

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, October 23, 2015

Inactions of the state actors

If one thing can ever be said of the present set of rulers in the state, it must be that the collective leadership has so far been able to keep the boat from being capsized, more as a result of their conformist views and style of governance, rather than out of its expertise in expediting timely solutions. The result - troubles and social disquiet has been kept suppressed and on tenterhooks, thus fomenting unrest rather than taking a proactive stance and meeting the issues head on while they are just starting out. Matters on the development front is not all rosy either. One could be forgiven for taking the assurances and promises of these public leaders as commitments being delivered. Things have come to such a pass that finding the techniques and means to convince and placate the public has evidently been given more effort than the actual implementation of such assurances and promises. As a seemingly progressive government trying to keep pace with the rest of the world, there is an unflinching effort to observe various significant events and days. Impressive organizational skills and enthusiasm is being displayed every time such observation functions are held, with no efforts or expenses spared, be it the world health day, environment or sports, or any other for that matter. But going with the flow has its inherent limitations, and the state government has been caught neck deep in it. As a democratic setup, majority carries the vote, but it does not always mean that the majority is right. Perhaps the peculiar social situations unfolding in the state is, if only in part, a result of the absence of a comprehensive and cohesive development plan or vision. The state government, elected by the public should have the confidence as well as the political will to implement its objectives against all odds. More than a populist gesture, the public demands a government with the conviction to stand by its commitments. Progress and development cannot be made to happen overnight. Shaping the future of the state is and should be an ongoing process. But to achieve the objective, a clear and far-sighted vision is a foremost requirement, with the political acumen and decisiveness to act on it. Laying out plans and communicating its intent to the public is all very well, but the people would rather have a government that acts out its intents, as a practice and not an exception. The public have put up with the slapdash measures of administering for too long, and the murmurings of discontent have begun to rumble across the state. It is about time the state government start selling progressive livelihood and stop peddling in dreams.

3 accused sent to 14-days' judicial custody

PTI New Delhi, Oct. 23: A special CBI court on Friday remanded to 14-day judicial custody the three accused arrested in connection with alleged corruption in supply of packaged drinking water in Rajdhani and other superfast trains. Special CBI judge Vinod Kumar remanded two senior rail officers — Sandeep Silas and MS Chalia — and a businessman — Sharan Bihari Agrawal — to judicial custody after CBI submitted that they were not required for further custodial interrogation as of now. "All the three accused are remanded to 14-day judicial custody," the judge said. The accused were produced before the court after completion of their five-day CBI custody. The probe agency has said that Silas and Chalia conspired with Agrawal and instead of taking Rail Neer, they had allowed some private firms to supply water in the trains which resulted in a loss of Rs 6.25 crore to the exchequer. It said that searches were conducted during the probe in which approximately Rs 28 crore cash was recovered out of which around Rs four lakh was counterfeit. Silas, a 1984-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, and Chalia of 1987 batch officer were taken into custody on Saturday night along with Agrawal, owner of R K Associates, in connection with the scam. Besides them, the CBI has also registered case against seven private companies - RK Associates Pvt Ltd, Satyam Caterers Pvt Ltd, Ambuj Hotel and Real Estate, PK Associates Pvt Ltd, Sainsine Pvt Ltd, Brandavan Food Product and Food World - under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act. CBI has alleged that the two accused officials, who held the position of Chief Commercial Manager, had shown favour to these private firms in supply of cheap packaged drinking water other than 'Rail Neer' which is mandatory in premium trains including Rajdhani and Shatabdi.

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National & International

Use of chemical weapons must be condemned: India

PTI United Nations, Oct. 23: India has called on the international community to be vigilant on non-state actors and terrorist groups seeking and using chemical weapons and said the use of such weapons anywhere and by anyone must be condemned. "The use of chemical weapons anywhere and by anyone must be condemned and the international norm against the use of chemical weapons must not be breached," visiting Member of Parliament Abhishek Banerjee said at a debate on weapons of mass destruction at the First Committee of the General Assembly here on Thursday. He said India contributed to

international efforts under the UN and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the destruction of Syria's declared chemical weapon stockpiles. "The international community should continue to be vigilant on non-state actors and terrorist groups seeking or using chemical weapons," he added. Given that disarmament is a primary goal of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the remaining possessor States should fulfil their obligations within the shortest possible time. India completed the destruction of its chemical weapon stockpiles in 2009 within the stipulated time frame under the CWC. The provisions of the Convention

should be implemented in a manner that does not hinder legitimate activities, especially in countries like India with a large and growing chemical industry, he said adding that universality is fundamental to the success of the Convention. He voiced India's commitment to improving the effectiveness of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and strengthening its implementation and its universalising. "We believe this is necessary in view of the new challenges to international peace and security emanating from proliferation trends, including the threat posed by terrorists or other non-state actors seeking access to biological agents or toxins for terrorist

purposes," he said. He also supported a robust consultation process among all States Parties leading to the Eighth Review Conference next year, so as to contribute to its success through preparations on substantive and procedural issues. He reiterated India's commitment to maintaining the highest international standards with reference to control of nuclear, chemical, biological and toxin weapons and their means of delivery. "In this regard, India has made considerable progress in its engagement with the relevant multilateral export control regimes with a view to seeking full membership," he said.

