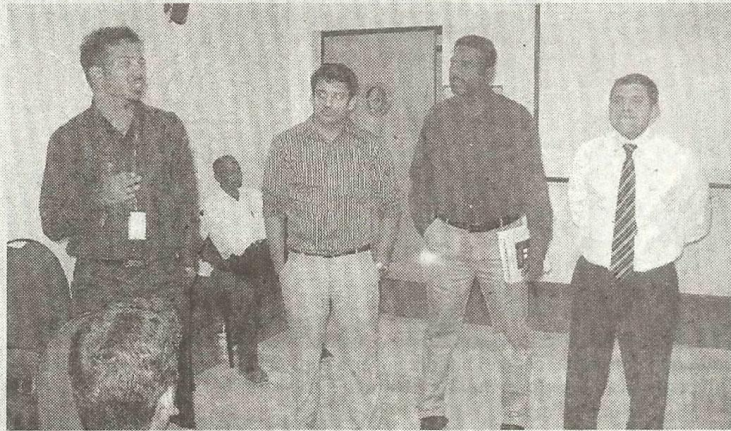


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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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RITUAL &

Visit the art exhibition at Appa
Nungambakkam, from 11 a
February 26. Call 9



(X) 'People with disabilities can be an alternative labour force'

Express News Service

Chennai: In India, there are over 20 million people with disabilities. However, a UN report claims that in reality the number is three times more. Among the 20 million, 2 per cent are educated and barely 1 per cent are employed. If capacities are built, people with disabilities could be an alternative labour force for companies, feels Bijay Narasingh Deo, senior manager, Youth4Jobs, Hyderabad.

Speaking at an interactive workshop with HRs and employers from various companies on Tuesday, Deo said that employers should hold employees with disabilities to the same performance and production standards

of other employees and not impose different expectations or discipline protocol because they have a disability.

He also elaborated on the provisions in law such as the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, for the benefit of the differently-abled. Under the Government of India norms, 3 per cent of jobs in government and public sector institutions are reserved for persons with disabilities, but hardly 1 per cent is filled. Potential employers and HRs from companies like KFC, ITC Hotel and Vocational Rehabilitation Centre and BPOs were sensitised to the types of disabilities

and the various approaches in handling the problem. People who were unable to secure jobs because of their disability, presented their case before the participants and said that they were willing to receive on-the-job training before they could be hired.

There were also success stories like that of P Pownraj, a physically-challenged person from Tiruvannamalai, who has been working in an IT company. The workshop was conducted by Leonard Cheshire Disability, an organisation working with disabled people worldwide. The session was conducted as a prelude to the job fair for people with disabilities that the organisation is planning to conduct next week.

An

Seventy works for three days

Express News Service

Chennai: After three years of work that involved collecting a repertoire of art work from art collectors and artists, the Madras Round Table 1 is all set to present the MRT1 Art Auction and exhibition. A fundraiser in aid of the Ray of Light Foundation, the three-day exhibition will be held from January 23 to 25 at the Hyatt Regency.

Ray of Light Foundation was started in 2002 to help underprivileged children with cancer to avail of the best treatment. Children affected by the disease from across the South receive treatment through the foundation. The show will be in aid of treatment for the affected children.

The exhibition will see around 70 art works from the best of the artists from India, apart from works donated by art collectors for the sake of the show.

Dr Priya Ramachandran, trustee of the foundation says, "Sharan Apparao of Apparao Galleries gave me the

Mixed n

Express News Service

Chennai: India and Burma share a long history of tense relations, but what if that one of the major factors tensions could be mixed between Indian men and women?

We might know that India's relation to Burma was at its peak late 19th and early 20th century. Even today, it is not difficult

Traders Association launches magazine

Express News Service

was a meeting of the district on extending the time to