

Editorial

Friday, April 6, 2018

The making of sports powerhouse

Once more a Meitei Chanu has proved that - in the field of sports Manipur always is in the top.

Mirabai Chanu yesterday clinched Gold in the Commonwealth Game being underway at Gold Coast, Australia.

Although it is still too early to hazard a remark, the state Government is making perceptible efforts towards development. The positive change, although subtle, cannot be mistaken. Reduced load shedding hours, increased frequency of water supply, decrease in violence and casualties relating to insurgency. The public even witnessed a small miracle when a bridge completed construction three months ahead of the stipulated time.

But what is of greater joy for the people of the state is the laying of foundation stone for National Sports University by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit here in the state. The credit however goes to the talented sportsperson of the state who had time and again prove the world that, in the Indian Suncontinent Manipur still is in the top when it comes about sports.

The very fact that the NDA Government did not even falter to consider other alternatives as to the state where the University is to be established is a testimony to the goodwill and respect the athletes and sportspersons of the state have managed to garner for Manipur. And now, finally, the long cherished dream for every person in the state and the rest of the country looks to be fulfilled sooner rather than later.

While all these developments are positive and should be something the public can draw inspiration from, yet there still remains a lingering shadow of doubt as to whether the state Government and other authorities which have anything to do with the construction of the University will have the integrity and tenacity to recognize and uphold the sentiment of the sportspersons and the sports loving citizens to bring the venture to its fruitful conclusion. But if the past is any indication, there still lies the very real and likely possibility of the authorities turning this rare chance of improving not only the sportspersons but also the collective fortune of the people of the state for the better, into nothing more than another opportunity to indulge in reckless plunder and misappropriation of the resources meant for the good of the land.

A very prominent example, but not the only one, which still remains like a bad dream in the consciousness of the public was the collapse of the Gallery of the main stadium of the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex even before the stadium was completed, and the subsequent killing of the contractor alleged to be responsible for the mishap.

There had been many more such incidences than the public care to remember. Everyone who have anything to do with the proposed Sports University should draw from past experiences, both good and bad, to make it the best and most up-to-date facility so that every aspiring sportsperson in the state as well as the country can benefit from it and achieve greater glory for themselves and the country. We also owe it to ourselves to extend our cooperation and support to make it a reality and usher in an era of sporting development and positive change in the state.

Bank Passbook lost

My Pass Book of SBI bearing A/C No 10929326901 is lost on the way from MG Avenue, Imphal to Yumnam Leikai, on 4/3/2018.

If anybody finds it, please intimate or hand it over to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Yumnam (O) Subadani Devi
Yumnam Leikai, Lairembi Maning Awang
Leirak, Indo-Myanmar Road
Imphal
Mobile No. 977442320

Regional News

Health City Hospital to conduct media OPD clinic

NJ Thakuria
Guwahati, April 6,

The next media OPD clinic at Guwahati Press club will be conducted by newly launched Health City Hospital Guwahati. Dr Brajen Lahkar (medicine) from the multi super-speciality hospital will be available for free consultations to the participants from 3 pm on 7 April at the press club premises. Organized under the series of 'Evening with a Doctor' programs for the benefit of press club members along with their close relatives, the Saturday camp will

also facilitate the participants to check their weight and blood pressure.

The last weekly camp on 31 March was graced by Dr Kalpajit Dutta (pain specialist) from GNRC Hospitals. Till date, the initiative has been supported by Down Town Hospitals, Dispur Hospital, Barthakur Clinic, Ayursundra Hospital, Wintrobe Hospital, Nemcare Hospital, Sun Valley Hospital, Excelcare Hospital, Rahman Hospital, Narayana Super-Specialty Hospitals, Swagat Super-Surgical Institute, Sight First eye-clinic, MMC Panbarazh etc.

