

State government resolved to bear train fare for stranded Manipuri till Guwahati

Doctors' demand for NPA accepted

IT News
Imphal, May 6

After receiving severe criticisms over charging of excess bus fare from stranded Manipuri people who were recently deported from Guwahati Manipur Bhavan, the state cabinet today resolved to bear all the train expenses to reach till Northeast. The resolution of the state cabinet meeting held today morning chaired by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was taken amidst attack from the opposition Congress party. Congress leader Sonia Gandhi had announced to bear the rail fare for migrant

workers for their deportation to the home state. Following the Narendra Modi government also assured 86% fare to be borne by the Government of India.

Here in Imphal, opposition leaders had mocked the state government over their excess charges of bus fare for those stranded due to the nationwide lockdown to counter the COVID-19 invasion.

However, the cabinet has decided that all the necessary arrangement will be given to stranded citizens of Manipur in Northeastern states but, the expenses will borne by

themselves to reach Manipur.

On the other hand the state cabinet meeting also approved to accept the demand of the doctors for payment of Non-Practicing Allowances as a special pay.

Today's Cabinet meeting however decided to shut down Ema Keithel, Paona bazaar, Thangal Bazaar, and all the other main markets within the Imphal Valley as a precautionary measure and in consideration of the stranded citizens arriving from other states.

Rural areas will be exempted from the shut down as per considerations.

Rumours and unverified news spread through social media create panic for few hours

One arrested for spreading false news

IT News
Imphal, May 6

Rumours about a woman tested coronavirus positive at Kwakeithel and a false and unverified news uploaded by a person through social media today create panic among the people of the state with many people calling up to media houses to enquire about it in curiosity. In addition to this, immediate shutting of shops at Thangal and Paona Keithel here in Imphal provoked speculation about the presence of COVID-19 positive cases today.

However, all reports turns out as fake. People simply spread rumours of a woman being tested COVID-19

positive case after she was picked up by an Ambulance after she sustain injury after the vehicle she travel met an accident at Tiddim road at Kwakeithel area.

Meanwhile, a voice post uploaded through Whatsapp group about the presence of positive COVID-19 case at Thangmeiband area have alerted frontline COVID-19 warriors compelling them to find the truth. However, the voice message turns out to

be false claimed uploaded by a 38 years old person identified as Irengbam Amu @ Amuyaima Singh, a resident of Thangmeiband Meisnam leikai. Imphal West Officer incharge and his team hunted the person and arrested today morning on charge of spreading rumours on COVID-19 Pandemic.

On the other hand, state police team unable to control the crowd which did not follow physical

distancing at Thangal and Paona Keithel her in Imphal disperse them and compelled to shut the shops. The police team also found many people without masks, which is mandatory as announced by the government. Even though government relaxed the lockdown for convenience of the people to buy their day today needs, the police were left with no choice but to shut down the shops.

Sale of liquor banned in Mumbai

Shop keepers irked by frequent change in regulations

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, May 6

Barely within two days, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) decided to shut the liquor and non-essential services shops in Mumbai from Wednesday in view of the "overcrowding and lack of social distancing".

The order issued by Municipal Commissioner Pravin Pardeshi, read, "There are multiple reports, news in social media and inputs received from the police and the ward officials that due to above relaxation there have been huge crowds gathering near these shops and it has been impossible to maintain social distancing and there were few instances of law and order situation arising out of such crowds gathering at one place."

Earlier, BMC had allowed the wholesale and retail liquor shops to open in non-containment zone as per the Central and state government guidelines like "not more than 5 shops in a lane, selling non-essential items, can be permitted to remain open". However most of the areas of Mumbai fall under Red zone with the number of COVID-19 positive patients growing everyday.

Thus the rule of allowing five non-essential shops to stay open in a lane no longer applies to Mumbai.

Maharashtra sold over 16.10 lakh litre liquor worth Rs 62.55 crore on Monday and Tuesday.

