

Editorial

Parking paralysis

'An exercise in futility' would perhaps best describe the ongoing determined attempt of the state traffic police to control and maintain proper parking rules and regulations in the city. The seemingly harsh observation which is more an opinion than a qualified assessment is derived from the experiences, narrations, discussions and reactions from concerned public and bewildered motorists who have pointed out certain highlights to drive home the truth of the present situation.

The present efforts of the state authorities particularly the Imphal West Traffic Police to streamline parking methods as well as to regulate and prevent illegal parking so as to ensure minimal resistance to traffic flow in and around the city is a much needed exercise in light of the steadily increasing vehicular traffic in the city. The state has seen and experienced a rapid surge in the volume of traffic during the last decade which, while being a good indicator of increasing disposable income of the people in the state, has been proving to be a worsening problem as regulating traffic is becoming an increasingly challenging task. And the challenge is only set to get even more difficult.

The most pertinent question then is how the existing resources in terms of manpower and available spaces be utilized to ease the increasingly worsening traffic woes in the state capital. The initiative of the state government to revive the state road transport is laudable, but as of now, there are few takers which indicate an inherent flaw in the arrangement which the state think tank need to review, identify and address. Lack of dedicated parking spaces for public transporters such as autorickshaws, wingers etc around the periphery of the heart of the city, as well as the lack of a feeder transport system to ferry the public into the heart of the city has been a major stumbling block in the effort to regulate traffic in the heart of the city. The state run public transport system can be effectively used to provide the necessary service. Proper and highly visible demarcation of parking spaces with strict enforcement to comply with the authorities will definitely yield the desired result.

However, the biggest and most overlooked factor contributing to the congestions which has been baffling the public is the deliberate ignorance of the authorities- read police personnel doing the rounds in the heart of the city enforcing traffic rules and parking regulations- are the scores of women vendors displaying their wares within the parking spaces along the Thangal Bazar stretch on both sides of the road depriving the public of the much needed parking spaces. Their number is rapidly increasing by the day and is at present occupying almost half the designated parking spaces. Roadside vendors are also now spilling over onto the Paona Bazar side as well. Another prominent situation which the authorities have so far failed to notice is the encroachment of pavements/ footpaths by shops for displaying their wares forcing the public to walk on the road.

Unless all the factors contributing to traffic congestion are taken into consideration and an inclusive plan to tackle the issue is drawn up and put into action, no amount of patchy albeit spirited efforts will bring the desired result.

Government Press, Manipur – A Vision

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Government Press, Manipur is the only State owned press in Manipur with its own State Budget Head (Demand No. 35 Stationary & Printing). In the Manipur State Darbar held on 26th June, 1918 a resolution (Resolution No. 15) was resolved for opening a printing press under the Chairmanship of V. Woods Esq., President, Manipur Darbar. The estimated cost was Rs. 3250/-. The Proceedings of the Meeting was approved by Shri Chura Chand Singh., His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur on 29th June, 1918 (of memo. To 326 pD/30/6/18). In 1919, inception of the State Printing Press was taken place, however specific date of establishment is untraceable as it was not mentioned in the Darbar Resolution and Manipur Administration report. Later, the State Press was looked after by the Central Government. Salary of the employees came from the Central Government. In 1979, it was upgraded as a full-fledged Directorate – the Directorate of Printing & Stationary, Manipur under a Director as the Head of Department.

Abstract of the Resolution No. 15: With the advent of Government Press, other small press units were opened in the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Statistics Department and Manipur Police Department. The Departments opened their units with the real purpose of printing department documents. Manipur Central Jail Authority also established a small binding unit to develop the occupational skill of convicts for rehabilitation. The printing process used was of letterpress type. In a smaller scale Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat and Statistics Department had also upgraded their press units with the modern offset technology by installing desktop publishing system (DTP) and sheetfed offset printing machines. However, these printing units did not function as Government Press as their work was restricted to printing of their own documents only.

The work of Government Press, Manipur is multifarious and not only limited to printing and binding works but publication of Gazettes for the State Government and republication of Gazettes for Central Government (when necessary) are also done. Onerous responsibility of printing statutory documents for election stationary and ballot papers, non-statutory forms for Treasury and State Revenue receipt (T.R.5) are also printed only in the Government Press.

