

Editorial

Imphal, Friday, October 9, 2015

Beyond the barriers

Technological advancements are an all-pervading phenomena, one which is impossible to miss. And so, our small and relatively remote state has been engulfed with such changes that are hard to ignore. Though physically and geographically hard to access, technology has made its mark on the public. The virtual world has shrunk and information is now just a click or a swipe away. The state Government is also doing its bit to promote and propagate the integration of technology in every department and systems, albeit in a rather frustrating and for-the-sake-of-it manner. Despite such advancements and progress; or attempts at progress, the plight of a section of the public with disabilities and difficult physical deformities remains almost impossible when it comes to accessing these public facilities and services. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was an Act to give effect to the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of the People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region. However, almost two decades on, we still have yet to see even the most basic groundwork to implement the recommendations and directions of the laws which is aimed at making all and every public facility accessible to the differently able and physically challenged persons. More surprising is the fact that these recommendations are not something which would put a financial constraint on the Government as it entails very basic changes and alterations or additions to the present infrastructures to make them more accessible. The total absence of such facilities at the public places in the state indicates a total lack of regard and consideration for this section of the society more than anything. Discounting the weak and infirm will only add to the woes of the Government. It should instead focus on making the most of its citizens by empowering them to contribute to the society. The contributions of outstanding persons like Prof. Stephen Hawkins, a multiple paraplegic in the field of science, or that of Marla Runyard, the first legally blind paraplympian to compete in the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, or Ludwig Van Beethoven who composed some of the most famous musical compositions after he became completely deaf cannot be ignored. One would surely admire the achievements of Helen Adams Keller, the deaf and blind American author, political activist and lecturer. All these extraordinary people managed to overcome their physical and mental constraints and outshine everyone in their respective fields because of the support, guidance and understanding provided to them. A government which cannot render even the most basic assistance for its disadvantaged citizens, for all its achievements and advancements, cannot claim itself ideal. Understanding the everyday ordeal of these people can shape the holistic development of a state or a country. It is for all of us to try and make the world that little bit easier for the physically less fortunate citizens, and the Government has a very urgent and important task of living up to its own claims of a fair and considerate setup.

Parrikar Bats for Combat Role for Women in Armed Forces

PTI New Delhi, Oct. 9: Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar batted for combat role for women in the armed forces, but said a policy decision will soon be made after studying the implications as it may have some "operational" or "training difficulties". His comments came a day after IAF Chief Arup Raha said the air force has moved a proposal for inducting women as fighter aircraft pilots. "The procedure is on. I am still not aware as to why an in-principle approval should not be given. There could be some hurdles, difficulties during the training. Keeping all this mind, we will soon announce a policy. They have recommended women in combat role and there is no reasons why we should not accept it. It can be thought upon on how and when they can be used." Parrikar said. "There are some operational difficulties. Barring that, why can't women participate in the combat operations (of Indian Air Force). I also have some questions related to this and I am discussing with them. This takes time," he said while interacting with reporters here after a parade to mark the 66th anniversary of Territorial Army.

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National & International

Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull calls for calm amid planned anti-Islam protest

Reuters Sydney, Oct. 9: Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull called for calm on Friday as police prepared for clashes between protesters at a planned rally outside a Sydney mosque that was attended by a teenager who killed a police officer a week ago. Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar, 15, was shot and killed by police after he opened fire on police accountant Curtis Cheng as Cheng left police headquarters in the Sydney suburb of Parramatta last Friday. The shooting and subsequent arrest of five people in raids in Sydney has stoked anxiety over further militant violence and retaliatory attacks against

Muslims. Turnbull called mutual respect between faiths "the glue that binds this very diverse country together" and blamed anti-Muslim protesters for stoking divisiveness. "Those who do that are making the work of the police and security services ... who seek to prevent violent extremism much harder," he told reporters in Sydney. Australia, a staunch ally of the United States and its battle against Islamist militants in Iraq and Syria, has been on heightened alert for attacks by home-grown radicals since last year. Turnbull also announced a meeting set for next week to address countering extremism in the wake of last week's shooting.

"Friday's attack in Parramatta was a shocking reminder of the consequences of radicalisation," he said in a statement. Protests between anti-racist groups and anti-Islam parties have turned violent several times this year in different Australian cities. Parramatta police commander Superintendent Wayne Cox told reporters he did not expect any violence on Friday but said 75 additional officers had been deployed. Streets were blocked off and Cox urged citizens to avoid the area unless necessary. In September, police shot dead a Melbourne teenager after he

stabbed two counter-terrorism officers. Last December, two hostages were killed when police stormed a central Sydney cafe to end a 17-hour siege by a lone gunman. Earlier this month, a 15-year-old British boy was sentenced to life in prison for inciting an attack on a World War One commemorative event in Australia from his bedroom in northern England. The discovery of the boy's actions sparked a massive police operation in Melbourne that led to the arrest of five teenagers who were planning an Islamic State-inspired attack, authorities said.

