

Editorial

Imphal Saturday, December 3, 2016

For a little civility

Civility is being defined as the act of being polite and courteous. But it does not in any way mean to be observed only by the civilians- defined as a person not in the armed forces or the police. The increasingly visible attitude of the armed forces and the state police personnel would suggest otherwise, with reports of high-handed and arrogant misbehaviour against the civilians becoming an everyday inconvenience. It would be taking things too far, however, to generalize and categorize the armed forces and other state and para-military forces as such in their totality. Having said that, it has become a de-facto prerogative of the well-heeled, the influential and the powerful (those with authorized weapons included, whether in uniform or otherwise) lot to impose their self-induced superiority on the common people, or even the not so common yet civilized citizens. Perhaps, the maddening race for power, influence and wealth has reduced the majority of us to mere servants of their wealth, their every waking hour consumed with the driving craze to amass more wealth, by means fair or foul.

The emerging trend of self-styled Social Workers, majority of whom started out as unscrupulous contractors and businessmen with a penchant for minting money through dubious means, and who are displaying their newly acquired role of messiah of the downtrodden, with an eye on the next election could very well be the only rational conclusion of such a system. That such social workers becomes inaccessible to the very public who voted them to power is another matter altogether, an after effect of the submission to greed by the public which always leaves a bad aftertaste.

The game of one-upmanship being increasingly played out in the public life have relegated courtesy to a thing of the past and reduced the importance of politeness and civility, to such a point that politeness is being equated with weakness. Such misconceptions often lead to clash of egos and foster bad blood. Perhaps, setting an example by the powerful and the influential on the matter will go a long way in bringing to the fore the importance and necessity of adopting good manners and civility, and yet it is getting increasingly rare to find someone with that rare combination of power and humility. Our society, impulsive and reactive as it is as a whole, failed to learn from the numerous unfortunate fallout resulting from lack of manners and in considerations and are, therefore, condemned to repeat it. It is high time we get ourselves over the delusion of grandeur and superiority and take a long hard look at the crumbling social mores. Kindness and courtesy does elicit similar response, and our society will be the better for it. It is not our self-proclamations but our deeds that will be judged. Being polite and humble takes lot more courage and personal integrity.

Football:

Desperate Barca primed to end Madrid's unbeaten streak

AFF Barcelona, Dec 3: Barcelona coach Luis Enrique believes his side remain the team to beat in Spain but admits that victory over leaders Real Madrid in El Clasico on Saturday is paramount to their title chances. With millions watching around the world Madrid travel into enemy territory in Catalonia on the back of a 32-game unbeaten run and boast a six-point lead over Barcelona at the top of La Liga. However, despite describing Barca's last league performance in a 1-1 draw at Real Sociedad as the worst of his three-season tenure, Enrique insists the reigning champions have the talent to be considered the best team in the world. "There are good teams at a high level but none of them are better than us. That is what makes me optimistic,"

he said on Friday. Barca received a huge injury boost on Friday when captain Andres Iniesta was cleared to make his return after six weeks out with a knee injury. "Iniesta is our captain and a reference point for Barca's style," said Enrique. "It is great news for the person that he is and what he represents as captain." Defenders Gerard Pique and Jordi Alba also look set to shrug off injuries to start and Enrique may be able to name his strongest side for the first time since September. Injuries have been a key factor in the Catalans' worst league start for nine years, but midfielder Arda Turan also claimed they remain the world's best once they hit top form. "Barca are the best team and when we play like we know how, we are unstoppable," the Turkish international told Barca TV.

National & International News

India, Qatar sign 4 agreements in various fields

AIR New Delhi, Dec 3: India and Qatar signed four agreements in the fields of cyber security, visa relaxation, and investments in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani in New Delhi today. Additionally, another MoU aimed at encouraging greater collaboration and exchange in field of national ports management of India and Qatar have also been signed.

