

Editorial

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Getting the big picture

If one is asked to think of two words that would best describe the present working system of the Government and its various Departments, more often than not, the words would be "Confusion" and "Corruption", but this does not mean that there is no other word that can be used. Miscommunication, inefficiency, favoritism, mismanagement, absenteeism—attributes that has come to be synonymous with Government functioning. Yet we have seen at times that the Government and its Departments have, in spurts, managed to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks and projects in record time—that they can rise to any challenge and face it successfully. A recent example that did not escape the public eye being the beautification drive of the city in connection with the just concluded Sangai Festival. The people of the State also witnessed the revival of a few dormant Departments such as the one concerning Food Safety making their presence felt with intermittent checks and drives carried out to impose the stipulated regulations. For a society to develop, a holistic approach is very essential. Making things work in fits and bounds would only make a farce of whatever precious little progress we have managed to accomplish. It would require a very proactive and prominent role from the judiciary if we ever aspire to bring in real change in our society. Curtailing the brash attitude of the often high-handed nature of the security forces or fighting the rampant corruption being practiced in almost every sphere of public domain needs the support and encouragement of the judicial system to become effective. A swift and stern justice system would surely deter many from tempering with the law, if not altogether contain it. Such a scenario would also revive the will of the common people to demand their rights and dispense their duties without fear or apprehension. The Government, on its part should come clean on various issues and try to make a clean start. The unspoken nexus of power and fear will not augur well for anybody, least of all for those who use them in their pursuit of personal advancement. Until and unless those at the helm of affairs have the integrity to discharge their duties and responsibilities, no law or directives will make any sense or serve any purpose. In this age and time when any information can be accessed with the touch of a button, trying to fool the people and underestimating their intelligence will surely prove to be a costly mistake. One does not need to draw up grand designs and mammoth schemes to initiate development. When each and every arm of the Government have done their bit, then the big picture will emerge itself as it ought to be. All everyone need is a sense of belonging, of responsibility and a spirit of participation, and the public should join in with an open mind instead of sitting back and being mere spectators waiting to point out every little mistake and make it out into a mountain, to complete the picture.

US man's tattoo leaves doctors with life-or-death dilemma

AFP
Washington, Dec 2: A Florida hospital faced an unsettling ethical quandary when paramedics brought in an unconscious patient with "Do Not Resuscitate" tattooed across his chest — leaving doctors grappling with whether the message accurately conveyed his end-of-life wishes. The 70-year-old man was admitted to the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami with respiratory problems, a high blood alcohol concentration and no identification documents, according to the doctors' story published on Thursday in The New England Journal of Medicine. "This patient's tattooed DNR request produced more confusion than clarity," doctors said, saying they "initially decided not to honour the tattoo, invoking the principle of not choosing an irreversible path when faced with uncertainty."

But considering the patient might have gone to extreme lengths to ensure his will was understood — the word "No" on his chest was underlined, and the message included his signature — medical personnel requested an ethics consultation. Doctors meanwhile gave the man basic care to buy time while they considered the life-or-death choice. The consultants advised the doctors to honour the tattoo, suggesting "it was most reasonable to infer that the tattoo expressed an authentic preference." Doctors opted to follow that advice, and the man died during the night. Social workers eventually found a copy of the man's "out-of-hospital" DNR order from the southern US state's health department — and doctors were "relieved" that it was consistent with the tattoo.

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National and International News

Bipin Rawat says Indian Army has various retaliatory options available for operations along LoC

