

# Editorial

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

## Will the modification of traffic rotary help in solving the traffic chaos ?

Even though there are obstacles in streamlining of the traffic flow in the state particularly in Imphal city, the present government led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh seems to be working hard to solve the traffic menace.

Since his government came to power, he had shown his seriousness to the issue of traffic woes. He had announced to reinstalled the electronic traffic signals and even appointed a Superintendent of the traffic police.

After a long gap Manipur witnessed the sitting of the Traffic Regulation and Parking Committee meeting on April 25, 2018 with the Chief Minister in the Chair.

A sign of relief was felt to everyone on assuming that the coming of the new government will stop worrying the nightmare of the traffic chaos.

However, for reason best known, all the announcement made was not converted into action. Installation of Traffic signal is not completely implemented. The appointment of Traffic police SP makes no meaning as powers has not been entrusted for taking up action against traffic violators and moreover till today there are still lack of proper manpower, equipments and other infrastructures.

The fall out of the first TRPC meeting after N. Biren Singh led the government turned disaster as an announcement without a second thought provoked a massive protest from daily wage earners - the Diesel Auto drivers. The announcement of the CM to ban the diesel auto in Imphal city was one of the mistake committed by the government.

Having said so, it is worth appreciating the government as it keeps continuing its work to find way to solve the traffic menace.

Lately the traffic rotary has been shrunken; the unnecessary road maiden has been reduced.

These are some of the immediate measure to ensure convenience to commuters. But will it help.

There is increase of vehicles everyday and the volume of vehicles increase in Imphal increase with the increase of the vehicle.

While it is necessary to widen the road, it is also equally important that people driving vehicle follow traffic rule. And when it comes how to make the drivers follow the traffic discipline it is not the driver alone that should be responsible but the traffic police that need to be alerted.

Secondly, even after the sitting of the TRPC on April last years, no proper parking has been allocated in and around Imphal city particularly in crowded Paona Keithel and Thangal Keithel. The condition in an around Khwairamband Ima Keithel is still in the worst condition.

Today, after the IMC machinery stop collecting the garbage, the condition is even worst then before.

On the parking issue which is the root of the traffic chaos it is well known to everybody that 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 Keithel. 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 in-between Paona Keithel 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 Keithel and Thangal Keithel 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. It's now over 2 years, N. Biren Singh Govt. seem to completely forgotten what he promised and assured to the people.

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# Challenges Of Solid Waste Management In Imphal

By : DR.Konthoujam Khelchandra

All of us are aware that in the SawchhSurvekshan Award, 2018 organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), GOI under the agetsof Swachh Bharat Mission, Kakchingbagged the award for the Cleanest City in Northeast Zone. Kakching continues to throng the limelight again with the Cleanest City award in the Northeast Zone for SawchhSurvekshan, 2019 along with Thoubal and Wangjing-Landing in the population above 1 lakh category; Whereas Mayang Imphal, Lamlai and Ningthoukhong won first, third and fourth positions respectively in the category of town with population below 25,000. It is more heartening to know that 14 towns from Manipur have been listed in the first top 20 ranking in the SawchhSurvekshan, 2019 in the Northeast region. The Director of MAHUD along with the concerned Officers must have been really elated to receive these awards from the President of India on March 6, 2019 at the glittering Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Being a Manipuri working outside the state, I really felt delighted to hear this particular news item. At the same time, it further makes me feel that all these Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayat must be adopting an exemplary well-developed operational solid waste management system equally supported by dedicated efficient staffs.