Notably, Maharashtra earns an excise revenue of Rs 1,500 crores from the sale of liquor every month. However, due to the lockdown, the excise department has been hit by huge revenue loss. It is to be noted that after the Centre imposed a nation-wide lockdown on March 24, a strict ban has been enforced on the sale and manufacturing of liquor in the state.

Now only essential product stores like grocery shops and medical stores/chemist shops will be allowed to remain open during the lockdown extension 3.0. All the AMC's BMC's 24 wards and ST PIs of all police stations have been instructed to implement this order and take action under IPC 188 against violators.

In any case, shops in some areas of Mumbai suburbs

including Andheri, even grocery shops are allowed to remain open only thrice in a week-Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

However this frequent change in regulations have irked the Federation of Retail Traders Welfare Association (FRTWA). FRTWA President, Viren Shah, said, "Shopkeepers across Mumbai are shocked and confused. There was no issue with non-essential product stores in Mumbai. Only queues were noticed outside wine shops and not outside non-essential product stores". "As of now most of the non-essential products have become essential as there is need of kitchenware, garments, new born babies products, toys and indoor games, he added.

In the meanwhile cases of coronavirus crossed 15000-mark in Maharashtra, the total number of positive cases surged to 9,758 with the death toll at 387 in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Turtle released to natural habitat

IT News
Thoubal, May 6:

An Indian black turtle (Melanochelys trijuga) was released safely in its natural habitat today. The turtle was handed over by one Kh. Gopen Singh of Thongam Khnou.

After the release of the turtle, N. Munal Meitei, Range Officer/Kakching told that this medium size turtle is in Schedule IV of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and near threatened as per IUCN list.

The species whose size varies from 38 to 45 cm is most active during early morning and evening, spending most of the day basking in the sun. It is omnivorous, with its diet ranging from aquatic plants to aquatic insects and

carrion and thus it is a very useful amphibian in terms of insect control. The Indian black turtle breeds during the wet season, between August to October with two to six eggs per year laid in burrows and the incubation period is for 60-65 days.

N. Munal Meitei, Range Forest Officer thanks to Shri Kh. Gopen Singh for handing over the turtle to Forest Department, Manipur. Instead of handing over it, if he kill the turtle or sell it for some money, then he may be punished with a fine for Rs. 25000/- or an imprisonment for a term of 3 years or with both. Therefore N. Munal requested everyone to help to save the wildlife for the sake of our future generation and also for a beautiful planet.

Manipuri Classic ISHANOU at Youtube soon

IT News
Imphal, May 6
Manipuri classic film "ISHANOU" make by renowned film maker Aribam Shyam Sharma will be uploaded at Youtube channel.

Renowned filmmaker Aribam Shyam Sharma announced that first off all the archives thanks everyone who tuned in to our daily livestreaming. The daily streaming was carried out in three cycles during the stringent lockdown period and was initiated to help peoples stay at home and fight the pandemic. He said he delighted on receiving an overwhelming response to the live streams. Once again he expresses the token of appreciation to the cinephiles.

On 14 May 1991 ISHANOU was premiered at Cannes to commemorate this historic occasion the archives will stream ISHANOU on 14 May 2020 at 9 pm at the archive of Youtube Channel.

More assistance comes forward for obscured COVID-19 warrior

IT News
Imphal, May 6

New Economic Evolution World (NEEW), an NGO today handover eatable items to the AMWJU

President Bijoy Kakchingtabam for distribution to the working Journalists who are working in the frontline during the Covid -19 pandemic. The

President NEEW Sasikanta Laimayum express that the role of the media during this covid-19 is a remarkable so its for a gratitude from the NEEW.

CRPF conducts COVID-19 awareness prog.

IT News
Imphal, May 6

109 BN CRPF under the aegis of IGP Manipur and Nagaland sector conducted a civic action programme yesterday at Pillow Library Mongsongei Mayei, Leikai village area. In this programme Infrared forehead thermometer have been distributed to Village/Club Presidents of Mongsongei, Mayai, Leikai, for checking body temperature and screening of village as preventive measure against COVID-19. This programme was conducted to provide assistance to citizens and to spread awareness about preventive measures against COVID-19. During the program Dr.