Till 1996, the Government Press relied on letterpress process. Pre-press works of the process was mainly done by cold metal composition i.e. hand composition by using foundry types and wooden types for tiling. Later, hot metal i.e. mechanical composition was introduced with Monotype composing & casting machine on 10-01-1969 and Linotype and slug casting machine on 28-10-1975. For insertion of block in printing a block making unit for preparation of line and halftone blocks was started functioning in the year 1971. Automation of letterpress began with induction of Victoria Front automatic letterpress printing machine, P.D. 5 fladbed two revolution letterpress printing machine, Supper Eugeria letterpress automatic cylinder printing machine (demy size/22-04-1977) and Grafart automatic platen printing machine (23-07-1984) in the Government Press. The oldest letterpress printing machines used were Old cylinder (D.C. British make), Victoria Front (D.F./20-02-1963 British make), P.D.5 (D.C./20-08-1971 USSR make) and Britannia DPE Jobber (D.C./11-03-1966 British make). With the induction of sheetfed single colour offset printing machine (HMT make INVICTA 36R

double demy size) with plate making features, offset printing process begins in the Government Press, Manipur in the year 1987. A series of process is so long, the originals of line works which were printed in letterpress process and line drawing & contone photographs were first photographed through process camera (British make Lithotex (16"x16"/1971) for obtaining negatives and positive for the preparation of surface plate making. Negative/positives were pasted according to the layout of the job pages of the sheet size for exposure. Firstly, platemaking was done with positive working system (Vandyke process) on the zinc plate before introducing negative working system i.e. wipe on process and another positive working system i.e. presensitized anodizing plate. Later negative working system, are to the advantages of being simple and quick was adopted for preparation of plates. This process is different and also cost effective in long run jobs. Resolution and clarity of print is enhanced and superior to that of the letterpress process as non-inundation and quick drying of ink are achieved. And, also printing demand of various departments could be met remarkable.

During mid-90s, DTP system (HP 386/18-10-1994) and small offset printing machines (Swift DX 300&150/06-11-1995) were installed for gradual development towards modern printing technology. Modernization of the Government Press was inevitable to maintain printing standard in quality and quantity as done in the advanced private sectors. Diversification in specialised jobs such as panchroprint was successfully carried out in 1992 & 1993 by printing the Directorate's calendar and Manipur calendar respectively.

New innovations and solution became apparent after use of synthetic plate i.e. polyester plate in small offset machine started. The fringe tune fits were that it was more handy for short run jobs upto about 3000 copies and also trouble free. The combersive process of sensitization, development and other treatment as in metal plate was avoided. Simplicity and time saving war the essence as synthetic of the image on plate surface. The plate surface is only treated with washing soap to clean dirt and unwanted particles in the printing and non-printing areas.

Although, Govt. Press was introducing advanced technology in printing screen printing process – a manual method for quality small jobs was used in printing of book covers, D.O. pads, letterheads, Cards etc. since 1995. The monopoly process for printing of small jobs is still with the Government Press. The unique characteristic is to print in all substrates like paper, plastic, cloth, synthetic paper, glass ceramic, wood etc, of flat, tubular, round, cube shape etc. etc. This process cannot be substituted by any printing process till today. Flexibility in printing by at large, is only in the screen printing process. Now-a-days semi-automatic and automatic screen printing machines for printing precision larger formats are available in the market.

The advancement in printing technology being so rapid, advanced Mimeographic printing process known as Risograph (Chinese make) – a digital duplicating machine was introduced on 23-1-2007. It is simply a stencil printing machine. Stencil is electronically cut and ink is charged through openings of stencil master from outer surface of the ink drum. As the cost effectiveness of this technology is rather prohibitive, the machine is used only printing short run jobs like state gazettes, forms etc. Due to its short run job advantages, it is mainly used in printing of Extra-Ordinary Gazette since 2007 instead of printing in other processes. Now, Ordinary and Extra-ordinary gazettes are printed

in this process. The technology has enabled the Government Press to print and publish gazettes within hours.

With a new vision, Government Press synthesizes the subtractive theory by procuring modern sophisticated machinery incorporating with in-service camera training under the modernization programme. Now, the compulsion of procuring advance technology machinery is the outcome of incorporating new innovative technology in manufacturing of modern printing machinery by the manufacturers and having longevity of printing machinery and equipments those are outdated within a short span of time. In such situation, no simple and conventional rather than sophisticated one is not available in the market. Printing technology being a fast changing technology timely adoption of this new technology in the Government Press will be a value added endeavour.