We have seen a very promising picture about proper waste management system that led to receiving all the prestigious Cleanliness Awards in different categories at the National level after the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission in 2014 is tremendously good for our state. Nevertheless, there are major doubts in the minds of the people residing in and around Imphal city; WHETHER WE HAVE AN EFFECTIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM? As a concerned citizen born and brought up in Imphal, I basically feel that there are lots of challenges for an effective implementable solid waste management system for Imphal city which generates more than 100 metric tons of waste daily. Over and above this, currently there has been a ban on the disposal of

waste at the Lamdeng Solid Waste Management Plant. The Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC) is presently collecting meager amount of waste only from the main bazar area and stocking it in their office. The IMC designated NGOs operated in different wards have stop collecting household waste from different localities of Imphal area due to none availability of disposal site. Hence, there is complete menace as more and more wastes are piling up in the front of most household in the congested Imphal area. Furthermore, improper solid waste management will lead to number of health related problems like nose and throat infections, lung infection, breathing problems, infection, inflammation, bacterial infection, elevated mucus production, altered immunity allergy and asthma. Therefore, concerned related stakeholders should immediately make arrangement for taking corrective steps on priority basis to solve the impasses below it has blown out of proportion.

**Challenges of Solid Waste Management:** Solid Waste Management Rules (SWM), 2016 notified by Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF& CC), GOI is applicable beyond municipal areas and have included urban agglomerations, census towns, notified industrial townships, areas under the control of Indian railways, airports, special economic zones, places of pilgrimage, religious and historical importance, and State and Central Government organisations in their ambit. The SWM Rules 2016 has strictly mandated compliance criteria for each stages of waste management viz., collection, segregation at source, transportation, processing and final disposal are followed strictly. **Collection:** It is pertinent to have a systematic door to door solid waste collection from the different areas in Imphal. The present system of waste collection by IMC and IMC nominated NGOs in the various wards of Imphal is not very effective. There is need for increasing the frequency of waste collection per week. For instance, in Aizawl city, there is very effective solid waste collection system.

Household (door to door) collection of solid waste by the concerned authority under the Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department (UD & PA), Government of Mizoram has given clear guideline for effective waste management. All stakeholders strictly follow the guidelines, out of 7 days a week; solid waste is collected 5 times in a week, 3 days for Dry Waste (Non-biodegradable) and 2 days for Wet Waste (Biodegradable). So, each household are required to maintain two dustbins for collection of dry waste and wet waste separately. For doing all these, each household pay a meagre amount of Rs. 50/- per month to the local authority. I should say this is a complete example of an effective system for collection of solid waste. I am not drawing a comparison but citing a clear example where we can learn and replicate in our state. Hence, this suggests there is need for further improvement in the existing collection system of solid waste in Imphal.

**Segregation at source:** Till date to my knowledge there is no report of segregating the household waste at source in Imphal. This is one of the major challenges where the concerned authority should take appropriate measures for segregation of waste at source. It is noteworthy to remember that the SWM Rules 2016 have mandated the source segregation of waste in order to channelise the waste to wealth by recovery, reuse and recycle. Waste generators should now have to segregate waste into three streams- Biodegradables, Dry (Plastic, Paper, metal, Wood, etc.) and Domestic Hazardous waste (diapers, napkins, mosquito repellants, cleaning agents etc.) before handing it over to the collector. Institutional generators, market associations, event organisers and hotels and restaurants have been directly made responsible for segregation and sorting the waste and manage in partnership with local bodies. In case of an event, or gathering of more than 100 persons at any licensed/ unlicensed place, the organiser will have to ensure segregation of waste at source and handing over of segregated waste to waste collector or agency, as specified by the local authority. Waste

processing and treatment: The biodegradable waste should be processed, treated and disposed of through composting or biomethanation within the premises as far as possible and the residual waste shall be given to the waste collectors or agency as directed by the local authority (SMW, 2016). The developers of Special Economic Zone, industrial estate, industrial park to earmark at least 5 per cent of the total area of the plot or minimum 5 plots/sheds for recovery and recycling facility.

**In conclusion,** there is need for a drastic change in how the waste management systems will work in Manipur. Firm implementable measures should be adopted for a decentralised mechanism of solid waste management. However, it would be challenging task to see how segregation at source shall work on the ground. It has clearly indicated that segregation at source is of prime importance for effective solid waste management. It is extremely important to properly handle solid waste generated from the Imphal area by segregation at the source. It is also necessary to treat biodegradable waste by suitable methods like composting and vermicomposting. For the success of solid waste management in Manipur, people awareness in exceptionally obligatory. Hence, a massive awareness campaign in association with communities, NGOs, local clubs, students and other stakeholders needs to undertake actions to push for better implementation of the solid waste management in Imphal. There is also need for focusing on making solid waste management a people's movement by taking the issues, concerns and management of solid waste to citizens and grass-roots. Finally, suitable strategy and actions plans should be targeted for addressing some of these challenges then it would definitely lead to success of an effective solid waste management in Imphal city.