Bidhya Laxmi, Midical Officer of 109 Bn have been informed villagers that **Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)** is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Village/Club Presidents have been briefed about the utility and functionality of infrared forehead thermometer. They have been further advised to wear protective face masks, to keep themselves safe since asymptomatic cases are also there, wash hands by use of soap and maintain utmost hygiene in their day to day affairs. They should seek immediate medical help in case they feel unwell from nearby PHC Hospital. Narayan Balai, 2IC

(Officiating Commandant 109 BN) informed that in view of prevailing emergency in the country due to COVID-19, people should take all preventive measures and observe complete lock down and follow all instructions issued by the Government as well as local administration. Vinod Sawant, Deputy Commandant, Inspector Sukhbir Singh and Jawans of 109 BN have conducted the programme maintaining social distancing and other precautions of COVID-19. Mr. A. K. Singh, Chief Advisor, Mongsongei Kanba Apunba LUP, Mr. Surender Singh, President of Sun Club, appreciated the efforts of 109 Bn CRPF in providing infrared thermometer to the needy.

Wipro to set up COVID-19 intermediary case hospital in Pune

IT Correspondent
Mumbai, May 6

The Wipro Limited, a leading global information technology, consulting and business process services company, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Maharashtra Government to set up a 450-bed intermediary care COVID-19 hospital at its information technology campus in Hinjewadi, Pune (Maharashtra) on Tuesday.

The MOU was signed between Wipro Ltd and Maharashtra Government, in presence of Collector and

District Magistrate Pune Naval Kishore Ram, Chief Executive Officer, Pune Zilla Parishad Ayush Prasad and Senior Vice President and Global Head-Operations, Hari Prasad Hedge, on behalf of the Wipro Limited.

On the occasion, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said, this humanitarian contribution by Wipro will further strengthen state's medical infrastructure and benefit the medical fraternity who are at the forefront of the fight against pandemic. The 450-bed hospital will be ready within 4 weeks and

will be equipped to treat moderate cases. The hospital will have 12 beds to stabilise critical patients before shifting them to a tertiary care facility. This will be an independent, isolated COVID-19 dedicated complex and will also include 24 well-appointed rooms to accommodate doctors and medical staff. Wipro will provide the physical infrastructure, medical furniture, and equipments, besides appointing an administrator and skeletal support staff to help operationalize the hospital quickly with the required

professionals. The hospital will be converted back to an IT facility after a year.

"We are fully committed to supporting the country's response to the pandemic and we must all work together to deal with this crisis and minimise its human impact. We stand firmly with the Maharashtra Government in its battle against COVID-19, Wipro Limited Chairman Rishad Premji, said on the occasion. The Wipro Ltd, Wipro Enterprises Ltd and Azim Premji Foundation, together have contributed Rs 1,125 crore to tackle the

unprecedented health and humanitarian crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. These resources will help enable the dedicated medical and service fraternity in the frontline of the battle against the pandemic and in mitigating its wide ranging human impact.

Wipro and Azim Premji Foundation are also carrying out COVID-19 related humanitarian and healthcare relief work in Maharashtra including Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad (Waluj), Jalgaon (Amlner), Ahmednagar, Akola, Beed, Chandrapur, and Gadchiroli.

★ Editorial

For Manipur, it is not COVID-19 alone;

2 more important issues directly related to its containment remain as the greatest challenges

The world is still living in fear as the unseen killer virus keeps on invading the human race. Many experts from across the world including the leaders of the World Health Organisation (WHO) are working hard to protect the people from being victims of the dreaded killer virus. With the communication tools reaching its peak and types of equipment available to almost all the people across the globe, almost all people now know what has been happening around the world.

