

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, November 23, 2015

Technology to the rescue

Our state, though nestled on the far fringe of the country with unfriendly hilly terrain to welcome visitors, does not lag much behind in terms of awareness and utilization of available technological developments, and one thing which the people of the state has taken to with gusto, more out of necessity rather than convenience is the information technology or, simply put- IT. The advent of this amazing technology has indeed changed the way the public view things. People can now understand a broader perspective of all issues and hence, can form their own informed judgement. The curiosity and inquisitiveness of the people has also been aroused, leading to a more scientific temper of mind that questions various beliefs. It has also undoubtedly brought the world closer, thereby easing the frustrations of having to deal with the difficulties of communication and transport, or that inextricable feeling of being sidelined. While IT is not the panacea to the shortcomings of the society, it is indeed a game-changing aspect, and can be utilized to even effect in our state. Take for instance the protracted problem of distributing, and more importantly, that of collecting bills for various public facilities being provided by the Government. How many of us have really seen a water bill in the last decade or so? And who should we inquire about any matter relating to any Government Department in the state. The obvious solution in this time and age is to Google, which is possible only if and when the information and details are made available by the Government. And when online stores are successfully functioning despite the initial concerns regarding the safety of the payment methods, such fears has been proven unfounded. The whole concept of implementing IT in Governance, as envisaged in the NeGP (National eGovernance Project) Vision, to "Make all Government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of the common man" should be made functional, with additional services included as required to facilitate generation of revenue for the state. A fully functional Common Service Centre (CSC) implemented under the NeGP formulated by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeITy) are Information and Communication Technology enabled front end service delivery points at the village level for delivery of Government, Financial, Social and Private Sector services in the areas of Agriculture, health, education, entertainment, FMCG products, banking, insurance, pension, utility payments etc. the big question is: are these centers functioning as required, or are they just formalities to make up the numbers in the report sheet of the Government? What steps have the Government taken up to create awareness amongst the public so as to educate them, and ultimately enable them to access the services provided at these centers? It is clearly evident that there need a lot to be done before such supposedly beneficial services reach the public and make their lives that little more convenient. A concerted proactive approach to create awareness and to educate the mass on the development activities and services should be carried out to ensure that such beneficial and positive steps are not wasted.

Wallet Lost

I, the undersign, have lost my wallet containing my Adhaar card, driving license, voter ID and a cash of Rs. 2500 on the way between Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai to Sagolband at around 6 pm to 7 pm.

Finders are requested to handover it to the undersign

Mutum Ashinikumar Singh
Sagolband Meino Leirak
Imphal West
Mobile No.9615059258

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National & International News

Mass shooting at playground in New Orleans leaves 16 injured, says police

Reuters
New Orleans, Nov. 23: A gunfight between two groups erupted on Sunday in a New Orleans park where hundreds of people were gathered for a block party and the filming of a music video, leaving 16 people wounded, police said. Circumstances surrounding the shooting in the city's Upper Ninth Ward, and details of what precipitated the violence, were not immediately clear, but New Orleans Police Department spokesman Tyler Gamble said that no fatalities were reported. When asked if gang activity was thought to be involved, Gamble said that it "was still too soon to say, we know, by speaking to some of the victims, there were two groups of people shooting at each other," Gamble said. Witnesses told police that both groups involved in the gun battle fled the park on foot immediately after the shooting, police said in a statement. No arrests were immediately reported. According to the statement, 10 gunshot victims were taken to area hospitals by ambulance, and six more arrived at emergency rooms "via private conveyance." Gamble said that each of the 16 victims suffered either a "direct gunshot wound" or a "graze wound" and all were listed in stable condition, though the full

extent of their injuries was still to be ascertained. Police said they did not have the age or genders of the victims. The incident unfolded at about 6:15 p.m. Central Time at the Bunny Friend playground, following a community "second line" parade that ended a few blocks away earlier in the day, police said. Several hundred people were gathered in the park at the time for an un-permitted block party and the impromptu filming of a music video, according to police. New Orleans police Commander Chris Goodley, speaking in a video clip posted by the New Orleans Times-Picayune website, said the crowd at the park remained "orderly" after the shooting. "But we were trying to preserve the crime scene as best as we could and tend to the victims," he added. New Orleans Police Superintendent Michael Harrison also was quoted by the Times-Picayune as saying, "no one has died at this time." Three witnesses told the newspaper they saw a man with a silver-colored machine gun, and also heard more gunshots coming from within the crowd as he ran away. Several people were lying on the sidewalk after the shooting, it said. WVUE-TV reported that the police believed the shooting stemmed from a fight.

