

# Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, December 3, 2015

## 'Smart' leaders required

After the infamous 8-8-88 military crackdown in Burma, many pro democrats took refuge in the state of Manipur. The desperate pro-democrats fought with resilience and determination for decades staying out of their country to restore democracy in their country under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi. A few among those who escaped their country experienced acute frustration on imagining why all the people of Burma do not understand the needs for democracy. Some among them desperately attempted to mobilize the villagers about the need for restoration of democracy in Burma, but were not very successful and the Military Junta which later change its name to SPDC continues to rule the nation until recently when Aung San Suu Kyi's political party got majority in the parliamentary election. It took nearly 20 years to restore democracy, or some semblance at least, in Burma; in other words it took the same number of years to make the people aware about the need for democracy. In another case in early 2000 a friend from Bhutan once said that their country needs a monarch as people are not so literate. Government by the people needs people to be literate and have the ability to choose the right person to run the country. And he was of the idea that until people at least got minimum literacy to understand which representative to choose, it was better to have a monarchical form of government. May be the Burmese refugees or the Bhutanese friend have their point. Or the people of their respective countries might have been well motivated by their respective leaders to believe in their words. If people want a successful democracy - a 'govt. of the people for the people and by the people', the electors should be at least be able to properly judge on whom to be elected as their leader. "Smart city" is now the talk of the town. Private TV channels, social media, newspapers now are occupied with ideas, comments and critics about making Imphal a 'smart city'. As chief town planner Gitchandra had stated that the main idea about smart city is making the people smart, it now becomes common understanding for almost all of us that making the people 'smart' stands as top priority for the mission. But, How? This column had suggested some of the important component that needs to be taken up as top priority to make people smart. But one serious issue is when the leaders are not smart and resourceful enough to make the common people smart, how can one still dream of a Smart city. First, the priority of IMC to make Imphal a smart city should be starting some initiative to make the politicians, Bureaucrats, govt. employees from top to bottom smart enough to make the people smart. When we talk about 'smart' - we literally mean sincerity and persons with integrity. Until and unless the leaders are not smart enough to make the citizen realize the cruciality of becoming smart, the concept of a "Smart City" will remain just a wishful thinking.

## PM Modi to launch Accessible India campaign today

**PTI New Delhi, Dec. 3:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch Accessible India campaign in the national capital on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. It is a nationwide flagship campaign for achieving universal accessibility for persons with disabilities and to create an enabling and barrier free environment, with a focus on Built Environment, Public Transportation and Information and Communication Technologies. It seeks to make government buildings and public transportation disabled-friendly. By this campaign, at least 50 percent

of all the government buildings of National Capital and all the state capitals will be converted into fully accessible buildings by July 2018. All the international airports will be converted into fully accessible international airports by July 2016. All A1, A and B categories of railway stations in the country will be converted into fully accessible railway stations by July 2016. On this occasion, Prime Minister Modi will confer the national awards on outstanding persons with disabilities and individuals and organisations that are working for the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

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## National & International News

# 14 killed, 17 wounded in California shooting

**PTI San Francisco, Dec 3:** At least 14 people were killed and 17 others injured today when a heavily-armed couple opened indiscriminate fire on them during a holiday party at a centre for people with disabilities in California, the latest mass shooting in the US. The incident occurred when the employees of county health department were attending a party at the Inland Regional Centre. More than 500 people were present at the centre when shooting occurred, police said. After the shooting, the couple wearing "assault-style clothing" fled in a black SUV, leading to a lengthy police chase.

Hours later, the attackers were killed by police in an encounter. At least 14 people died in the shooting, police said, describing it as an incident of "mass shooting". Seventeen others were injured mostly by bullets from automatic-style rifles. Some persons injured in the panic to escape, they said. The deceased woman was identified by police as 27-year-old Tashfeen Malik and the man as Syed Farook, 28, a US citizen. Malik's nationality was not clear immediately. "There was a shootout," a police official said. "A device that looked like a bomb also flew out of the vehicle," local media reports quoted Meredith

Davis with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives as saying. San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan said the attackers were armed with assault-style rifles and handguns. He said that both the suspects were dressed in "dark, kind of tactical gear". Relatives of the suspects have said the two were married. Farook was an environmental specialist with the county health department who sometimes worked at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino. Burguan told reporters that Farook angrily left the office holiday party before returning with Malik. Police believe that the man and

woman killed in a gun battle were the only two shooters. FBI officials were carrying out raids at an apartment in Redlands, where authorities were serving a search warrant connected to the shooting. Earlier, David Bowdich, the FBI's assistant director in Los Angeles, said the incident was being regarded as "possibly terrorism." President Barack Obama was briefed about the shooting incident. "We should never think that this is something that just happens in the ordinary course of events, because it does not happen with the same frequency in other countries," said Obama, who is pushing for a tighter gun control.

# NDRF doubles strength of rescue teams to 1,200

**PTI New Delhi, Dec. 3:** NDRF teams have doubled the number of their rescuers in the rain and flood-battered Chennai and adjoining areas to 1,200 even as the force today decided to penetrate deep into the affected areas to aid the marooned. A meeting of the Crisis Management Group was held this morning here under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehriishi along with officials of Ministries of Defence, Food, Railways,

Agriculture, Health, Department of Telecommunication, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). "We have 30 teams, each having 40 members, working in these areas now and we plan to concentrate in the areas of south Chennai which are the worst affected. The meeting took stock of the preparedness of various agencies," NDRF Chief OP Singh said after the meeting held at North Block.