The In-service training programme has been initiated to letterpress workers to impart technical training in the use of offset, DTP and other printing processes. Workable skills for operating and handling of the machines and equipments for various jobs are imperative for maximum output. Familiarization and adaptive skills in modern printing technology is a demanding attribute to keep pace with the advancement and use of digitalized machines which needs adapt handling, care and maintenance. And, hence, operation and technical know-how are to be demonstrated and emulsified thoroughly before handling. As part of training, 64 employees in 3 batches were deputed to train in computer application to the State Academy of Training. A team of 7 employees were also deputed to learn the latest development of printing technology at PRINTPACK – an International Printing & Packaging Exhibition held on 18-22 January, 2011 in New Delhi and study working modes of the Government of India Press and also at some well-equipped private presses and a printing machinery manufacturing company at Faridabad. To streamline the working system, maximization of output and rationalization company at Faridabad. To streamline the working system, maximization of output and rationalization, a systematic arrangement has been made. For creation of new posts a proposal has been submitted to the Government by abolishing some posts to augment the service career of the employees.

In the pre-press, DTP systems with LAN (Local Area Network), flat-bed scanners, laser printers with compatible software's and luminous printing down frames are used for gaining dots of the print products. High precision offset printing machines of different sizes such as Autoprint Knight and Max Print MR27 are also installed for

various jobs. To maintain quality in post-press process of binding and finishing, a section sewing machine which is first of its kind in Manipur was procured and commissioned recently. Further, one digitalized programmable cutting machine, one perfection binding machine and one rotary creasing cum perforation machine have been purchased to achieve high standard finished products. UV (Ultra Violet) curing machine which will be also first of its kind in Manipur is being installed. This technology had an edge as it can encompass multi effect projection of the screen printing print products. To take in the sphere of capacity building, programmable digitalized and fast printing machinery such as bar coding and numbering, CTP, web offset, vertical gathering machine etc. is envisaged to be introduced in the near future. This will give a competitive edge as quality of print will be of high standard.

To superimpose with the rapid advancement of printing technology, Government Press has stopped up modernized and reorganization programme by procuring modern pre-press, in-press and post-press machinery and equipment. In this backdrop, the increasing decibel of major challenges are revenue earning, management of establishment, right job placement of man power etc. At present, Ph value and shoro Ao of the consensus of the employees and avenue of promotional line are in the more pattern. The constraints of prevailing service rules after/right sizing of Government Departments has narrowed down aperture of promotion thereby affecting motivation of the operators and manual workers. There is a need for incentive mechanism as productivity of workers are linked with career advancement and remunerative rewards to revenue earning. In such situations, there may be need to strike a good balance in planning fund allocation and realistic revenue targets. An innovative methodology of management, recruitment and sets of rules and regulations for running the Government Press in sync with profit making factory may be the solution.

Time factor is a key element in any printing process. Time slots and time frames are mandatory irrespective of demands for immediate delivery in urgent and time bound jobs of the State Government. In meeting the print order demand, quality cannot be compromised. As printing jobs now demands, perfection in pre-press, in-press and post-press process, sufficient time, high quality inks and materials are indispensable. The exposition of the Government Press, Manipur, activities since years 2000 and after underlines for all round development in the spheres of administration, employees welfare, manpower, utilization of machinery and equipments, delivery systems, revenue generation, archiving of records and gazettes etc.

"A drop of printing ink may make a million think".
-Renown Printer
(Reproduced from Manipur Today, Aug 15, 2011 Issue).

National & International News

Indian women's hockey team plays out 2-2 draw against Belgium junior men

PTI
Belgium, Sept 12: The Indian women's hockey team held on to a 2-2 draw against the Belgium junior men's team in a closely fought match here. India, led by captain Rani, started the match on a positive note by earning a penalty corner within 40 seconds of the start but could not convert it. Two minutes later, another penalty corner was saved by the Belgian goalkeeper. However, it was the young

Belgium team that got three PCs in a span of six minutes, but goalkeeper Savita did well to keep the home side from taking an early lead. Forward Vandana Katariya created a beautiful chance for India inside the striking circle but could not score as the first quarter ended goalless. The second quarter saw both sides taking a more direct approach as Belgium enjoyed more possession which paid off for them as they took the lead through Stan Branicki in the 19th minute.

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