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## Invasive Insect from America, Fall Armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* detected in Manipur

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Maize is the most important cereal crop in Manipur after rice. Its versatility makes it a popular crop that can be cultivated in both *Kharif* and *Rabi* season in varying ecosystems- valley, foothills, upland and *jhum* fields. The development and introduction of HQPM (High Quality Protein Maize) and change in crop diversification favouring intercropping with legumes have brought about a quiet revolution among the farmers, besides increasing yield and soil fertility. Present day use of maize especially HQPM as feed for cattle and poultry industry also offers huge scope for the growth of small and medium enterprises in animal husbandry thereby providing a win-win situation for both maize farmers and the cattle/poultry farmers.

Recently, maize cultivation in the State is under threat from a new invasive pest, native to USA, the fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae). This pest was earlier confined to USA until 2015 and by 2017 spread to some African countries, wreaking havoc in the continent. In India, this pest was detected for the first time in Karnataka in 2018 and rapidly spread to other parts of the country. By January 2019, Chattisgarh was the last state to report the pest. In May, 2019 it was reported from NE Indian states such as Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and was



also detected in Manipur. It was found in Lamphel and Langol Research farm of ICAR, Manipur Centre. Chandonpokpi village in Chandel district is now under severe threat by this pest. Its rapid spread is due to the female moth being a strong flier capable of flying 100 km in a night and being an exotic insect, the absence of natural enemies that could keep them under check. Another factor is, its natural environment is the tropical and sub-

tropical parts of America that is similar to the environmental conditions in India.

It is a polyphagous pest that can feed on many host plants. It can cause complete devastation of a field within short time if appropriate control measures are not taken. It has been reported to feed on rice, sorghum, sugarcane and many economically important vegetables. Any invasion by a new, exotic pest is always a threat to the farmers and biodiversity of a place. Manipur being a biodiversity hotspot with many rare and threatened flora is more vulnerable. This new invasion should be considered seriously and knowledge about this new pest is the only way to manage the insect pest rather than blindly using insecticides recommended by pesticide dealers to control it.

ICAR, Manipur Centre and ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, PAU Campus, Punjab is implementing a collaborative project in all North Eastern states on Promoting improved technology of maize production in NEH region with objectives to generate technological options for farmers, to create awareness and participatory maize based technology demonstration on farmer's field. Under the said project, a Sensitization Workshop on "Awareness of Fall Armyworm and its Management in the Scientific

Production of Maize" in May, 2019 is going to be organized at ICAR, Manipur Centre to spread awareness about the exotic pest and to train farmers on its eco-friendly management.

At present it is advised to:

1. Remove weeds around the crop field
2. Manual destruction of egg masses and caterpillars
3. Set up pheromone traps @ 4/ha for mass monitoring and 10/ha for mass trapping of adult insects
4. Spray any of the insecticides
  - i. Green Racer (*Beauveria bassiana*) @ 3-5ml/litre of water. After 5-7 days of application, spray Green Pacer (*Metarhiziumanisoplae*) @ 3-5 ml/litre of water
  - OR
  - ii. Spray Dimethoate 30% EC @ 1ml/litre of water
  - OR
  - ii. Spray ATIRA/CROPDON/TEGATA/ALIKA (Thiamethoxam 12.6% + Lambda cyhalothrin 9.5% ZC) @ 2.5ml/10 litres of water
  - 5. Do not use spray mixtures or tank mixture (mixing of two or more than two different chemical insecticides).

(Sources: Arati Ningombam, Romila Akojiam, Aruna Beemrote, MA Ansari and I M Singh ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Manipur Centre, Lamphelpat)

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