The sad part is that instead of working out to unite the world leaders to jointly counter the invisible invader, leaders of the powerful countries started blame games with dozens of conspiracy theories to the origin of the virus. Yes, Wuhan of China is stated to be the origin of the virus. And it is a fact that one among the fastest growing city - Wuhan suffered a lot at the time when the COVID-19 pandemic spread.

As recorded by the WHO, the dreaded virus which the President of the United States called the "Chinese Virus" today killed 258,394 people across the world. When the number of death in China, where the killer virus originated is around 4,633, the total number of people killed by the invisible virus in the United States today reaches 72,275. The number of fatal cases in Spain has reached 25,613 and in Italy, the UK, France, and Germany the number of fatalities due to the virus is -29,315, 29,427, 25,531, and 6,993 respectively. Almost all countries around the world are affected by the virus. According to WHO COVID-19 trackers record India, which have the 2nd largest population in the world with over 80% of the people illiterate, the number of the positive case reported by WHO is 49,436. Of this 14,183 have been reported recovered and 1,695 death.

Among the Indian states, the Eight states in the North-Eastern region remain as the most secure state with not many reports until March middle week.

For Manipur, it was due to the initial take-up by the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh that stringent measures have started taken up to prevent the spreading of the virus in the state since January 18, 2020. That was the time that the Virus started hitting the Wuhan City of China and started spreading across the globe.

Well, Manipur is a COVID-Free state today with no report of fresh COVID-19 positive cases. Even though people know that it is the seriously of the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his cabinet colleague that makes it possible to relieve the people of the state, it is the Health workers that make things possible. Their advisory, dedication in providing health care services are all associated to make the state free from the COVID-19 invasion. Besides, it was also the state police force that makes the government plan to protect the people from COVID -19 becomes true.

Saying so, the battle against the unseen virus is not over. For the frontline health workers, they still have to remain alert until a medicine to cure the COVID-19 is invented. Security forces have to follow certain guidelines formulated by the district administration at the advice of the Government. To highly develop countries Scientist are working round the clock to find a cure for the deadly disease caused by the Nobel Coronavirus.

For India, particularly for the state of Manipur, even though all measures being taken up to break the chain of the COVID-19 Pandemic spread among the people of the state. Two more important challenges are being faced, though directly related to the containment of the Nobel Coronavirus.

The first was ensuring all people to get their essential food items, which got criticisms from various quarters as some people or representatives of the people have taken such initiatives - a chance to play politics. Had there not been an effective Civil Society organization, Manipur would have witnessed the worst turn out. Besides the civil bodies many Samaritans services also made possible to the government called for a complete lockdown.

After Manipur is listed in the green zone, after the two positive patients were recovered and after no new report of Coronavirus positive case has been reported, the government had already started rolling their heads to bring those Manipuris stranded at various places of India. There are around 50,000 Manipuris including all communities and many are studying, working, or onboard for treatment at Coronavirus Red zone area.

It was a blessing that the first 84 people stranded at Guwahati Manipur Bhavan, who were brought back under the initiative of the government of Manipur were all tested negative of COVID-19. The government is planning to deport back more from other cities like Delhi, Maharashtra, etc.

It is no wrong that almost all the 50 thousand Manipuri people have their own homes and need to be brought back. Bringing them at the same moment will create chaos as we have already seen the government's inability to tackle such kind of situation. One wonders what made the Chief Minister felt that handling of such critical situation to MLAs will help to protect the people from those sons and daughters of this soil (if in case just one of them is found positive).

Questions here wanted to raise are - How prepared is the government to accommodate all those whom the government is planning to deport. If there is no sufficient arrangement what is the plan that the government is preparing to tackle such a situation.

District administrators are the best to deal with such a situation (Provided that no political pressures are given to them while doing their service). MLAs have already proved their attitude at the time of distributing rice to the public that the government issued. Having said so the role of the CSOs should be acknowledged and what the Chief Minister of Manipur should remember is that engagement of CSOs leaders both from Hill and Plain will make Manipur free from Coronavirus. But this too is skeptical if those guarding both state and international boundaries are not sincere. The suggestion is made with full faith to the government in sealing the boundary of the state.