PTI
Pune, Dec. 2: Army Chief General Bipin Rawat on Friday said the Indian Army had various retaliatory options at its disposal as far as carrying out operations on the lines of the 2016 surgical strikes was concerned. He was speaking at the launch of a book, "Securing India the Modi Way", written by journalist and security analyst Nitin Gokhale. When Gokhale asked Rawat during a conversation whether the Army was still capable of

carrying out operations such as the 2015 Myanmar operation and surgical strikes in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in 2016, Rawat said various options were available. "There are various means of carrying out operations across the Line of Control (LoC). We do not repeat the same operation in the same manner because there is no surprise. If we have to maintain surprises, we have to plan for something new and it is always better to keep the other side guessing," the Army chief said. He shared the account of the Myanmar operation in detail and said it was needed to send a clear

message across the border after 18 Indian soldiers were killed in an ambush in Manipur. Rawat also spoke about the cadre review of the junior commissioned officers (JCOs). It had now been approved and would be implemented from 1 January, 2018, he said. "It is very tough to get promotions in the Army. Only 0.18 percent people rise to the Two Star rank. For the junior commissioned officers and other ranks, the pyramid is even steeper. "The cadre review of the junior commissioned officers was pending with the government for

over 10 years. It has now been approved and will be implemented from 1 January, 2018. This includes 1.4 lakh promotions of JCOs, with 457 new subedar-major vacancies," said Rawat. The Army chief also noted that the development of the Army infrastructure along the northern borders was going on at a rapid pace. Talking about veterans, he said no army could be successful if it did not care for its veterans. "We will always ensure that anybody who has been a part of the uniform will remain a part of the uniform till his grave," he said.

Probe begins after Delhi's Max hospital declares dead newborn baby who was alive

HI
New Delhi, Dec. 2: The Delhi Medical Council is probing charges of negligence by a private hospital that allegedly declared dead a newborn who was alive, an incident that has sparked outrage in the country. The baby was one among twins delivered by a woman at the Max Hospital in Shalimar Bagh on Thursday. While one was stillborn, doctors declared the other dead a few hours later, the family said. The family discovered one was alive while taking them for burial. "Based on the reports where a newborn baby was declared dead along with his stillborn twin and handed over to his parents

at Max Hospital Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, Medical Council has taken cognisance of the case and suo moto decided to examine the case," the council said in a statement. State health minister Satyendra Jain has asked the his department to submit a preliminary report on the incident within 72 hours and a final report by next week. Union health minister JP Nadda also directed the state government to look into the matter and take necessary action. Praveen Kumar, the maternal grandfather of the infants, said his daughter Varsha was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday afternoon. "Two days later, following a C-Section delivery around 7-30pm, she first delivered a baby boy and then

a girl 12 minutes later," he said. Doctors later told the family that the girl had died and the boy was alive but critical and needed ventilator support, added Praveen. Later, the doctors told the family that the boy too had passed away and they handed over the bodies packed in plastic bags to the family. "When we were on our way for carrying out the last rites, we noticed movement in one of the packets. This was near Madhuban Chowk and we opened the packet we found the boy was breathing. He was taken to another hospital in Pitampura where he was admitted and is currently under treatment," said Kumar. The family approached the police

after burying the girl child. Meanwhile, Max has also initiated an inquiry into the matter. "We are shaken and concerned at this rare incident. We have initiated a detailed enquiry, pending which, the concerned doctor has been asked to proceed on leave immediately. We are in constant touch with the parents and are providing all the needed support," said the hospital in a statement. DCP north-west Aslam Khan said they have received a complaint from the parents of the child. "As per procedure we will carry an inquiry and submit our findings to the Delhi Medical Council and Medical Council of India seeking further directions from them," said Khan.

Andhra Assembly passes bill to grant 5 per cent reservation to Kapu community

ANI
Amravati, Dec. 2: The Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Saturday unanimously passed the Kapu reservation bill to give 5 per cent reservation to the Kapu community in education institutions and government jobs. The state cabinet had given a

nod in this regard on Friday based on the report submitted by the Manjunath Commission. The state cabinet has decided to include the Balija, Ontari and Telaga communities in the Backward Castes (BCs) and provide them 5 per cent reservation in education, employment and welfare schemes. The state government will now send

the bill to the Centre as the move to grant 5 per cent quota to Kapus exceeds the 50 per cent reservation limit mandated by the Supreme Court, said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The Bill will be first sent to the governor and then to the Union Home Ministry.

