

Editorial

Monday, November 5, 2018

Has the govt. forgotten promises to improve traffic in the city?

On October 16, to the surprise of the shopkeepers located at the connected road stressed between Paona Bazar and Governor road just a few yards opposite to Usha Cinema Hall, which has been closed for years due to security reason, a person dressed in black started collecting parking fee. The shopkeepers when enquired on why he collected parking fee, the person simply answered that he was working under and NGO which have person from the Imphal Municipal Corporation for collection of parking fee.

"This is the first time that the IMC granted permission to an NGO for collection of parking fee from the connecting road which was closed long time back", a shop runner told this reporter.

Traffic problem has been a big issue of Imphal town since the last couple of decades. Showing serious concern to the inconveniences of the people, Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh convened the first ever meeting of the Traffic Regulation and Parking Committee meeting on April 25. However, the outcome of the meeting fails to do any change to the traffic management. From Keishampat junction till Thangal Bazar any roadside seems to be converted as parking space.

Even as the TRPC is the sole authority to allot parking area, no specific parking area has been allotted at any specific place. Yet, there was a resolution to charge more fee if a vehicle is parked more than its necessities.

Following that the Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC) is franchising NGOs to collect parking fee from anywhere where they felt necessary. Still now the IMC authority continues to offer permission to any NGO for collecting parking fee.

For reason best known those, NGO collecting parking fee never bother on where the vehicles were park at the roadsides particularly at Paona bazaar. Double parking, triple parking were allowed if they are paid the parking fee. No, authority of the IMC or the traffic police counter check the way that the NGOs arranged the parking system.

The connecting road inbetween Paona Bazar and Governor road has never been officially declared as parking space yet vehicles use to park as the road has been close at the other end of the governor road for security reason. How could the IMC allow NGO to collect fee for parking at this site when it was not declared as a parking site by the TRPC.

Imphal city is already facing problem due to road side vendor which the police received severe criticism from section of people when they tried to clean it. Now, the parking arrangement at Paona bazaar and Thangal bazaar should be properly checked and those fail to comply with government order should not be allowed to continue their service, a former police officer told this reporter.

He further added that the IMC or the traffic police should immediately announced the parking site and that penalty should be given if the number vehicle cross limit provided to them.

The first one year of the state government heard many promises that people had eagerly waiting for. Its now 1 and half years, N. Biren Singh Govt. seem to completely forgotten what he promised and assured to the people.

Correction

I, Md. Riya Khan, DOB 01-01-1975 S/o (L) Md. Khan. Kasim Ali, a resident of Khabeiso, Sabal Leikai, P.O. Lamlong, P.S. Heigang, Imphal East District, Manipur -795010 (India), do hereby take oath and solemnly affirm as follows:-

1. That I am at present serving as Habildar having Regiment No. G/ 3500534W in the Unit 35 BN, Assam Rifles, C/o 99APO.
2. That due to bonafide mistake I have already entered my family members list erroneously and with incomplete details as following in my service record excluding me.

Sl. No.	Name	Relationship	DOB
1.	SMTI Taj Begam	Wife	19-07/1976
2.	Miss Mumtaj	Daughter	04-03/1997
3.	Miss Ramina	Daughter	09-05/1998
4.	Miss Rahamani	Daughter	03-03/2011
5.	Nawaz	Son	17-09-2001
6.	Abaz Khan	Son	07-12-2003

3. That however the standard, actual & complete details of my family members will be as follows:

Sl.No.	Name	Relationship	DOB
1.	SMTI Taj Begam	Wife	16-02-1975
2.	Miss Mumtaj	Daughter	02-02-1997
3.	Miss Ramina	Daughter	17-06-1999
4.	Miss Rahamani	Daughter	03-02-2002
5.	Md Nawaz Khan	Son	06-02-2001
6.	Md Abaz Khan	Son	07-12-2008

As such I desire for rectify family details in previous connected service records accordingly to avoid any further complacency.

Sd/-
Md. Riya Khan

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How GST and demonetisation impacted govt finances

Agency
Mumbai, Nov. 5

Widening the tax base and collecting more taxes has been a priority for the current government at the centre. This government's two major economic disruptions—the introduction of goods and services tax (GST) and demonetisation—were justified in the name of raising tax compliance among other things. However, these moves have not exactly turned out as planned and the government is set to miss its fiscal deficit target for 2018-19.