Earlier, the two leaders held delegation level talks and discussed bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common interest. The dignitary arrived yesterday on a two day visit to India. This is the first visit of Sheikh Abdullah to India and the third high-level bilateral engagement between the two countries in the past two years, which underlines India's growing ties with Qatar. India's close and friendly relations with Qatar are based on mutually beneficial commercial exchanges and extensive people-to-people contacts. Qatar is not only an



important trading partner for India in the Gulf region but is also the largest supplier of LNG to the country, accounting for 66 per cent of our total imports in 2015-16. Indians form the largest expatriate community in Qatar and their positive contribution in the progress and development of their host country is well recognized. There are over 630,000 Indian nationals working in Qatar.

SC approves Centre's graded response action plan to tackle pollution in Delhi-NCR

AIR New Delhi, Dec 3: Supreme Court has accorded its nod to the Centre's graded response action plan to tackle different levels of pollution and asked the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to upgrade its existing infrastructure and set up additional monitoring stations in Delhi-NCR within six months. It also directed the Centre to examine within four weeks about harmful effects of petroleum coke and furnace oil used in industries and power generation plants in NCR and issue appropriate directions in this regard. Earlier, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has submitted in the

Supreme Court its action plan to tackle the menace of air pollution and recommended slew of measures including ban on construction activities. CPCB also recommended stringent enforcement/stoppage of garbage burning in landfills and other places and impose heavy fines on person responsible for such offences besides strict check on pollution under control norms.

The pollution monitoring body told the bench that it classified the different levels of air pollution namely moderate to poor, very poor, severe and emergency based on the levels of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 and 10 in the ambient air quality.

IT Department files case against former Amarinder Singh in foreign assets tax evasion case

AIR Chandigarh, Dec 3: Income Tax Department has filed a case against former Chief Minister of Punjab and President of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee Captain Amarinder Singh under various sections of Income Tax Act in the CJM court of Ludhiana. The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Japinder Singh has fixed 17th January for further hearing.

In the complaint Director of Income Tax Parneet Singh Sehdev alleged that Captain Amrinder Singh owns some movable and immovable properties abroad and he has gained profit through a trust by keeping

income tax department in dark. In the complaint it has also been alleged that Captain Amrinder Singh knowingly concealed documents from income tax department. Department has also alleged that he was asked to give clarification but he failed to provide any answer.

While Punjab Congress chief Amarinder Singh has accused the government of political vendetta. He said if the charges made out against him were true then why it was not taken up earlier. He asked the government to furnish the address with the proof of ownership of properties abroad.

32nd anniversary of Bhopal gas tragedy being observed

AIR Bhopal, Dec 3: Bhopal is observing 32nd anniversary of gas leak tragedy today as on the intervening night of 2nd and 3rd December in 1984, several hundred people were killed and scores of people were maimed for life when the Methyl Isocyanate gas was leaked from the pesticide plant of Union Carbide.

Even after 32 years, victims of Bhopal gas tragedy are facing problems like proper medical facilities, better living conditions

and employment. Toxic waste lying in the defunct Union Carbide is yet to be disposed off. Non Government Organisations working among gas victims are organising different functions including meetings and protest rallies to mark the 32nd anniversary of gas leak tragedy. An all religion prayer meeting will be held at Bhopal's Barkatullah Bhawan to pay homage to the victims. Chief minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan will be present on this occasion.

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Manipur Guv' launches new programme

Under the programme, a series of media workshops will be held in all the Northeastern states over the next three years. Senior thematic experts, scientists and policymakers will participate in these workshops and interact with journalists from different media outlets in the Himalayan states. Fellowships will also be awarded for journalists from the region to write field-based stories. Best stories written by state-level journalists will be awarded at the end of the programme.