"As 5 per cent of reservation to Kapus makes total reservation exceed 50%, central govt nod is compulsory. We will send this bill to the centre. We ask them to include this reservation in schedule 9, so that it will become legitimate," said Naidu. Naidu told the Assembly that the Kapu community said it does not need political reservation. They just demanded quota in education and employment sectors. Three of the four members BC commission headed by Justice KL Manjunath gave their report to the chief minister on Friday. While M Purnachandra Rao, S Satyanarayana and V Subrahmanyam gave their reports in favour of the Kapus, Manjunath did not give his report. They were said to be unanimously favoured giving 4-5 per cent reservation to the Kapus. Andhra Pradesh has 29 per cent reservation for Backward Castes (BCs), 15 per cent for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 6 per cent for the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Tapes suggest Rahul Gandhi's elevation rigged

New Delhi, Dec. 2: Days before Rahul Gandhi's coronation as Congress president, Times Now has accessed a set of audio tapes that blows the lid off a 70-year-old open secret: that the Congress is a family-run proprietorship — despite vehement statements by all Congress officials to the contrary, including party president Sonia Gandhi. Times Now has tapes of senior Congress officials admitting to this in their private conversations, leaked by a dissenter. The tapes pose a serious challenge to Congress's claims that Rahul is being elected to the top post through a fair and free vote. These tapes, which Times Now cannot independently verify or endorse, establish that the election is rigged to ensure that Rahul becomes Congress chief. Herewith a gist of the conversation between Maharashtra Congress secretary Shehzad Poonawala and former Union minister and top party official Manish Tewari: Poonawala: I have never seen a single secret ballot taking place for the election of delegates. They are essentially selected by state president who was also essentially selected by the

Congress president. Tewari: Shehzad, have you thought all this through? Because this is a one-way ticket out of the party. Poonawala: Ya... but it doesn't matter as long as I don't want any post, I don't want any ticket from any party. The point is, how long will dynasty, or just the fact that you bear a legacy, override your merit? Tewari: Let's not get into an idealistic discussion. The fact is that this (Congress) is a proprietorship. It is not a political party and no party in India is a political party, they are all proprietorships. These are the second wave of reforms, which is very essential for the Congress. Now if you want to be a pioneer, you need to put everything else on hold — then it is worth doing." Asked for his reaction, Tewari said he was unaware of any such television programme being aired. Indeed, after Shehzad's open letter to Rahul challenging his elevation as Congress president, the party tried to distance itself from him. But there are clearly many who do not disagree with the issues raised by Shehzad. In another taped conversation, Congress official from UP, Acharya Pramod Krishnan, says internal party elections are "fake". "I admit it's 100% selection not election; if this continues, the Congress will become a Pvt Ltd company."

India Re-Elected To International Maritime Organisation Council

PTI
London, Dec. 2: India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation under a category that represents nations with the largest interests in international sea borne trade. India was re-elected to the council under Category B at an assembly of the organisation at its headquarters in London. Indian High Commissioner to the UK Y K Sinha represented India at the assembly where India secured the second-highest number of votes (144) from member countries, just after Germany's 146 and ahead of Australia's 143. The other countries to make the cut included France (140), Canada (138), Spain (137), Brazil (131), Sweden (129), the Netherlands (124) and the UAE (115). "India is hereby putting forward its candidature for a re-election to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in Category B, representing the developing countries and those with the largest

interests in international sea borne trade," Union Shipping and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had said in his address to the IMO in London earlier this week. He had addressed the organisation during his UK visit that India would rededicate itself with renewed commitment towards the development of the objectives of IMO, if re-elected, and leverage the opportunity for the accelerated and sustained growth of the global maritime community. India has been one of the earliest members of the IMO, having ratified its convention and joined it as a member-state in the year 1959. India has been elected to the Council of the IMO ever since it started functioning, except for a two-year hiatus during 1983-1984. The IMO Council plays a crucial role in deciding various important matters within the mandate of the IMO, in relation to the global shipping industry and its work strategy and budget.