

Editorial

Imphal, Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Emergent challenges

The alacrity of the political parties to address the ills of the society, both real and imagined, in an attempt to win the sympathy and the subsequent support of the public, when elections are drawing close, have become a prominent part of the contemporary political folklore of our times. Even political parties hitherto unknown are coming up with the claim of being the best bet to ensure the change that is being increasingly felt needed by the majority of the people, and going by the poor and dismal showing of the major parties that have had their fair share of Governance, their claim might very well prove to be the factor enticing the public who have started to lose their interest and faith in the major parties. The manifestoes brought out underlines the various prominent issues and roadblocks that is felt needed to be removed and addressed to bring the state on the path to progress, and the numerous political parties have indeed brought up their share of the issues, as wide ranging and varied as the burning issue of the border fencing row, to the delicate and protracted issue of AFSPA. While these issues are important no doubt, the absence of healthcare and issues relating to basic public amenities in the manifesto of none of the political parties in the State points to a blatant lack of concern for the welfare of the people and a dismissive attitude that will most certainly result in negligence and indifference towards the wishes and aspirations of the people. The long over-abused excuse of the centre not taking up adequate measures on various issues concerning a number of delicate and often critical matters despite the repeated insistence and requests of the State Government, as also the ambiguous argument that the issues are beyond the ambit of the State, needs to be done away with for good, while the rapidly declining public welfare and healthcare facilities needs to be addressed. Talks of reclaiming our lost territories or expanding our reach and influence does sound ridiculous and far-fetched, especially when the people in the society are battling and increasingly indifferent and difficult situation when it comes to availing basic healthcare facilities and public amenities. The needs of the differently able persons have been totally sidelined, while the senior citizens of the State, who have served the society for more than half their lifetime have been ignored. The vast bank of knowledge, experience and intuitions acquired over a lifetime, if tapped and utilized, could very well prove to be the defining element that can turn the society from the current state of mayhem and confusion to one with creativity, cohesion and integrity. The current disconnect between the growing youths and the seniors could be the most important factor in the gradually shifting moral ethos and mannerisms, and bridging the gap between the old and the new should enable the smooth transition and propagation of our rich tradition and culture through the younger generation. Caring for those who constitute the society should be given priority over issues which do not have a clear solution. The outlook and tenacity of a society is as good only as that of its people. Take genuine care of the people and the people will definitely reciprocate the gesture many times over.

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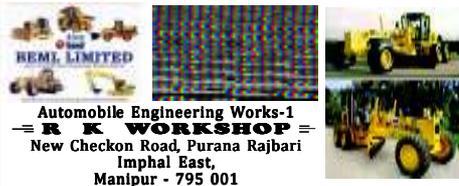
I have lost my original admit card and certificate of HSLC exam 2012 bearing roll no. 25728 and HSSLC exam 2014 bearing roll no. 6590 issued by Board Of Secondary Education Manipur and Council Of Higher Secondary Education Manipur on the way between Imphal to Wangjing on 11-4-2016.

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On Journalism and Patriotism

By- JYOTI MALHOTRA

Late in February, when the Kanhaiya Kumar agitation at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was at its peak and Times Now editor-anchor Arnab Goswami was fulminating about JNU students allegedly shouting slogans pro-'azaadi' in Kashmir, Times of India group managing director Vineet Jain had this to say on Twitter : "Criticising gov or asking for a free state (Kashmir) is not secession. Inciting violence is wrong & punishable but not worth a life sentence," he said. Now it's a fair assumption that @vineetjaintimes pays Mr Goswami's salary. More to the point, the Times of India proprietor believes in putting his money where his mouth is. Only a day after his Kashmir tweet in February, Mr Jain tweeted a TOI story on "anti-nationalism," saying, "Which is why when Mr Goswami made his now-infamous remarks about putting journalists on trial because they dared to report 'anti-national' occurrences like the usage of CRPF's pellet guns blinding Kashmiri protesters in the wake of Burhan Wani's death last month, Mr Jain allowed him his right to differ. Here is what Arnab Goswami said, on July 26, on @TimesNow : "I say not bringing them (people who are pro-Pakistan) to trial compromises my country further, and I don't care if some of these people are in the media. Bring them to trial too." In all the hyper-patriotic sighing and heaving that Indian journalism has been witness over the decades, this was certainly a new low. Those who

recall the Emergency years —when the then Jan Sangh leader L K Advani said when the media was asked to bend asked the media to bend it infamously crawled — point out that the Indian media has since been trying to prove its independence. Of course, the media was so busy sucking up to the powers-that-be during the Emergency years that it wasn't attacking its fellow journalists — Goswami's comments stand out for this reason too. Predictably, his comments have kicked up a real fuss. @NDTV consulting editor Barkha Dutt slammed Goswami on Facebook saying she felt ashamed at being on the same industry as him. Another star-anchor Rajdeep Sardesai, refused to join issue, saying both Barkha and Arnab were former colleagues and that he would rather do a Michelle Obama and ignore the argument. But he ended his column with the admission, "by calling for media 'gags' and seeking vigilante justice against dissenting voices, Arnab has let down the Indian media and chipped away at its freedoms." Not that Ms Dutt was giving up. In another column, this time for NDTV, she insisted that she was simply rejecting the "sinister intimidation tactics of a classic bully and his subversion of journalism," namely Goswami's daily rant that passes off for journalism every evening. "The worst response however belongs to those who have positioned this as a personal squabble in which they will not take 'sides'. Take sides? This is not a messy divorce in which friends want to keep relationships intact with both

