

Editorial

Monday, Feb. 12, 2018

Checking noise pollution: let the students and aged people be not disturbed

If report about State Pollution Control Board to incorporate sound limiters while permitting public function, meeting and other entertainment programme, people in the state have reason to believe that there are at least some officials in the Board which think for the people of the state.

During discussion hour programme at local television channel, a competent authority of the environment department of the government of Manipur had stated that level of noise pollution in the state is not alarming, what is more alarming is the environment pollution cause by household waste.

Yet everybody knows that the noise created from vehicles both private and public transport vehicles is annoying. Some people in the heart of the city sometime have forgotten that the noise from various vehicles particularly from passenger vehicles is affecting their mental health as most of them seem to be adapted to the kind of noise produced from various engines every single day.

In early 80s, the people residing near Keishampat Power house which was run by diesel generator have to bear the sound of the generator every day. The people residing in and around the Keishampat Electricity office was so adapted to the sound of the generator that after the generator had stopped after getting sufficient power supply from other hydro electric source, there were complaints about some people unable to sleep as they could no longer heard the generator sound.

The kind of effect created by sound was never a concern for that time authorities running the state.

At present too nothing is changing with the level of noise pollution. The decibel level of the noise in Imphal without measuring can be told it is deafening.

All these auto rickshaws, generators which are operated daily as there is no regular power supply and other vehicles of all hues have not only caused noise pollution but also spoil the environment.

Of late we have seen steel traders moving out of the crowded twin bazaars. Similarly banks cloistered at the busy market areas can be shifted elsewhere.

As the concerned authority envisages to take steps to reduce decibel level of the noise as per reported at one newspaper, the authority must also make sure about the other noise pollutants other than vehicles. With the advancement of technology, carpentry equipments have now been substituted with machines that make a lot of sound.

Civil society organizations and even the entertainers have now realized the impact of the sound to the society probably when examinations of students are in the corner. AMIK an orchestra group had announced that they will stop performing due to the scheduled examination for class X and XII.

Well and good, but what about the sounds created from construction machines of houses at various locality every single day. No authority seems to be checking the kind of disturbances created by them.

If the state pollution control board is serious enough there should also be a provision to check on the noise pollutions created by construction machineries. A regulation so that students and aged people are not disturbed when they are staying at their home is perhaps the need of the hour.

This is being suggested as we know that putting a ban to the use of construction machineries will be impossible but, making some regulations to make sure that local of the surrounding find time to relax is a much. Students are the pillar of the society so as the aged people need respect.

National & International News

Nagaland BJP lodges complaint against news portal

IANs

Dimapur, Feb 12: Nagaland's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday lodged a police complaint against a news portal that claimed top party leader Ram Madhav was caught red-handed by separatist National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Issac-Muivah) with two Naga women in a hotel room here. "It is a false report to tarnish the image of our party leader (Ram Madhav) and the party has lodged

a complaint with Dimapur police this evening," state BJP President Visasolie Lhoungu told IANs. Quoting sources, the media portal "Newsjoint" claimed that "last week, Madhav was caught red-handed and saffron faced, working well beyond his brief, with two Naga women in a hotel room" here. Madhav is BJP General Secretary in-charge North East. Lhoungu said that the portal

seemed to be a fake news agency or channel "devoid of any truth and written with malicious intent." "Such spreading of false news is tantamount to not only character assassination but also poses grave risk of sparking off communal tension," Lhoungu said. "Madhav was held in captivity by the NSCN for hours. He then made frantic SOS calls to Assam colleague Himanata Biswa Sarma,

BJP's trouble shooter in the North East," the report alleged, adding that Madhav was released only after Sarma reached out to the NSCN. The news portal also claimed that the NSCN also has hours of video footage in possession, which it has threatened to release in public, "if the BJP-RSS do not give in to its demand to call off the assembly elections in Nagaland, due on February 27."

Militants' bid to attack CRPF camp foiled, gunbattle ensues

PTI

Srinagar, Feb 12: A gunfight broke out between security forces and militants, who took shelter in a building in Karan Nagar area of the city after their attempt to strike a CRPF camp was foiled early today, officials said. A CRPF jawan was injured in the

exchange of fire in the heart of the city, they said. "The sentry at the camp noticed two suspicious persons at around 4.30 am, carrying backpacks and weapons. He challenged them and opened fire," a spokesman of the CRPF said. The militants fled from the spot

and took shelter in a under-construction house nearby, the officials said. The building has been cordoned off by the CRPF. According to senior CRPF officials, there were two militants. Intermittent exchange of fire was

reported and the CRPF moved in more troops to ensure that the militants do not escape. The incident comes two days after Jaish-e-Mohammad militants attacked an Army camp in Sunjwan area of Jammu, killing six people including five soldiers.

