

Editorial

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

Where have all the city buses re-launched by Chief Minister gone?

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh gets attention of the mass in his first 100 days of governance after he introduced and revived many welfare programme of the people. One among the many good deeds taken up in his first hundred days was the revival of the public transport system christen as Manipur State Transport on June 25 last year by re-launching the city bus service provided under JNRUM.

The re-launching of the city buses gave hopes to the people and people of those days celebrated the occasion thinking that a new visionary leader has come to save the state. JNRUM was first introduced during the time of Congress government but failed for reason best known to the authority. There are buses run by private bodies and are still seen on service of the people. But the inter-district buses as well as the city buses launches with much enthusiasm by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is no where seen today.

Except for the Moreh Imphal Route and some inter district service that too only sometime, no other MST buses of both inter district as well as the city buses service are seen today.

The question is why? Why the public transport system introduced by the government failed time and again? If government authority who have been paid salary from tax collected from the common people could not sort out the reason for the failure and try another method to make the government programme successful, what is the use of keeping them as government machineries. It is more waste of many if bureaucrats fail to implement the policy programme of the government.

The bureaucrats had already experienced the failure of city bus service and they had many time gave logical reply on why it has been failed. But as of now no bureaucrats had ever prepare a policy programme with in-depth study on how to make the government transport service a 'success'.

When one bus owner can double their transport in one or two year of hard work, one surprises on why the 12 plus low floor buses which is more comfortable than those owned by private individuals lost money. Something insincerity among those government authority particularly the state Transport department is easily notice. City Bus service is one hope to decrease the traffic chaos, and every city have bus service and are reportedly successful. Why the Manipur government cannot make the Manipur state Transport service successful need to be pondered by the present government.

Privatization which is against the ideology of this newspaper sometime felt that the City bus service as well as the inter-district bus service should be handed over to some private body who had full experience in the running of transport business.

As notice by general public, most of the buses are seen lying in the MST campus at Moirankhom. Let the buses be hand over to some well experience public company or entrepreneur to make sure that the transport department could get some income besides giving opportunity to the company to earn and employed some unemployed people of the state. ■

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“HIGHER EDUCATION IN MANIPUR”

Is it a “NIGHTMARE”?

By - Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh
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It's generally said that education up to Higher Secondary level in Manipur is to some extent considerable though majority of our students are not up to national Standards (as qualifying in IITs & getting within 1000 ranks in NEET by our students is rarely heard). In fact bringing our students at least up to this level (in higher Secondary) is also the tooth and nail efforts of parents at Private Coaching centers as well as due to private tuition, at the same time by the private Schools.. Yes, in terms of scoring good marks in HSLC as well as in HSSLC examinations seems to be improved but there is still a big question mark i.e. is scoring good marks in these

examination is conformable with the quality that we expect? Anyway, let us hope that quality may improve in the time to come soon. After 10+2 some students have chosen career of their choice like **Medical, Engineering, Agriculture, Nursing** etc. etc. But this is very few out of many who passed 10+2. Majority of the students who did not opt these career have to go for further studies in what we call general line i.e BA .Bsc. etc. **These are the people who are going to become teachers in the schools, Professors in the Colleges and Universities as well as administrators of our State.** But the Higher Education system in our state is in a very bad and

deplorable condition, if I am not mistaken. It is fact that except some Colleges in the greater Imphal and elsewhere classes are not conducted regularly and smoothly. If this is the situation, what will be the fate of our future generation? The dream that our youths dreamt will be simply a “NIGHTMARE”. If the classes in the colleges continue in this manner, how can our youths be fit for any type of competitive examinations conducted (like SSC, Banking, Railways etc. etc.) in all India level? General people knows what is going on in most of the Colleges even if I don't explain further. Attention of authority is also high

time in this regard. My humble appeal to the students Organizations of Manipur is that kindly look into Education system in the colleges right from regular conduction of Classes, attendance of the students, smooth conduct of examination without unfair means as they do in HSLC and HSSLC examinations so that the quality of our youths may be in a better position for a better future. It is said that **“NO ATOM BOMB” is required to destroy a society, simply failure in education is enough to destroy a society.** Let's wake up now to free our youths from the “NIGHTMARE” in higher education in Manipur.

Rejoinder to the statement of PRO IGAR(South) published in various newspapers on 20th November, 2018

After coming across the media statement of Public Relations Officer (PRO), Inspector General of Assam Rifles, South (IGAR(S)) in various newspapers on November 20, 2018 regarding the incident of assault on me by personnel of 12 Assam Rifles at Sita Lamkhai, Tengnoupal check post on November 12, I feel constrained to refute the media statement as it was a false statement probably with an intent to fool the public. I see it also as defamation of me and the organisation I serve, that is, Thadou Students' Association (TSA).

1. On the day of the incident on November 12, I was travelling with my uncle, an ex-serviceman, towards Imphal after a trip to Moreh. I was the driver of the vehicle.
2. PRO, IGAR(S) has been ill-informed and manipulated. Sitting at Imphal, whoever did the statement did not know the facts of the incident. Fact finding and proper cross checking of reports should have been done before publishing such a flawed media statement.
3. As a matter of fact, I never argued with the Assam Rifles soldiers on duty to give me a priority. Also, I never mentioned that I am a

powerful person or secretary with title of TSA.