One militant killed in encounter in Kupwara ; massive combing operation underway

Agency
Kupwara, Nov 23: One militant was killed on Monday in an ongoing encounter with security forces in Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir. A massive encounter entered its second day on Monday as Indian Army personnel are engaged in a search operation to flush out hiding terrorists from the Rajwar forests in Handwara. The fierce gun battle that has been raging on since Sunday entered its second and so far three Army personnel have been

injured, including a Lieutenant-Colonel and two jawans. The militants are believed to be cornered and attempts are being made to capture or neutralise them. Heavy firing is underway and additional troops have been rushed to cordon off the forest area. Earlier, the Army had launched a search operation in Kupwara where Colonel Santosh Mahadik, the Commanding Officer (CO) of 41 Rashtriya Rifles was killed in a fierce gun battle with terrorists.

Cyber security, culture on agenda as India, Malaysia sign 3 MoUs

HT
Putrajaya, Nov. 23: India and Malaysia on Monday signed three MoUs for cooperation in cyber security, public administration and culture even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought a scaling up of trade and investment. The memorandums of understanding were signed following talks between Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak in the Prime Minister's Office complex at Putrajaya, the federal administrative complex south of Kuala Lumpur. Modi has often said that Malaysia is central to his government's "Act East" policy that aims to drive the economic development of the landlocked northeastern states. India has had a strategic partnership with Malaysia since 2010. The MoU on cyber security between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) and Cyber Security

Malaysia will promote cooperation and exchange of information on cyber security incident management, cyber attacks, technological cooperation, prevalent policies and mutual response to cyber security incidents. The MoU between the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and Malaysia's Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) will promote cooperation in management, delivery and monitoring of government programmes to improve efficiency and develop tools to monitor performance. The MoU between India's culture ministry and Malaysia's culture and tourism ministry is aimed at strengthening cultural exchanges and cooperation through visits of delegations and troupes, art exhibitions and exchange visits by scholars and experts. Speaking at a joint media interaction with Najib, Modi described the agreement as

Slight fall on meat prices



By Iboyaima Laithangbam

For unexplained reasons the prices of meats have been slashed in some parts of the state. Some meat sellers have slashed it to Rs 250. However beef remains at Rs 300 a kg and mutton somewhere at Rs 600. In Delhi one kg of pork is available at Rs 130. This is because of the fact that as a matter of habit people there do not take it although it is a delicacy for the northeasterners. Even then one kg of chicken is available at Rs 150. It is much cheaper in Kolkata. The last time I bought was Rs 60 a kg. Eggs remains very costly. The imported variety is available at Rs 5 per egg. It is sold at Rs 7 in the village shops. In early 1960s I used to buy ten eggs for Rs one at the market in Thoubal. But then a teal migrating from Siberia used to cost hardly 75 paise. In Senapati market one kg of pork was available at Rs 6 and boneless beef at Rs 3 in late 1960s. One unhealthy practice among

some women vendors is that they colour the imported eggs in tea stains to make it appear that these are eggs of the local chickens. Naturally the gullible customers realise how they were duped while making preparations at home. A hawk eye customer will notice the different shades of reddish colour on these eggs. However prices of fishes remain very high and people with honest income cannot afford the same on daily basis. Prices of the iced fishes imported from other states are stable. But these are injurious to health as preservative chemicals are liberally used. One welcome food habit is that more and more families are using fresh milk now on sale from early morning in many townships. People of Manipur have been facing health problems since meat and eggs were banned in the Hindu homes and did not take milk, nuts and fruits as substitutes. But then in the last few decades food habits had changed.

From Centre, Rs. 3,250 Crore for Delhi, Praise for Arvind Kejriwal

Agency
New Delhi: The Centre today allotted Rs. 3,250 crore for decongesting and developing Delhi, also offering the state government some rare praise in relief from the icy ties shared by the two administrations. Allotting an additional Rs. 96.7 crore for making the national capital cleaner, Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu praised Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for roping in three municipal bodies in the city for his week-long cleanliness drive that started

today. Political parties should not look at each other as enemies but with mutual respect," Mr Naidu said. The BJP, which rules the Centre, and Mr Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party have long shared difficult relations. "Central government, Delhi government and municipal corporations of Delhi together launching Swachh Delhi campaign is an affirmative statement of 'Team India' spirit at work as desired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi", Mr Naidu said.

industry. Both ministries will discuss on the possibilities of expanding our bilateral cooperation, which includes joint production." India's trade with Malaysia was worth \$14 billion in 2014. This included imports of \$9.7 billion, mainly commodities, mineral fuels and animal and vegetable oils. Malaysia has invested more than \$7 billion in India and completed projects worth \$6 billion, particularly in the infrastructure and construction sectors. India's investments in Malaysia are around \$2.3 billion and Indian companies such as IRCON, Reliance, Kirloskar, Bajaj, TCS, Mahindra, L&T and Wipro have a presence in the country. Modi also sought the early conclusion of an agreement on mutual recognition of educational degrees and invited Malaysian students to study in India. Najib said the higher education ministry and Malaysian Qualifications Agency will talk to the relevant Indian authorities on this issue.