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Paradigm Shift in Village life

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

A village is a clustered human settlement or community, larger than a hamlet but smaller than a town with a population ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand. Though villages are often located in rural areas, the term urban village is also applied to certain urban neighbourhoods. Villages are normally permanent with fixed dwellings, however, transient villages can occur. In every village of India, the main source of income is agriculture and agriculture allied activities. Villages that maintain nature in our country, otherwise we can see cement forest in Metro cities and even in tier two cities in India. In villages, people are so creative and actively participate in extracurricular. A village is a perfect place to live if you are in search of harmony with nature. People have everything for their minimum requirements of life. Villagers are just satisfied with the necessities of their living. It is the simplicity, natural beauty and tranquillity that make the rural life unique and special. The advantages of village life are: eat fresh as everybody cultivate by its own; they are very friendly and have unity which is very rare in cities; you can enjoy the real beauty of nature in villages; do not hesitate to help others; pollution free environment and of course noise free. However, of late a paradigm shift in village life is highly manifested. On the other hand, the outbreak of Corona pandemic crisis shows villages have a right to flourish as habitations with their own distinct future. Again in the present Corona epidemic, people

moves towards the villages, which has increased the relevance of villages.

The principle of a historically self-sufficient village was the main reason for India to be called "Golden Bird". But over the time, the principle of colonialism ended the principles of those self-sufficient villages. In course of time, the decline of the agricultural advantage, the glare of the city, the need for modern education, the lack of modern amenities moved the villages from the centre of the periphery of Indian habitants. A generalised logic had surfaced to justify and thereby encourage emigration from rural areas to cities. According to this logic, providing basic amenities such as running water, electricity and jobs to rural people became easier if they move to a city. This kind of thinking had considerable academic support. Modernisation was a dominant paradigm of social theory that saw nothing wrong in the growth of vast slums in mega cities and depletion of working-age people in villages. Some social scientists did not mind declaring that the village as we had known it in Indian history was on its way to extinction. They argued that agriculture, the main resource of livelihood in the countryside, was no longer profitable enough to attract the young. And handicrafts too were destined to die, they said as craftsman and women cannot survive without state support. Only pockets of support survived the powerful wave of market-oriented economic reforms. For a long time, a view had been gathering support that villages were no more viable as sites of public investment. As they faced the decimation of the rural

people's economy, safety nets could be thrown at them to provide subsistence-level provision of food, literacy and disease control.

It was something "natural" that happens in the course of economic development in countries like ours. Students were taught that shrinking of rural livelihoods was a universal phenomenon and it was therefore inevitable in India. This general framework justified discriminatory funding in every sphere including health and education. No serious public investment could be made in villages. Even as medical education and teacher training became increasingly privatised, the availability of qualified doctors and teachers willing to work in villages dwindled. Ideologically-inspired pursuit of economic reforms swept State after State, leaving little room for dissent or longer term thinking. A veneer of welfareism was maintained. It allowed the expansion of essential facilities of a rudimentary kind in villages. They served as sites for special schemes for the poor and provided minimalist provisions. The goal was to keep the poor alive and occupied. Privately run facilities burgeoned, creating an ethos that boosted commercial goals in health care and schooling. Stuck between state minimalism and commercial entrepreneurship, villages lost what capacity they had for regenerating their economy or intellectual resources. All such arguments and the data they were based on provided a comfortable rationale for policies that encouraged emigration of a vast section of rural population to cities.

