cannot allow a mere allegation, in this case one from many years ago, to destroy a person's life," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday as Trump travelled to a summit in Vietnam. "However, the president also believes that if these allegations are true, Judge Moore will do the right thing and step aside."

Paperwork filed with the Federal Election Commission on Friday showed that the Moore campaign and the National Republican Senatorial Committee have cut ties, while the Republican National Committee is still listed on the Moore campaign's form.

**Tide of allegations**  
The allegations against Moore come at a time when prominent men in the entertainment industry, business and politics have been accused of multiple acts of sexual misconduct. The wave of accusations was led by reports from *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* detailing accusations of sexual harassment and assault against film executive Harvey Weinstein.

They also present a dilemma for Republicans trying to keep their majorities in the House and Senate in next year's congressional elections. Moore's presence in the Senate would be sure to become a rallying point for Democrats, who drew heavily on support from women to make surprising gains in off-year balloting in Virginia, New Jersey and several other states on Tuesday.

Moore has little incentive to heed Republican Party leaders' calls to step aside after they shunned him in the primary and didn't embrace

him after he won. In Alabama, some of Moore's fellow Republicans were rallying around him. One, state representative Ed Henry, said the accusers were prodded by the Democratic Party and may have been paid to make their statements. He even suggested they should be prosecuted, according to a local newspaper, the *Cullman Times*.

**Victim's deadline**  
"If they believe this man is predatory, they are guilty of allowing him to exist for 40 years. I think someone should prosecute and go after them. You can't be a victim 40 years later, in my opinion," Henry said in an interview, according to the newspaper.

Most of the Republican lawmakers who said Moore should step aside attached the qualifier "if true" to their statements. None defined what standard of proof they would apply in the case.

"I believe if there's any truth to these allegations at all, he needs to step out of this race," Senator Pat Toomey, a Pennsylvania Republican, said on Friday during a *Bloomberg TV* interview.

In an interview afterwards, Toomey said he hasn't seen any evidence that would undermine the credibility of the woman who made the allegation in the *Post* report.

"If there were evidence that suggested that she was being untruthful, then it would raise very serious questions about all the allegations, but in the absence, it does sound credible," Toomey said. "It's been consistent, it's been corroborated, so that's the way it looks at the moment."

**Four names**  
The *Post* story had four women by name recounting how Moore, now 70, pursued them when they were in their teens. None of them said Moore forced himself on them. Their stories, according to the *Post*, were

supported by others who knew them at the time.

Three of the women were ages 16, 17 and 18 when Moore asked them out on dates. The 14-year-old, identified by the *Post* as Leigh Corfman, said Moore initially approached her outside a courtroom in Etowah County, Alabama, when he was an assistant district attorney. He began a conversation and offered to watch the girl while her mother went into the courtroom for a child custody hearing, the *Post* said.

Corfman told the *Post* that Moore spent time alone with her. He drove her to his house and kissed her, she told the newspaper. On a second visit, he took off his outer clothes, as well as her shirt and pants, she told the *Post*. Moore touched her through her bra and underpants and "guided her hand to touch him over his underwear," according to the *Post*.

Alabama law doesn't allow the removal of a name from a ballot so close to the election. But if Moore were to withdraw—and there was no immediate indication he would—state law says votes cast for him wouldn't be certified.

Moore is known outside Alabama mostly for being removed twice as chief justice of the state Supreme Court—in 2003 for refusing to take down a Ten Commandments monument from the Alabama judicial building, and in 2016 for telling state judges not to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples after the US Supreme Court legalized gay marriage.

He also has a history of controversial statements, including writing that Muslims like representative Keith Ellison, a Minnesota Democrat, shouldn't serve in Congress and that transgender people don't have rights.

## Light rains expected in Delhi, may clear smog: Met office

**PTI**  
**New Delhi, Nov 11:** Delhi woke up to a hazy morning today, with the weather office predicting light rainfall later in the day, which may clear the smog enveloping the national capital.

A dense blanket of smog enveloped Delhi this week, prompting authorities to announce the "odd-even" rationing of cars from November 13 for five days, closure of schools till tomorrow and a four-fold hike in parking fee for vehicles.

According to the Met department, humidity levels in the national capital shot up to 91 per cent this morning.

"The minimum temperature was recorded at 12.6 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal," an official of the department said. Visibility was recorded at 800 metres at 5.30 AM, which dropped further to 500 metres by 8.30 AM.

The maximum temperature is expected to settle at 30 degrees Celsius, the official said.