About IHCAP: Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) is a project under Global Programme Climate Change (GCCC) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In India it is anchored under the Framework of Science and Technology Agreement of November 2003 between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of India and is being implemented as a bilateral cooperation programme with Department of Science and

Technology. IHCAP builds on capacity and knowledge enhancement related to three pillars- increasing knowledge on impacts of and vulnerability to climate change of the Himalayan socio-ecological system; enhancing capacities of academic and public institutions to address climate change; creating awareness, informing stakeholders and disseminating knowledge in the Indian Himalayan Region, Hindu Kush Himalayas and beyond.

About CMS: Established in 1991, CMS is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary development research and facilitative think-tank. It endeavors to work towards responsive governance and equitable development through research, advocacy and capacity building in social development, environment, communication, media, transparency and governance issues at local and national policy levels. Its flagship programme in environment sector is Vatavaran, a leading international festival of environmental films.

NE News

Say 'cheese' for Sikkim's new global flavour sensation

ANI Gangtok, Dec. 3: Sikkim's cheese making industry, known for producing some of India's finest varieties of cheese, is no longer confined to the Indian borders as it is stamping its mark globally. Dantam, a scenic village in Sikkim, is dotted with cheese spread manufacturing units which have slowly but steadily going places. One of the most famous plants here is a dairy unit producing Sikkim Alpine Cheese Spread. The product has scored over similar products of major dairy firms and has made forays in national and international markets.

Set up in 1996 under the Dairy Development Programme of the Indo-Swiss Project Sikkim (ISPS), Sikkim Alpine Cheese Spread is striving to produce quality cheese and paneer (cottage cheese), extracted from quality cow's milk under hygienic environment. Manufactured by Sikkim Dairy Products Pvt. Ltd, Sikkim Alpine Cheese Spread is the second product to be launched by the unit after Alpine Cheese Gouda - rated as best in the country.

"Earlier we were facing difficulties in marketing. Cheese was prepared but the demand was too less here. So later we collaborated with Gujarat cooperative Amul. Now whatever amount of cheese is prepared it is exported," Harish Chandra Poudyal, Accountant, Sikkim Alpine Cheese Spread said. The cheese is exported to

Singapore under the name of Amul. With this, the product is slowly expanding to more international markets, generating more revenues and creating more job opportunities.

Currently, a 12-member team of people oversees the work and production at the dairy unit. At least 2,000 litres of quality cow's milk are procured in a day to produce the products.

"My job is to make cheese. It takes lot of time to make cheese. It takes around 5-7 hours. The process involves receiving the milk and pasteurizing it. Once again it is heated and left for half an hour to cool down to 31 degrees. Then we keep it for cooling and then it turns into curd in 30 minutes. Then curd cutting is done for 20 minutes, followed by draining of the unwanted things in curd and mixing the useful one with 40 percent pasteurised water and cooking it at 36 degrees. Then it is left untouched for an hour and again drain and the remaining part is kept for moulding," Deepak Chettri, Worker said.

Setting up such projects in rural areas alleviates and uplifts the living standards of the people and boosts the economy of the state and region as a whole. Sikkim's cheese is being exported to different parts of the world and in the process, this industry is creating employment opportunities for the youth and in turn contributing to the state's development.

Tripura trooper martyred in Kashmir

ANI Khowai, Dec. 3: Hundreds of people bid a tearful farewell to martyr Chittaranjan Debbarma who was killed in a terrorist attack at Nagrota near Jammu on Tuesday. Debbarma's body was flown to Agartala by an Air Force flight on Thursday evening and kept for the night at the military hospital at Shalbagan there. Yesterday, the coffin was flown in a helicopter to his native village Garingpara in Khowai district of Tripura, which is 80 km from Agartala.

Army gave a gun salute with full state honour after the wreath laying ceremony at Garingpara, where large number of locals, people from the administration along the family members and relatives gathered to bid farewell to the brave heart during the funeral.

Debbarma had joined the Army following his elder brother Arun Debbarma, who at present is retired. He is the second soldier to die in service in Jammu and Kashmir in a week.

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