The primary areas to improve should be providing employment in

rural areas and improving the productivity of the agricultural sector. Often villages in our country are not in sync with the urban area because of bad connectivity. Photographs captured by the media show men, women and children walking on highways designed to provide high-speed connectivity to cities. In the absence of trains and bus, these families decided to embark on foot. Eventually, this leads to segregation and social divide between urban and rural areas. In essence, the infrastructure of rural areas should drastically improve. Even after so many years of independence, stigma like the caste system still have a grip on rural people. Quality education can help in achieving the goal of eradication of such social evils. The widening literacy rates in rural India, especially for females are a major matter of concern. There is a need for land and technical reforms. Modern technologies like Organic farming should be incorporated to improve outputs and profits. Lastly, people should be given access to easy credit and loans by improving the banking system in rural areas. It can be easily concluded for the development of an economy in both rural and urban areas need to be focused upon. Rural areas need drastic changes in areas like infrastructure, credit availability, literacy, poverty eradication etc. the schemes that are already in place with the aim of rural development need a new outlook and proper updating. Accordingly the government needs to act for the upliftment of rural India.

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"Unborn Melody"

By - Dr. Aniruddha Babar, Tetso College, Dimapur

It was Friday evening of 7th September. I was completely exhausted with another busy day at Court. After devouring my favourite Puri Sabji at famous 'Pancharm Puriwala' I crossed an adjacent road to reach railway station. While waiting for a train at a crowded CST station in Mumbai I saw HER. She was fair, tall, slightly on a plumper side with curly hairs, chubby cheeks, and oops a chewing gum in mouth too. I kept looking at her without moving my eyes away. She was wearing a blue Chiffon Sari tucked much down below her fleshy deep navel. Her silky, smooth arms were visibly shining through her sleeveless blouse. It seemed she lost in her own world with earphones disappeared deep inside the hollows of her ears taking her in a deep state of meditation. "God knows what is she listening?", I thought to myself. I tried to divert my attention elsewhere but could not. Her face was looking familiar. "For sure I have seen her before, but where", question erupted in my mind like volcano. I kept stressing the strings of my memory but could not figure out and suddenly I realized she was none other than Shobhna, my senior in college - an inspiration of my writing, reflection of my heart, breath-of-almighty, my life, my love. I never thought I would ever get to see her again after college. She is looking so different, yet the same old one - a Goddess with golden aura whom I would worship secretly with a silent mouth and turbulent heart.

"Hi Shobhna!" Suddenly words spurted out of my mouth. I was waving my hands. She looked at me with a big question mark on her face. "It's me Zen, remember?" I shouted. She started walking towards me, stopped and looked at me with eyes wide open.

"Zen! Is that really YOU? OMG look at you. We are meeting after 10 odd years. Where have you been?" words were spilling out of her lips. "Good old habit", I thought. "She is still the same. Talkative, friendly, bold, beautiful and me? still the same-shy, introvert, lost, childish." "Yes indeed, I never thought we would ever meet like this, I mean at a railway station". I replied and wiped sweat off my forehead.

"What do you do these days?", she inquired.

"I practice here in the High Court, what about you?"

"I am working in Paris as a Research Scientist, came back to India last month on an assignment, it is really cute to see you buddy, where do you live?"

It seems my nervousness was still biting me. The way she was playing with her hairs was making me more nervous. "No doubt you is a lawyer, habitual to meet people of all ages and genders, but she was different. She was someone whom I loved and never tried to own, but rather I was content in worshipping her as my secret goddess and unattainable dream. Sometimes it is better to protect some of the dreams from our own demonic ambitions, that ultra-passionate zeal to win. Shobhna became an echo of my silence. Clouds of emotions gathered in my heart."

"Hey! Where have you lost?"

"Ummm nowhere! Oh yes, I stay at Thane. I came back to my senses.

"Wow! Then Mister we are gonna travel together today, I live in Thane too, and you are invited tonight for a dinner at my place". She was sounding over-friendly. I don't know why, but I always felt something very odd about her over-friendly nature.

"Okay! That would be great. God knows when we will meet again, so let us celebrate our reunion", I said.

"Aww, look who's talkin", she punched in my tummy. Meanwhile our train arrived and we got in.

"Not bad for a short stay". I was admiring Shobhna's One BHK apartment as we entered inside.

"Who cares ya, couple of days more and back to Paris", she mumbled throwing her bag on a chair.

"Make yourself comfortable, water is there in a Fridge, I will be back in a jiffy", she said as she disappeared in her bedroom.