Blackout hits northern Puerto Rico following fire, explosion

San Juan, Feb. 12: An explosion and fire at an electric substation threw much of northern Puerto Rico into darkness late Sunday in a setback for the U.S. territory's efforts to fully restore power more than five months after Hurricane Maria started the longest blackout in U.S. history. The island's Electric Power Authority said several municipalities were without power, including parts of the capital, San Juan, but they were optimistic it could be restored within a day as they worked to repair a substation that controls voltage. The blast illustrated the challenges of restoring a power grid that was already crumbling before it was devastated by the Category 4

hurricane. In many cases, power workers are repairing equipment that should have long been replaced but remained online due to the power authority's yearslong financial crisis. PREPA is worth roughly \$4 billion, carries \$9 billion in debt and has long been criticized for political patronage and inefficiency. It also struggled with frequent blackouts, including an island-wide outage in September 2016. It was not immediately known what caused Sunday's fire, which was quickly extinguished. Officials said the explosion knocked out two other substations offline and caused a total loss of 400 megawatts worth

of generation. "We are trying to restore that as quickly as possible," the company said. Heavy black smoke billowed from the substation as neighbors in the area described on social media seeing the sky turn orange following a loud explosion. San Juan Mayor Carmen Cruz tweeted that no injuries had been reported and that power had been restored in some areas of the city. The blackout comes as more than 400,000 power customers remain in the dark more than five months after Hurricane Maria. The storm destroyed two-thirds of the island's power distribution system and caused up to an estimated \$94

billion in damage. Puerto Rico's governor announced last month that he plans to privatize the state-owned power company, which relies on infrastructure nearly three times older than the industry average. It would be the largest restructuring of a public entity in U.S. history. One week after his announcement, a federal control board overseeing the island's finances asked that a judge authorize a loan of up to \$1.3 billion so the power company can keep operating. The board said the company could see an estimated \$1.2 billion loss in revenue in the first six months after Hurricane Maria.

Swayam Prakash Pani takes over as IGP Kashmir

PTI

Srinagar, Feb 12: Swayam Prakash Pani, a 2000-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, today took over as the new inspector general of police (IGP) Kashmir Range, making him the youngest officer to hold the post. Pani (41), an IPS officer of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre, took over the charge of the IGP Kashmir, a police official said. He said Pani is the youngest officer to hold the post of the IGP Kashmir and his name was cleared in a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti last week. He replaced Munir Ahmad Khan, who was holding the charge of the IGP Kashmir range, and has been appointed as additional director general of police (ADGP) security and home guards, the official said. Pani has served in key positions, including deputy inspector general of police, south Kashmir

range, senior superintendent of police, Kulgam and Kathua. He has also served in the Intelligence Bureau and National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Illegal liquor worth Rs 10 lakh seized

PTI

Bailia, Feb 12: Illegal liquor worth Rs 10 lakh was seized during a raid conducted at Wajidpur village here, police said today. Acting on a tip-off, police conducted the raid yesterday and seized the liquor which was bound for Bihar from Punjab. Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar said. A case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Excise Act was registered against two persons in this regard, he said.

Fresh snowfall in several areas of Himachal Pradesh

PTI

Shimla, Feb 12: The mid and higher hills of Himachal Pradesh witnessed intermittent moderate snowfall this morning, while widespread rains lashed the lower hills of the state. Normal life was disrupted in the upper Shimla area as roads were closed due to snowfall, while the Hindustan-Tibet road at Narkanda was blocked and the traffic was diverted through Basantpur and Kingal. Shimla District Commissioner Amit Kashyap said traffic was suspended beyond Dhalli as a precautionary measure earlier but now the roads in the upper Shimla are through and only the Rampur-bound HRTC buses are diverted via Basantpur. "There is no traffic disruption in Shimla city and all roads leading to hospitals are opened," he added. The local Meteorological (MeT) office had warned of snow at the

mid and higher hills and forecast rains and snowfall for the next two days. Kothi received 15 cm of snow, followed by Keylong 11 cm, Bharmaur 10 cm, Narkanda 8 cm, Theog 3 cm, Kufri 2 cm, Kalpa 1.6 cm, Jubbal 1.3 cm and Mashobara 0.5 cm. Sabgraha was wettest with 31 mm of rains followed by Nahan 23.1 mm, Solan 21mm, Dharmasala 20 mm, Berthin 18.2 mm, Dharampur 15.2 mm, Hamirpur 15 mm, Kotkhai 15 mm, Naina Devi 12.2 mm, Manali 9 mm, Una 7 mm, Shimla 5.8 mm. The minimum temperatures fluctuated marginally and Keylong was coldest in the region with a low of minus 4.9 degrees Celsius, followed by Kufri at minus 1.8 degrees Celsius, Kalpa at minus 1 degrees Celsius. The key tourists resorts of Shimla and Manali recorded a minimum temperature at 0.2 degrees Celsius and 1.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Cloudy morning in Delhi; 13 north-bound trains delayed

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 12: Delhiites today woke up to a cloudy morning with the minimum temperature settling at 13 degrees Celsius, 4.5 notches above normal, even as 13 north-bound trains were delayed due to poor visibility. Thunderstorm with light rainfall is expected during the day with a maximum temperature at 20 degrees Celsius and the minimum at 11 degrees Celsius in the next 24

hours, a Meteorological (MeT) official said. "The rain is confined just for the day and throughout the week partly cloudy sky is expected," the official said. Besides, a total of 13 north-bound trains were delayed, with four of them rescheduled and 12 cancelled due to poor visibility, officials said. The maximum temperature was recorded at 25.5 degrees Celsius yesterday, he said.

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