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National & International News

Day after threatening to quit, 5 YSR-Congress MPs submit resignations to Lok Saha Speaker

Agency
New Delhi, April 6

Five members of the YSR-Congress, who are Lok Sabha MPs, submitted their resignations to the lower house speaker Sumitra Mahajan to protest the "failure" of the NDA government to grant special category status to Andhra Pradesh. Earlier, the MPs also said they are outraged as their notices for no confidence motion against the NDA government could not be taken up for discussion in the House due to continuous disruptions. The YSR Congress MPs had given notices for no confidence motion against the government for its failure

to grant special category status to Andhra Pradesh. The MPs said they would be submitting their resignation letters to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on Friday, the last day of the Budget session.

"Resignation letters will be submitted in proper format. There is enough time to conduct by-elections.... We would fight the polls and again continue our demand for special category status," party MP Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli said on Thursday. He also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of "disrespecting democracy",

saying both the leaders "failed" to keep their promises to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

"YSRCP has given notices for no-confidence motion 12 times and not even once it was taken up for discussion," Velagapalli said. YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy had announced in February that the party's five MPs would resign if its demand for Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh was not fulfilled by the Centre. The YSRCP and the TDP, which walked out of the BJP-led NDA, had given notices for no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha. Following this, TDP supremo and

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Naidu had met parliamentary party leaders of various parties in an attempt to garner support for the no-confidence motion. "Naidu began fighting for special category status out of sheer pressure from the people as our leader has been ramping up pressure on him on the issue. He had no option but to quit the NDA," another YSRCP MP Mekapati Raja Mohan Reddy said. On Naidu's claims of nexus between the YSRCP and the BJP, he said, "Naidu is trying to club our party with the BJP. This is unfair. The TDP was in alliance with the BJP for four years and now they are blaming us."

Revolt in Mahasabha over Dalit award to CM Yogi Adityanath

Agency
Lucknow, April 6

A day after Ambedkar Mahasabha's president Lalji Prasad Nirmal announced that chief minister Yogi Adityanath would be given the first 'Dalit Mitra' (Friend of Dalits) award, rift in the Dalit outfit surfaced on Thursday with many senior members questioning the intent behind such a move. The Mahasabha's two founding members - Harish Chandra and SR Darapuri - called for an Annual

General Meeting (AGM) to take disciplinary action against Nirmal, saying he had overstepped his brief by announcing an award for a CM during whose government several cases of Dalit atrocities were reported. "There is immense anger among Dalits because of atrocities inflicted on them during Yogi's rule. Constituting an award and giving it to Yogi will only rub salt into their wound," Darapuri, a retired IPS, told TOI. There is anger among Dalits against

whom cases have been lodged and even NSA has been slapped, he said. Bhim Sena chief Chandrashekhar was arrested and booked under the National Security Act after Saharanpur caste violence in May 2017, he added. Retired IAS officer, Harish Chandra said the decision to constitute such an award was "arbitrary", since it was not discussed with the founding members. "The Mahasabha was formed to spread the ideas and principles of BR Ambedkar, and not to serve

personal interests of anyone," said Chandra, in an apparent jibe at Nirmal. "Our members have been seeking records from the Mahasabha, but its present administration hasn't yet responded," he said. Chandra said there were more than 100 members, many from government service, when the Ambedkar Mahasabha was formed in 1990. Both Chandra and Darapuri are lifetime members. Nirmal, however, said there was nothing wrong in conferring 'Dalit Mitra' award on Yogi. "CM Yogi is a friend of all citizens of the state. He is therefore a friend of Dalits also," said Nirmal, who retired from the UP secretariat before becoming the Mahasabha president in 2013. He also dismissed allegations of having "personal interests". "Rumours are being spread that I am seeking a berth in the UP Legislative Council. I am a committed member of the Mahasabha which runs on donations and with the blessings of Dalits," he said. The award is to be conferred on Yogi on April 14, the birth anniversary of Ambedkar.