State News

AR apprehends smuggler

IT News Imphal, Oct 9: Based on specific intelligence regarding smuggling of illegal wildlife product, troops of the 24 Assam Rifles of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) established a vehicle check post at Khudengthabi and apprehended a woman carrying illegal wildlife product on 07 October 2015. The apprehendee was identified as Mrs M Keinahan, aged 75 years, W/o Late Bir Chandra, resident of village Salungbam Mayai

Leikai, PO - Wangjing, PS - Thoubal, Dist - Thoubal. She was travelling in a Maruti Van bearing Registration Number AS 01 BK 6267 and heading towards Imphal. During the frisking and checking, two Flying Gecko weighing around 10-15 grams, concealed inside a cigarette packet which she was carrying was recovered from her possession. The apprehendee alongwith the recovered item has been handed over to the Forest Department, Imphal.

AR organised marup volleyball tournament

IT News Imphal, Oct 9: 2 Assam Rifles of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised Marup Volleyball Tournament in Somrei village from 05 to 07 Oct 2015. Around eight villages of Thoubal and Senapati districts participated in the tournament which was conducted and managed entirely by Assam Rifles. The tournament was conducted on a knock-out match policy where in all the local teams participated with full enthusiasm

displaying their individual skills in the best manner. The final match was played between village Phoiyebi and Sanunram, resulting in local team of village Phoiyebi emerging as overall winners. Commandant, 2 Assam Rifles while giving away prizes to the winners and runners up teams asserted importance of sports as a way forward in developing Manipur. The event was deeply appreciated by one and all, thus helping in strengthening the Civil-Security Forces bond

Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet wins Nobel Peace Prize for 2015

Agency Oslo, Oct. 9: The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet has won the Nobel Peace Prize for 2015. Announcing the award in Oslo, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said that the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet has been awarded the peace prize for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011. The Nobel Peace Prize, worth \$972,000, will be presented in Oslo on December 10. "The Quartet was formed in the summer of 2013 when the democratization process was in danger of collapsing as a result of political assassinations and widespread social unrest. It established an alternative, peaceful political process at a time when the country was on the brink of civil war. It was thus instrumental in enabling Tunisia, in the space of a few years, to establish a constitutional system of government guaranteeing fundamental rights for the entire population, irrespective of gender, political conviction or religious

belief," the Nobel Committee said in its press release. The prize is a huge victory for small Tunisia, whose young and still shaky democracy suffered two extremist attacks this year that killed 60 people and devastated the tourism industry. The National Dialogue Quartet is made up of four key organizations in Tunisian civil society: the Tunisian General Labour Union; the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts; the Tunisian Human Rights League; and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers. "The Nobel Peace Prize for 2015 is awarded to this Quartet, not to the four individual organizations as such," the committee said. There were 273 candidates nominated for the 2015 peace prize, five fewer than in 2014. The award capped a week of Nobel Prize announcements, with the winners of the medicine, physics, chemistry and literature awards presented earlier in Stockholm. The economics award — not an original Nobel Prize but created in 1968 — will be announced on Monday.

Haj stampede: Number of Indians killed crosses 100

PTI New Delhi, Oct. 9: The death toll of Indians in the Haj stampede has risen to 101 even as 32 nationals still remain missing after the last month's tragedy. "Saudi authorities have identified more pilgrims who died in Haj stampede. The toll of Indian pilgrims is now 101. We have 32 missing," External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj tweeted on Friday. Minister of State for External Affairs V. K. Singh was in Saudi Arabia for the identification

process of the missing Indians, MEA Spokesperson Vikas Swarup had said on Thursday. "The Minister sought the intervention of the Saudi Health Minister to find the identities of all the Indian pilgrims. He also conveyed that several missing cases were still pending with the Indian mission and it can only be resolved after the identification process is complete. Mr. Singh has been assured of all support and assistance by the Saudi minister," he had said.

Lions Service Day observed



IT News Imphal, Oct 9: The International Service Day of Lion Club was observed jointly by Lions and Lioness Club Imphal yesterday. On the occasion, the two clubs distributed 5 bags of rice and 1 bag of dal to Tabitha Children Home, Mantripukhri. As the day coincided with the World Sight Day, a free eye screening of the children of the Home was also conducted by the two Lions Clubs. In all, eye check-up for about 20 children of the Home was done. Out of these, 5 Children were found to be requiring usage of glasses. Secy. of Lions Club, Dr. RK Lakshana Singh said that glasses will be given without charge to the children on Oct. 19.

Contd. from page 1

After annexation Manipur's boundary has been reduced to 22,327 Sq. Km – PREPAK

Now the present impasse between various ethnic community of the region is the success of the India Government. It added that the loss of the NSCR-IM in getting land from Manipur and the gain of the India government in promulgating communal hatred among various people of the region is 100 per cent gain for India. The colonial attitude of the Indian government is against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, the statement said.

"When the Somalians of Ethiopia and Kenya demanded to join with Somalia, the community of the world strongly opposed. The Palestine has never demanded any land inhabited by them in Arab country. But the India government is playing game with a hidden agenda to distort the 2000 years old history of the region", the statement added. Over 1528 people have been killed in fake encounter by the Indian Colonial rulers and many have

been made involuntarily disappeared while many more are left disabled. People have witness many genocidal mission besides many women of the region had been raped. Above this the Indian Security force are implanting communal enmity feeling between the ethnic communities of the people by supporting some specific group. The proscribed group further wishes the people on occasion of the 38th Foundation Day.