He said the force has deployed about 110 inflatable and other kinds of boats and separate assortment of buoys and life jackets with the rescue and relief teams so that the needy and the marooned get help. The meeting also decided to move two additional columns of the army in these areas even as officials of these central departments were asked to keep in constant touch with their Tamil Nadu counterparts. One column of the army comprises around 75 personnel.

Singh said NDRF has rescued about 2,400 affected people till now to safer areas. "We are hopeful of getting into more and more areas today as the rains have slowed down since yesterday and we have seen water receding in many areas. We are hopeful of doing more than what we did yesterday," he said. The force has also deployed 2 teams, out of the 30, in Pudukchery while another set of NDRF teams are on standby at Patna and Pune which can be airlifted at short notice, he said.

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# Community Policing in Manipur

**Community policing is Manipur:** The act which governs the police functioning in Manipur and in other states and union territories of India and in consonance with it the rules and service conditions governing the Police Department are being made is the Police Act, 1861. In fact, it is the Act which was enacted by the British into India during their hegemony in the then colonial India. The Act still continues as the governing Act of Police in India even after 68 years of independence of this country. The police in India during the British rule was a force and the intention of the police then was to make the police look to the Indians as the enemies of the then government in power. It was to safe-guard the interests of the British rule and to protect British citizens in India at that time. The uniform Khaki was chosen to look the police like the armed force such as military whose personality as by the design of their actual performance have to look during and aggressive as they deal with enemy. They wanted police to be force not a service. Thus, the Indians who came across in front of police in those days were enemies. In order to achieve this and to alienate, the training imparted to them were more of physical aspects which included physical exercises, toughening, bayonet practice anti riot drill, lathi charge, etc. The acts and rules governing the police have not been changed. The Assam Police Manuals (part I to VI) which was introduced in Manipur during the British time is still used as the Police Manual in Manipur in absence of a separate Manipur Police Manual till date. There is no change in the sequence of dispersal of unlawful Assembly u/s 129-131 of Code of Criminal procedure and Rule no.47 of AP Manual part-I. Thereby treating the public as rioter and enemies as was

done during the period when India was not independent. **Police not a force but a service-** Indian police from Imperial Police (IP) has now, after independence, changed into Indian Police Service (IPS). But, there is no change in their way of functioning and in their dealing with public, etc. Police culture has not undergone any change from its colonial police, so is also Manipur Police. Police still is a force, not a service. They are more of status consciousness than of their role as a police in the society. People of the present era is more concerned with the consciousness of their role than the consciousness of their status. With uniform police acquire some social and professional status. But their social and professional status is of no value if their role as a policeman is not discharged to the expectation of the public. Police uniform and status alienate police from the public and this led to the failure of achieving the purpose of service oriented policing. On the other hand, as ego problem arises, police are in the habit of using filthy languages. This attitude is unbearable by the public. So, police station which remains as a place of public facility has become a place where young male and women do not like to visit even at times of their requirement. With the advancement of modern technology in all fields in the world, the globe has become so small and the distance has been reduced. In the field of information also the happiness at one end of the world are reached to all parts of the world within minutes. So much so that the world has become one. The living standard, the taste of living, the value of life, the truth of everything including the sense of right or wrong in discharge of police duties are weighted and compare with treatment meted out by police in other countries under the same circumstances and conditions. As

such, the acts of police are subject to people's scrutiny in terms of such treatment as it happened in other countries. Failure to keep and maintain the right treatment leads to mass protest, agitation, etc. Under the new democratic set up, the people of Manipur would like to see a new police if possible more or less of a London Bobby type of police. The change context demands an active, alert, judicious service oriented and responsive police force and not indiscriminating and brutal one. Even if they use force, it should be for the larger interest of the society as they are protectors of life and property of the people at large. **Implementation of Community Policing in Manipur:** Soli Shorabjee seeing all the pitfalls in Indian Police has recommended Police Reforms and replacement of the Police Act 1861 by Police Act, 2006, making police more public friendly and service oriented. He has suggested for introduction of two tier-system of policing by bifurcating police into law and order group and investigation group. The system has been implemented in Manipur as an experimental bases in the two police stations of Manipur - one at Imphal Police Station and the other at Porompat Police Station of Imphal West and East Districts respectively. The need for Implementation of community system of policing was felt in Manipur Police way back in 2005. Thus the Government of Manipur has included Rule-365 in the Assam Police Manual Part-III requiring the Superintendents of Police to associate the citizens with the police work, to identify problems and to collaborate in reaching workable solutions to such problems as to create enthusiasm amongst the citizens in the direction, thereby encouraging them to help each other in the better living of the society. However, the rule has not been implemented in

any of the districts by the District Superintendents of Police nor is this aware of by the subordinate officers not to talk of the constables. Thus, community policing in the state of Manipur remained a far cry as a system of policing for Manipur Police Department. **Conclusion:** To make police public friendly the attitude and mind set of the police officers and men are to be changed from adhering their functioning to traditional system of where primitive approach in the dominant system of policing to a preventive and pro-active system of policing. In fact a paradigm shift to its recruitment system, training and working style is required to make police public friendly. This will make police a service than a force. The officers and men are to be trained and seminars and workshop, particularly at the training level be organized at the training college, both in service and during their basic training period. As such, community policing programme may be taken up at all districts so that the police functionaries are aware of this system of policing. In the curriculum of school education of high school level, the topic of community policing as a system of policing may be including to make the students aware of this system of policing, as it is done in Kerala in the name of *Janamithiri Suraksha Project*, which is a project sponsored by Kerala Government and which has become the predominant feature of policing system of Kerala state with exceeding success. **Note:** Paper presented in ICSSR sponsored International Seminar on Movements in Recent Past and Present in Northeast India with special reference to Manipur, dt. 27-29 November 2015, organized by Centre for Manipur Studies (CMS), Manipur University.