Ex-South Korean President Park has one week to appeal to 24-year sentence

Agency
Seoul, April 6

Former South Korean President Park Geun-hye was formally convicted and sentenced to 24 years in prison on Friday, a year after she was driven from office and arrested over a corruption scandal that saw months of massive street rallies calling for her ouster. The conviction, which she can appeal, is the latest hit in a dramatic fall for South Korea's first female president. Once seen as the darling of South Korean conservatives, she was dubbed "Queen of Elections" by local media for her track record of

leading her party to victory in tight races and still has a small group of fierce supporters who regularly stage rallies calling for her release. Park maintains she's a victim of "political revenge" and has been refusing to attend court sessions since October. She didn't attend Friday's verdict, citing a sickness that wasn't specified publicly. In a nationally televised verdict, the Seoul Central District Court convicted Park of bribery, extortion, abuse of power and other charges. "It's inevitable that the defendant should be held strictly responsible for her crimes, if only to prevent the unfortunate event of (a president)

abusing the power given by the people and causing chaos in state affairs," chief judge Kim Se-yun said. Along with the prison sentence, Park was also fined 18 billion won (\$16.8 million), Kim said. Both Park and the prosecutors have one week to appeal. Park has previously maintained her innocence; prosecutors in February demanded a 30-year prison term. The Seoul court convicted Park of colluding with longtime confidante Choi Soon-sil to pressure 18 business groups to donate a total of 77.4 billion won (\$72.3 million) for the launch of two foundations controlled by Choi.

Decision on Salman's bail plea reserved till tomorrow

Agency
Jodhpur, Apr 6

A sessions court today reserved its decision on Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's bail plea till tomorrow, his defence counsel said. The actor, who was yesterday convicted by the trial court and sentenced to five years in prison in a 1998 blackbuck poaching case, would now be spending another night in Jodhpur Central Jail. The district and sessions court here heard arguments on the suspension of sentence and bail application before deferring the matter till tomorrow.

In his arguments, defence counsel Mahesh Bora said there were various loopholes in the investigation. He argued that no investigation in any of the cases of poaching proved that Salman used firearms. "We have argued that the eyewitness in the case was not reliable," Bora said.

The magistrate Ravindra Kumar Joshi also sought the record of the case from the lower court. The actor is alleged to have shot and killed blackbucks in Kankani village near Jodhpur on the night of October 1, 1998 during the shooting of the film "Hum Saath Saath Hain". While convicting Salman, the trial court acquitted his Bollywood colleagues Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Neelam and Sonali Bendre and a local, Dushyant Singh, giving them the "benefit of doubt" for the incident in October 1998.

Intensive training programme for EWRs of Panchayats

PIB
New Delhi, April 5,

Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing a project on "Capacity Building Programme for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj". The project is being implemented by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), an autonomous body functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

The training of EWRs is being done through a two tier training programme. In the first phase, an intensive training program for EWRs of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Resource persons/Master Trainers was organized on 27th November, 2017. The training in second phase is being imparted through these Master trainers. As of now, 424 Master trainers have been able to impart training to 18,578 EWRs from 406 districts of 14 States/UTs. This programme would go a long way in realizing the Prime Minister's vision of moving the country from "women development to women-led development". The Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay



Gandhi started this project realizing the fact that role of EWRs remained ineffective, despite their large presence in the directly elected local governance. It is working on developing EWRs as "change agents", while improving their leadership qualities and management skills for better implementation of various programmes of the Government. General trainings being organized in the country for Elected Representatives do not focus on the gender component in details and also fall short on the needs of these women representatives to address the specific challenges faced by them at the grassroots level. There are more than 14 lakh EWRs across

the country. Ministry of Women & Child Development has also developed training modules regarding laws for protection of women and children, development schemes and programmes (State and Center), Information Communication Technology (ICT) for the EWRs, participatory planning and asset creation, monitoring of Public Works and leadership qualities. This targeted approach to build capacities of these grassroots leaders has been envisaged to yield more desired development outcomes. It will help to empower the women members and heads of panchayats so that they can govern the villages more effectively.