Sword attacker kills teacher and pupil at Sweden school

ANI London, Oct. 23: Sweden has reacted with shock and horror after a teacher and pupil were stabbed to death in a school with a high number of immigrants by a masked man who was reported to have far-right sympathies. The man, who posed with students before starting his killing spree, was shot dead by police, the Guardian reports. Twenty-one-year-old Anton Lundin Pettersson created panic in Trollhattan, an industrial city near Gothenburg, on Thursday as

parents and pupils crowded outside Kronan school in the aftermath of the killings among large numbers of police and ambulances. Prime Minister Stefan Lofven described the stabbings as a black day for Sweden, and was on his way to the city. He further said, "I am deeply moved and feel great sorrow and I'm here to express my, the government's and the people of Sweden's sorrow and sympathy. We think of the victims, the deceased, and the ones that are

now being treated in hospital. We think of their near and dear, their mothers, fathers, siblings and all those who love them and care for them. We think of the class mates, staff and the whole community here in Trollhattan." "This affects us all - all who send their children and grand children to school, who work there or attend themselves. School is supposed to be the place for learning, play and curiosity and friendship, and therefore, this is a tragedy that affects the whole country. It's a black day for

Sweden," he added. Sweden's King Carl Gustaf said Sweden was "in shock" following the attack and that the royal family received the news "with great dismay and sadness". A teacher died on the spot, while a 17-year-old died later in hospital from stab wounds. Two more people, aged 15 and 41, were in a critical condition on Thursday night. The killings took place in a school with a high proportion of immigrants, raising fears the killer's motives may have been racist.

US, Pak call for enhanced military relations

ANI Washington D.C., Oct. 23: The United States and Pakistan have called for "enhancing" the military-to-military relationship between

the two countries, despite US officials earlier accusing Pakistani army of using terror groups to stir tensions in India and supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan. According to The Washington Times, specifics were not provided but the language

suggested that a major weapons deal may be in pipeline. Pakistani officials have voiced their frustration recently over the aging state of their fighter jet fleet, amid reports that the U.S. may soon announce the sale of several new F-16s to Islamabad.

Sharif and Obama said in a joint statement that they see the risks associated with Pakistan's nuclear weapons program and called for growing cooperation in all spheres, from trade to education to climate change and energy policy.

Three people shot on Tennessee State University campus

ANI New York, Oct. 23: At least three people have been shot on Tennessee State University's campus in Nashville, said police. According to ABC News, it is not yet clear whether the gunman has been taken into custody. Victims have been transported to an area hospital but their conditions have not been released. It is still unclear whether the victims are students. The shooting remains under investigation. Tennessee State University enrolls more than 9,000 students and is Nashville's only public university.

Uber rape case: Sentencing deferred till Nov. 3

ANI New Delhi, Oct. 23: Sessions court here on Friday deferred sentencing of Uber rape case accused Shiv Kumar Yadav till November 3, as it couldn't hear arguments on the quantum of punishment to be given to the latter for raping a woman last December. The accused was not present in the court during the hearing. Yadav was held guilty for the offences under Sections 376 (2)(m) (while committing rape causes grievous bodily harm or disfigure or endangers life of a woman), 366 (abducting with an intent to compel her for marriage), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 323 (causing hurt) of the IPC. In all, 28 prosecution witnesses deposed in the case. The victim identified the accused while recording her evidence.

More State News

India China joint exercise Hand-in-Hand :2015 concludes

PRODEFENCE) Imphal, Oct. 23: The India China combined Military Training exercise Hand in Hand 2015 commenced on 12 Oct Kunming Military Academy, Yunnan, China. The exercise concluded with a joint Field Exercise followed by an impressive closing ceremony on 22 Oct 15. Participating troops from both sides had trained together and learned from each other in mixed groups on Basic Individual Skills (combat boxing, basic mountaineering and shooting), Comprehensive Combat Skills (obstacle crossing, combat shooting, demolition, high intensity physical training) and unit/sub unit tactics, especially in a counter terrorism scenario. A joint field exercise depicting counter terrorist operations on India China border areas was held from 21 to 22 Oct to validate the exercise objectives. A series of challenging tactical situations were presented to validate the reactions of the sub-units and a very high level of professionalism and Coordination was seen among troops of both the armies. The exercise was overlooked by the observer delegation of both countries today, who expressed satisfaction at level of assimilation achieved by the troops of both sides. This was followed by the Closing Ceremony which commenced with



an impressive parade by both contingents where national flags of both countries were brought on parade, followed by playing national anthems. The heads of observer delegation of both countries reviewed the parade and thereafter awarded certificates and medals to outstanding members of each others contingents. Lt Gen AL Chavan, head of the Indian Observer Group addressed the gathering and congratulated both contingents for successful conduct of Joint Exercise. He stated that the intimate understanding and goodwill generated during the exercise will go a long way in further strengthening military bonds between both armies and has helped in understanding each others organization and conduct of counter terrorist operations. Maj Gen Zhang Bing, Deputy Chief of Staff of Chengdu Military

Command and head of the Chinese Observer Group stated that this was the fifth joint counter terrorist exercise which shows the power of both countries to fight terrorism together and highlights the determination and vision of both countries to maintain regional security, stability and develop a conducive environment for development. He complemented all participants and said that the Chinese side was impressed by the professionalism and spirit of the Indian Contingent during the Joint Training. The joint exercise has met its stated objectives; to exchange experience on counter-terrorist training and conducting counter-terrorist operations, enhance mutual trust and understanding and promote healthy military relations between the two armies. The Indian contingent will return to India by military aircraft on 23 Oct. 2015.