The Economic Survey released by the finance ministry earlier this year had lauded GST for widening the indirect tax base. The number of indirect tax payers rose by 50% in the first six months of GST implementation, estimated the survey, partly attributable to many small enterprises voluntarily choosing to be part of GST in order to avail input tax credits.

However, even with the wider base, GST collections have been underwhelming. Centre's total indirect tax collections in the post-GST era shows a marked decline. Indirect tax collections (accruing to the centre) in April to September 2018 grew by only 1.8% from a year

earlier, much slower than the 5.6% growth seen in 2017-18 full year and even lower than above 20% growth witnessed in the previous two years.

Prior to GST rollout in July 2017, the centre's indirect taxes mainly consisted of customs duties, excise duties and service tax, almost in equal proportion. Now, more than 60% of centre's indirect tax revenue comes from GST. While indirect tax collections have lagged, direct tax collections have been robust. Evidently, the demonetisation shock in November 2016 did lead to an increase in income tax collections—both from individuals and firms.

However, this increase in tax revenues after demonetisation do not appear to be staggering enough or unprecedented to justify such a large-scale disruption. Part of the increase in direct tax collections in 2016-17, the year of demonetisation, can be attributed to the Income Disclosure Scheme 2016, as an earlier Plan Facts story pointed out. Further, the rate of increase in direct tax collections post demonetisation has not been entirely unprecedented. The 18% growth rate in direct taxes achieved in 2017-18 was similar to the growth seen in 2010-11.

While the number of taxpayers jumped in the assessment year 2016-17, the growth rate fell to familiar levels in the next year.

Thus, it is too early to conclude whether demonetisation has led to any substantial or sustainable increase in tax compliance. The fact that more than 99% of all demonetised notes returned to the system also suggests that the exercise failed to bring much "black money"—i.e. tax-evaded income—into the tax net. This is because only a small portion of tax evasion is carried out in cash.

A January 2018 research paper by R. Mohan and others of the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) estimated that demonetisation could have taken out just 12% of the tax-evaded income in India. While the effects of GST and demonetisation on tax-compliance appear unclear, what is clear is the significant disruption these measures have caused.

Demonetisation disrupted economic activity and hurt growth, especially in areas with high share of informal activity, according to a 2018 World Bank research paper. The paper shows that in districts with more informal activity, local gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 4.7 to 7.3 percentage points in the

quarter after demonetisation. A recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study further suggests that demonetisation caused a "decline in the already decelerating credit growth of the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector". The same report also highlights how GST implementation hindered MSME sector's exports.

Apart from GST and demonetisation, the government's zeal in raising tax revenue is also reflected in increased cesses and surcharges, which are not shared with states. The focus on taxation may seem excessive, as contrary to popular opinion, India is not necessarily a tax evading nation. India's tax to GDP ratio is respectable among developing countries, when adjusted for income levels, as a previous *Plain Facts* story has pointed out.

Despite all these efforts, fiscal deficit for 2018-19 is likely to overshoot the targeted 3.3% of GDP given downbeat GST collections, disinvestment proceeds and limited scope to further tax petroleum products. A recent note by Upasna Bhardwaj, Suvoodeep Rakshit and Avijit Puri, economists with Kotak Mahindra Bank, pegged the FY19 fiscal deficit at 3.5% of GDP, after factoring some reduction in government's planned capital expenditure.

Curfew continues for fifth day in J-K's Kishtwar district

Agency
Jammu, Nov 5

Curfew continued for the fifth consecutive day in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar town Monday which was imposed following the killing of a senior BJP leader and his brother by suspected militants, officials said.

However, the curfew was relaxed in the district for two hours on Saturday and four hours on Sunday, they said. District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar, Angeez Singh Rana told

PTI that the curfew continued to remain imposed Monday and relaxations, if any, will be decided later in the day.

He said the law and order situation is normal and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the district.

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik said Monday that those involved in the killing of BJP state secretary Anil Parihar and his brother Ajeet have been identified.

On November 1, Anil and Ajeet Parihar were returning home after

closing their stationery shop when the gunmen fired at them in Tappal Gali area, following which an indefinite curfew was imposed in parts of Kishtwar and Doda districts.

The curfew was, however, lifted from Doda district, including the main town and Bhardwah along with Paddar and Chatroo sub-divisions of Kishtwar district on Saturday, but Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) continued to remain in force in these areas as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order.

The killing of Parihar brothers triggered massive protests across the Jammu region following which authorities suspended internet services in the curfew-bound areas, while the internet speed was slowed down in the rest of the division, including the winter capital Jammu. However, the internet speed was restored in Jammu and other parts of the division Saturday evening.