4. With due respect I drove slowly towards the queue while my uncle was giving back the token at the counter. While maintaining queue, the AR personnel on my left pointed me to go front and accordingly I moved towards the front because it caused discomfort as it was in between the two barricades. As soon as I reached the front skipping two commercial vehicles causing no plight for the locals and tourists waiting for their turns to get checked, it was the whistle blower on my right who came towards me shouting like anything and ordered me to go back. Thereafter, I went back to the previous stop i.e. between the two barricades. My uncle came back by then and while we were inside the car, another personnel who was on the front sentry post came and squeezed on my neck without any apparent reason. At this time, my uncle blocked the hands of the soldier from hitting me and I started the car and moved away away from them, rushing towards Imphal for safety reasons.
5. The soldiers never communicated

to me about queue and wait. They showed no politeness or respect but all they showed was arrogance as they spoke randomly in Hindi. Despite the high provocation by the soldier, I remained silent and calm, wondering what was his problem. Feeling helpless anyway, I just let the soldier shout whatever he wanted as I thought he would be okay when he got exhausted from shouting. At no point of time did I display arrogance or ego or disrespect as falsely alleged in the statement of PRO, IGAR(S). I was just myself as I walked and talked as a law abiding ordinary citizen.
6. On the 13th of November, which was the next day, along with two of my friends I went to lodge a complaint at Tengnoupal Police Station. Upon the request of the SP, we met the Commanding Officer (CO), 12 AR. We cross checked the CCTV footage wherein it was visibly clear that three soldiers were involved in the harassment and assault against me. Though not quite clear about the squeezing of neck due to far view from CCTV footage, it was identified that a soldier from Nagaland was the one who committed the assault. The CO

of 12 AR assured that he would do something about it, and believing his words we came back.

7. But even after three days, no action taken report was received by me and the same incident was coincidentally reported in various newspaper on November 16. TSA General Headquarters has not made any claims, but several branches of TSA like Sadar Hills, Jiribam & Tamenglong and Thadou Inpi, General Headquarters have condemned the incident.

8. The claims and clarification made by the PRO, IGAR(S) are purely baseless and unexpected from a security force that is called 'Friends of the Hill People'.

Lastly, if I may be allowed to give a piece of advice, all Assam Rifles should strive to remain to be true friends of the hill people at all times and at all places, and some within its own force should not be allowed to turn it as foe of the hill people to the disrepute of the entire Assam Rifles.

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Contd from yesterday's issue

CHENGNI KHUJAI: Chronicle of Insurgency in Manipur

By- Dr. K. Shantibala

Manipur had been declared a state on 21 January, 1972. However, the play had been staged in 1970. It expressed the revolutionary movement that took place in the early part of the state formation. The insurgency movement that emerges and affected the national integrity of Manipur, the uprising of the Naga and Kuki rebellion demanding their independent state and dream for greater Nagaland all have emerges in the later part only. The hard fact about the revolutionary movements in the history of the world is that the people of the subjugated nation revolted against those people who rule them. At some point of time there might not be an arm rebellion but definitely there is an intellectual fight and protest. And when the political situation seems intolerable violence emerges. Tongbra in his play addresses the main problems where the people of Manipur suffer because of the deprivation of food and unemployment.

Yenba: 'people wishes to have grains in granary and food for stomach. Others are secondary. If asked to Ganadevi, will pray and to the king also will pray.' [Chengni Khujai, ___: 18]

With such ideology, the steps taken up in the insurgency movement became widespread.. It is very precise when Eroi said, when two of them got released, they would ask for help directly from Chin and Pakistan.' [ibid.,: 66] However, the suppression and oppression felt by the innocent civilians and the defeat of the insurgency movement at different stage are vividly expressed. The losers in eliminating innumerable innocent civilians in the name of controlling insurgency movement are manifold, the government and the guerillas and most shockingly the indigenous people. Hamengpa: (like insane man) has anyone died, in favour of the government or from the insurgency groups ha ha ha ha. You all have fallen on the same earth? Do you hear me kids? Are you the sons of Vaishnavpur? Why did you kill one another? Hey you who possess Chengni Khujai, are you not in the same party? [Chengni Khujai, ___: 79]

This witty statement made by Tongbra has become a difficult riddle for the guerillas groups to answer at the present context. The uprising of those days which the easily subside and defeated could

be analyzed from different angle now. The emergences of many insurgent groups because of the prevailing political crisis have triggered another big plethora of problems in the ethnic identity which sometimes could even shatter the integrity of Manipur. Here, Tongbra's employment of words needs to choose meticulously to serve his dramatic purpose. Manipur experienced famine at different period in the history and also protest and agitation against such incidents. However, the agitation against famine which happened in 1965 stormed by All Manipur Students Union became a significant episode in the history of Manipur. And this image is visible in Tongbra's play. Based on this historical setting Tongbra pointed out the reason behind the protest and agitation and the crisis that Manipur faced and also vividly portrayed the pangs and agonies felt by the innocent civilians who were kept behind the bar, oppressed in the name of controlling insurgency movement. Such incident becomes very precise when Hamengpa and Hamengma gone insane seeing their children beaten black and

blue in front of them for no fault and without any justification. On the other hand, there was a scene on how Pekinging and Paktokpa fled courageously from the jail when being tortured severely. To conclude, like other stories which has a beginning always has its end also and similarly in Tongbra's play the powerful government ultimately triumph. Tongbra through the character of Hamengpana expressed that the only means to safeguard democratic values and raise the voice unheard from the down trodden people is to follow non-violence at any cost. He also warned not to act mindlessly for little unsatisfied objectives for this will not last long. The play reveal how the imposter politicians and hypocrites and thoughtless people who ruined the values of democracy yet hoping to bring a change through people's movement. By critically examining this very play one can understand the gist of the insurgency movement and its political significance in Manipur. Last but not the least we may consider this play as the chronicle of an insurgency. (Concluded)