

# Editorial

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

## Framing of guidelines for school transportors - need of the hour

Some few years back at an almost a catastrophic incident where 15 children were on the verge of being suffocated to death inside the van that was taking them to school should be an eye-opener for the multitude of van services transporting students for almost all the schools in the state, the unfortunate part is that people of the state as well as those in the government have almost forgotten.

Everybody knows that the school transporter render is immense, and for most parents, a vital one considering the limited transport facilities being provided for the public, which invariably leads to the only other alternative of undertaking the job of taking the kids to school and back home upon themselves, putting a huge strain on their time and efforts. Add to it the cold winter months and the long rainy days, not to mention the scorching summer, and the task becomes daunting for those of us who cannot afford a four wheeler, or to take out or synchronise the time to their schedule.

But in as much as these van services are becoming an indispensable part of the support system, unwanted and unwarranted incidents that poses danger to the safety of the children have been on the rise. The Union/Association overseeing the regulations and rules of these service vans are apparently more interested in safeguarding their own interest and profitability to the point of neglecting the basic safety norms and regulations to be observed-if they ever had one to start with. Treating the young children with more sensitivity and care and not as mere commodities of their trade could go a long way in preventing such mishaps in the future. The urge to pack in more children in the van which translates to more income for the drivers should be curbed.

A proper framework and guidelines should be drawn up in consultation with various authorities to make these kind of mistakes and oversights a thing of the past. The association/ Union of these van services should take the responsibility to see that these steps are taken up at the earliest. No one can afford to expose the unsuspecting and vulnerable children to such unnecessary risks ever again. The drivers should be sensitized on the issue so that they can understand and appreciate their role in the scheme of things. Regular monitoring by the school authorities as well as the Union or Association with feedbacks from the students availing the services of these vans could keep the drivers on the alert and be a reassuring measure for the parents and guardians as well. Our children are our treasure, precious and versatile. It is for us to see that they are provided with the safest and best atmosphere we possibly can manage to, for learning and growing up to be responsible and successful citizens who will make our society a little more better.

They are the future, to be nourished and protected. Everybody has a stake in their safety. Every single one of us.

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail : [imphaltimes@gmail.com](mailto:imphaltimes@gmail.com). For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O). For time being readers can reach the office at Cell Phone No. 9862860745 for any purpose.

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh.

In my childhood days, during the "LAI HARAOBA" festival of my village though I didn't know the real meaning of laiharaoba&Maibijagoi (Dance) etc., I enjoyed it but the event I most eagerly waiting was the Mukna - Lamjel, that use to hold one day after the last day of Lai haraoba(Lairoi). According to the tradition of my village, the players who are to take part in mukna(Traditional wrestling) are put into two teams, which leaders and elders of the village named as Laroi panna and singloi panna or Lairembi panna and Lairemba panna. Each team is led by one of the best player whom we call him MuknaJatra. Both the teams will arrive at the Laibung after traditional rituals at the residence of the Jatras. After the mukna team arrived, the athletes who are to take part in marathon race (Lamjel) in the same team as mukna arrived. In case of marathon race, the team leader is generally the one who got first, second or third place in previous year. The judge (we call him, lamtharoi) is the one who got hat trick in this marathon in other days. The encouragement given to those athletes by our people during their run by shouting: CHENKHAITLU-CHENKHAITLU still fresh in my mind. The prizes given to those winners are very simple, very lovely but I envied at it. The prizes were those cloth of our deities which are conferred by Laipnaba. After that, the winners will go around the laibung where our elders (Famnaiba) also encouraged them by giving whatever they have, may be cash or kind or flowers etc. I liked and envied at it even though I could not take part. Whatever the case, it may be, I thought, games and sports in every part of Manipur might have been originated from Lai-haraoba. In addition to this, the Art & Culture of Manipur has also been associating with our Lai-Haraoba, I supposed myself. It



could be the driving force which makes Manipur famous in Games & Sports as well as in Art & Culture, all over the World. It's not wrong to say that in Manipur the spirit of Art & Culture as well as Sports started from every families, right from childhood days by every one of us. It's a well-known fact that every elder of all our family started teaching dance to all our minors by saying "TADING-TADING". Who are those players who bring laurels for our motherland Manipur from National and International arenas? And where are they from? Are they the children of those rich, powerful big shots? Or are they the children of those who are taking utmost care for the career of their children by dragging out from sleep in early hour of a day for tuition by paying advance payment for tuition? AS of now, it's not so. Most of the players who brings laurels and gives the name of the Manipur in the world are those who are deprived of proper education, basic amenities of contemporary world and children of those parents who can't look after their children just for hand to mouth way of survival. They simply come to nearby playground, watch playing then induced the feeling of playing without any sports suits. At this point of time, I recall one Manipuri