The Army had also staged a flag march in the sensitive areas to help the district administration in Kishtwar maintain law and order.

Five Maoists killed in encounter in Odisha: DGP

Agency
Malkangiri, Nov 5

At least five Maoists, including a woman, were gunned down in an exchange of fire with security personnel in a forest in Malkangiri district Monday, a senior police official said.

The gun battle took place near Paplur area under the jurisdiction of the Kalmela police station when Special Operation Group (SOG) personnel were conducting a combing operation, Director General of Police (DGP), R P Sharma said.

He said the five Maoists were killed in the encounter and the casualty could be more as search operation in the area was still in progress. No security personnel was injured in the operation.

The security personnel recovered

two INSAS rifles, one SLR, one 303 rifle and a hand grenade from the spot, the DGP said.

Additional Director General of Police (Operations) R P Koche said efforts were on to track other rebels who ran away from the area during the gun battle.

Two teams of SOG have been conducting a combing operation since Sunday and they spotted a group of Maoists in the jungle. After noticing the security personnel, the Maoists fired and the SOG jawans retaliated leading to the encounter, police said.

It is suspected that Maoist leader 'Randev', who was present at the spot, escaped from the area, they said.

The DGP said efforts were on to ascertain the identity of the deceased rebels.

Chandigarh: Firecrackers to be sold at 29 designated places from today

Agency
Chandigarh, Nov. 5

Cracker stalls will be put up at 29 designated places in the Tricity from Monday, with nine designated places in Chandigarh, 14 in Mohali district and six in Panchkula district. The stalls will be there from Monday onwards till Diwali.

Among the sites where crackers will be sold in Chandigarh are Sabzi Mandi Ground, Sector 43, a site near Ram Leela Ground, Sector 46, an open space in Sector 33, a site adjoining temple in Sector 37, Dussehra ground,

Sector 34, Sabzi Mandi Ground, Sector 29, Ram Darbar Car Bazar open ground, open ground, Mani Majra, near Housing Board and Masjid ground, Sector 20 Chandigarh.

The UT Administration has given temporary licences only to 96 people to sell crackers. As many as 1,043 applications had come to apply for cracker licences, but only 96 could make it to the draw of lots. No one would be allowed to sell crackers in the shops due to safety issues. Fire tenders have been positioned by the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation at all these nine designated places.

Delhi's pollution level sharply spikes ahead of Diwali as thick haze engulfs city: Authorities

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 5

Delhi's pollution level sharply spiked Monday as a thick haze engulfed the national capital ahead of Diwali due to high impact of stubble burning and pushed the air quality in the 'very poor' category, authorities said.

An official with the Centre-run System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) said despite moderate wind speed, the pollution in Delhi rose due to stubble burning from the neighbouring states.

"As expected there is a significant intrusion of bio-mass generated pollution in Delhi which is increasing pollution levels and made it very poor in spite of moderate surface wind speed," he said.

"The contribution of stubble burning to pollution in the national capital is expected to be 24 per cent on Monday," another official said.

A thick haze also engulfed the national capital which reduced the visibility drastically, authorities said.

The overall air quality index of Delhi was registered at 345 which falls in the 'very poor' category. On Sunday, the air quality was registered at 171, which falls in moderate category, the lowest of three weeks, according to data of the Central Pollution Control Board.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

On Monday, the PM2.5 (particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres) level was recorded at 268 while the PM10 (particles in the

air with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres) was recorded at 391. The spike in the pollution level comes a day after the air quality had improved to moderate category due to meteorological factors and the control measures implemented by the authorities in Delhi.

Delhi authorities have stepped up efforts to combat pollution which includes measures like halting construction activities and regulating traffic.

There is a halt on all construction activities involving excavation. Civil construction has also been suspended in Delhi and other NCR districts, besides closure of all stone crushers and hot mix plants generating dust pollution.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has also directed the Transport Department and the Traffic Police to intensify checking of polluting vehicles and control travel congestion in the region during November 1-10.

An aggressive 10-day-long 'Clean Air Campaign' from November 1-10 has also been launched to monitor and report polluting activities as well as to ensure quick action.

Under the campaign, a fine of over Rs 1 crore has been imposed in the last three days on people violating the norms causing pollution.

But despite that the air quality deteriorated to 'very poor' category due to increase in the contribution of stubble burning from the surrounding states of Punjab and Haryana, the authorities said.

The deterioration of air quality comes ahead of Diwali when a further spike in pollution is expected to hit the city.