Thousands of thoughts started gathering in my mind. "Why has she invited me to her house? In college though we were part of a same group but were never that close or maybe she is not thinking the way I am thinking. With age Shobhna has become more beautiful and charming. I know, I have strange admiration and respect for independent, intelligent and equally charming, mature-sensible ladies. Is she married? Oh I think she is. Why would a lady like her be still single?" My chain of thoughts was broken

by Shobhna's footsteps. She brought wine. I again got awestruck. She was wearing a beautiful maroon colored nighty, perfectly matching with the colour of wine.

"Zen, I hope you would love this", she said as she poured wine in goblets.

"Sure, this is the only poison I prefer". As she offered me a glass a strong fragrance of her perfume touched my nose. God knows what perfume she wore, but the fragrance was exotic. I was wondering.

"Cheers in the name of old friendship", she raised her glass and touched mine. The silence and the chaos set in.

"Strumming my pain with her fingers, singing my life with her words, killing me softly with her song, killing me softly....." Shobhna started singing.

"Do you remember you sang this song at Polly's birthday party?"

"Do you still remember that?" I was surprised.

"Zen, I remember everything about you. What I most vividly remember is your silence. Your singing echoed your silence, how could I forget that?" I was silently listening to her.

With a glass in her hand she stood up and went to the windows.

"Heart is just like this open sky, you need to open the windows to see it" she said as she pushed opened the windows wide.

"Shobhna, what about your family?", I asked sipping wine.

She turned to me and sharply said, "Shall I bring more wine?"

"Yeah, sure! Thank You. I replied.

We did not talk for some time. Curtains were blowing in the strong evening wind. I was lost in thoughts. Suddenly my favourite music fell on my ears. "Oh, it was original musical score of 'Summer of 42' a movie I adored for some unknown reasons", I thought. I turned my head and saw Shobhna was standing in a corner like a statue. I kept my glass aside and went up to her. She was weeping. I was totally numb, all thoughts, it seems totally sucked inside a black-hole in my mind. She turned, looked straight into my eyes and hugged me like a child, weeping uncontrollably. Her body was brushing against mine. My shirt got drenched with her tears. I closed my eyes. After some time I felt asleep touch

on my lips. Shobhna was kissing me. We both felt silent. I opened my eyes and saw her looking at me. Her eyes were full of pain and longing. I knew I was dying to drown in them. Shobhna's delicate body started brushing against mine and in no time we were passionately kissing each other. She was profusely sweating. Fragrance of her sweat mixed with her perfume only to set fire in my soul. I turned her around. Her eyes were closed with back rested against my chest. I kissed her ears and started sliding her nighty off her shoulders. Salty taste of her milky skin made me want her more and more. She slightly moaned. Time has stopped. Suddenly like a lightning she turned, pushed me aside, and ran to the open window. I was watching her silently standing there. Wind was blowing her hairs. Moonlight kissing her naked arms. She was standing there watching full moon as clouds dispersed.

"You failed to listen to the silence echoing your name in my heart. I was intoxicated by the longing of your silence for years, you have been a distant dream that I never wanted to realized, your silence produced chaos in my heart and taught me what love is. Today I am married, have two children, a wonderful husband but the silence that you 'gifted' me years ago nourished my soul and finally penetrated the layers of masks that I wore all my life." She was talking.

"Zen, you were misunderstood throughout your life, but I was longing to understand you, but soon I realized I was as helpless as you were. A decade has gone and you became 'reality' for my hidden 'ME'. Love doesn't lead to flourish."

Was she talking, or was I listening to my own self? I again lost in my thoughts as I took her back in my arms. I was gathering myself in a sudden eruption of volcanic emotions buried inside the deepest chambers of the heart for years. Love, what is it? just a word? or a chaos in silence? Life goes on - marriage, children, wealth, status, old age and death. Where do we place 'LOVE' in all this? For sure, As Philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein said, "What we cannot speak about we must pass over in silence." This is what Shobhna and I did.