Film "NOBAB" which portrayed how our sports stars groomed. It is encouraging to celebrate Sports person's Day (Shannaroisingi Numit) every year on 25<sup>th</sup> February in commemoration of awarding Manipur "The Raja Bhalindra" trophy for overall team champion in 5<sup>th</sup> (Latter on 30<sup>th</sup>) National Games in 1999 at Imphal. On the sideline of this celebration, when we look into the condition of our players, playgrounds, sports infrastructures vis-à-vis the welfare scheme taken up for the players, it is in a highly deplorable state and hope for the players is greatly miserable. In the remote areas, away from greater Imphal, though there are few play grounds, there is no sign of development and improvement. In the greater Imphal areas, play grounds are replaced by Community halls where certain indoor games can be played but not possible for any outdoor games. In the grass-root levels at villages and in the hill area there is no sign of translating anything into action which are inevitably to do for the development of Sports. NATIONAL SPORTS UNIVERSITY, the foundation stone for which was laid by Prime Minister is still in its infant state. The budget allocation for Sports & Culture instead of escalation seems to be cutting

down. Because of this a great apprehension among the people develop whether our sports & culture will be outshine like yester-years. Felicitating eminent sports persons on this day by giving incentives or awards is a good step. However simply honoring those on this day will improve the condition of our sports is the question that many asked. Will it be worth to identify those local clubs and persons who are dedicated for the development of sports in our state and confer or honor them? This act will help to re-orient our sports activities in progressive direction. On the other hands, most of our schools do not have sports grounds which is one the most important criteria to be fulfilled while recognition is given by the Board/Govt. Due to lack of this important infrastructures, people started posting voice that most of our schools are something like a private tuition or coaching centers which in turn snatch away the inherent properties or qualities of our children who are our future pillars into a spoiled bread. Simply shouting and honoring few eminent sports persons by the Government on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February every year will not help to translate our dream of Manipur to be the power house of sports into reality.

## Modi to visit Amethi on March 3

Agency  
Amethi, Feb 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Amethi, the parliamentary constituency of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, on March 3 and address a public meeting there. "PM Modi will visit Amethi on March 3 and besides attending a government programme in Korba Munshiganj, would address a public meeting in Kohar area of Gauriganj here," the BJP convenor of the Lok Sabha constituency, Rajesh Agrahari,

said Wednesday. Party workers and leaders have started preparations to make the prime minister's visit a grand success. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is arriving here on Thursday to review the preparations for the visit, he said. Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani, during her visit here on Sunday, had taken stock of the venue of the prime minister's programmes. Irani had unsuccessfully contested against Gandhi in the 2014 Lok Sabha election and they are likely to fight again from Amethi in the general election later this year.

## No fresh incidents of violence against Kashmir is since Feb 22, Centre to SC

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 27

The Supreme Court Wednesday took note of the Centre's submissions that no fresh incident of violence against Kashmiris has been reported since February 22, the day when the apex court had taken cognisance of a PIL on the issue.

The apex court on February 22 directed chief secretaries and DGPs of 11 states to take "prompt" and "necessary" action to prevent incidents of alleged threat, social boycott and violence against Kashmiris following the Pulwama

terror attack. A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi considered the submission of Attorney General K K Venugopal that no fresh incident of violence against Kashmiris had been reported after the apex court issued directions to protect the natives of Kashmir Valley who are living outside the state. The bench said no further orders were required at this stage in view of the Centre's submissions and posted the PIL filed by lawyer Tariq Adeb for further hearing after two weeks. The court asked the states, which have not filed their responses, to do so within a week.

## Srinagar, Jammu, Leh airports closed for civilian air traffic

Agency  
Srinagar, Feb 27

Srinagar, Jammu and Leh airports were Wednesday closed for civilian air traffic shortly after an IAF jet crashed in Budgam district this morning. The flare up in the cross-LoC shelling, which was initiated by Pakistani troops in early hours of Wednesday has also resulted in security forces and other establishments being put on a heightened alert.

nature of the emergency, it is believed the step was taken in view of an IAF jet crashing in Budgam district this morning. Jammu and Leh airports have also been closed for civilian traffic. The flare up in the cross-LoC shelling, which was initiated by Pakistani troops in early hours of Wednesday has also resulted in security forces and other establishments being put on a heightened alert.

## Hailstorm possibility in Delhi

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 27

Delhiites woke up to a cloudy Wednesday morning, with the weatherman predicting possibility of a hailstorm and thundershowers in the national capital during the day. The minimum temperature was recorded at 7 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature is expected to reach 21 degrees Celsius, according to a MeT department official. The MeT department has forecast light rain with possibility of hailstorm or thundershower during the day, the official said. On Tuesday, the minimum temperature settled at 9.5 degrees Celsius, while the maximum was recorded at 21 degrees Celsius.

## Two Jaish militants killed in Shopian

Agency  
Srinagar, Feb 27

Two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants were killed on Wednesday in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Meemendar area of Shopian following information about presence of militants there, the officials said. They said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants opened fire towards the security forces, who retaliated. The two militants were killed in the ensuing gunfight. The officials said the slain militants were affiliated with proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad. Arms and ammunition were recovered from the scene of the encounter, he said, adding further details are awaited.