partners," she said, targeting Mr Sardesai's refusal to get dragged into the freedom-of-speech controversy. Certainly, Arnab Goswami has the right to say what he likes — after all, in a state which guarantees freedom of speech and expression, he has the freedom to speak on behalf of the establishment, even when the establishment disagrees with him. Not since the Emergency, in fact, has any political party dared to suggest that the media should in any way be gagged or silenced even when the so-called "national interest" is at stake. But what is "national interest," asked N Ram, chairman of Kasturi and Sons Ltd, publishers of The Hindu. "Those who shout loudly about patriotism are clearly indulging in a kind of chauvinism...love of land is good, but don't proclaim it from the housetops. Moreover, to question other people's patriotism is shameful..." he told 'The Hoot.' "Patriotism is an all embracing concept, your country right or wrong...but that doesn't mean that governments are always right, or that we must believe in governments right or wrong. Journalists must have the right to ask questions," Mr Ram said. Both Shekhar Gupta, former editor of the Indian Express and the moving spirit behind @ThePrint and Siddharth Varadarajan, former editor of The Hindu and founder editor of the web portal, @TheWire, pointed out that Goswami should reread his Constitution as there was no law in the country under which you could be tried for the views that you hold.

"I have total disagreements, for example, with the Arundhati Roy view on Kashmir, and frankly think she is a headline-hunter, but find nothing illegal or dangerous to the national interest," Mr Gupta said. Mr Varadarajan pointed out : "Journalists have a duty to act in the public interest and not become appendages or mouthpieces or spokespersons of the state... Goswami needs to understand that the nation, i.e. its people, are more important than those who claim to act or speak on behalf of the nation. It's completely wrong, said Mr Ram, for Arnab to "instigate authorities to prosecute journalists for their views on such a major question. Its perfectly legitimate for journalists to look critically at Kashmir and express their views freely." Varadarajan expressed surprise that journalists were attacking fellow professionals. "This is the first time I have seen a journalist so wedded to the establishment that he feels the need to target other journalists on behalf of the government," he said. @TimesNow reporters point out that Arnab Goswami doesn't care about the left-leaning or liberal commentary that occasionally attacks him and his show — including by some of India's top journalists above — because he is so way and above the market leader that he is free to ignore them. While that is perfectly true, it may be worth his while for Goswami to follow his own paymaster @vineetjaintimes. It's always a good idea to know what the bosses, and not necessarily those in government, are thinking.

Courtesy: thehoot.org

National & International News

Landslide damages 12th century Gorsam Stupa

By Pradeep Kumar Itanagar, Aug. 3: A torrential downpour triggered landslides demolishing the boundary wall and drainage system of historical 12th century Gorsam Chorten (stupa) near Zemithang in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh on Monday. When contacted, local MLA Jambay Tashi told ANI that immediate steps would be taken to restore the global heritage. The CC step from the stupa to the Rinpoche's living quarter (shah) has also been severely damaged and huge volume of debris deposited inside the stupa, blocking paths and prayer wheels. "The PWD road from New to Old Zemithang has been badly damaged and needs immediate clearance", Zemithang circle officer-in-charge Tseadar Wangmu confirmed.

The Gorsam river has been rising threatening inhabitants living along its bank, Wangmu said and exhorted the inhabitants to shift to safer locations. Incessant rains have crippled normal life in several parts of Lumla sub-division, triggering landslides and causing damage to roads, snapping water and power supply, throwing normal life out of gear. Arunachal Pradesh houses one of the Buddhist stupas while others are: Sanchi, Sarnath, Amravati & Bharhut dates back to the late 4th century BCE in India; the 127-metre Phra Pathommachedi in Thailand is the tallest; the Swat Valley is house to the well-preserved stupa at Shingardar near Ghaley and another stupa is located near Barikot and Dharmarajika-Taxila in Pakistan; some of the tallest, most ancient and best preserved stupas

in the world, such as Ruwanwelisaya, are located in Sri Lanka, particularly its ancient city of Anuradhapura; the most elaborate stupa is the 8th century Borobudur monument in Java, Indonesia. Borobudur's unique and significant architecture has been acknowledged by UNESCO as the largest and greatest Buddhist monument in the world. (ANI)

Three MPs want Mann sent to rehab

New Delhi Aug 3: In an unprecedented move, three Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha have written to Speaker Sumitra Mahajan demanding that their colleague and Aam Aadmi Party MP Bhagwant Mann be sent into a rehabilitation programme for alcoholics.

The letter (a copy of which is available with *The Hindu*) is signed by BJP MP Mahesh Girri, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) MP Prem Singh Chandumajra and disgruntled AAP MP Harinder Khalsa, and demands that Mr. Mann's treatment costs be underwritten by the Lok Sabha, if need be.

Mr. Khalsa had, in fact, written a letter some time back to the Speaker asking that his seat be changed, as he could not tolerate the smell of alcohol allegedly emanating from Mr. Mann.

"It is common knowledge in Parliament, that the said member of Parliament, continuously remains under the influence of intoxicants or liquor and does not attend parliamentary proceedings without being intoxicated. The audacity with which this Member of Parliament denigrates the entire institution of Lok Sabha is contrary to the lofty ideals set forth by Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar and those who built this institution over the last six decades," states the letter.

"We would be grateful if Shri Bhagwant Mann is sent to a rehabilitation centre for drugs and alcohol de-addiction by the Lok Sabha on Lok Sabha expenditure, and only after that allowed to attend its proceedings," it adds.

Mr. Mann is already facing a parliamentary committee which is enquiring whether his videographing Parliament had "imperilled" parliamentary security or not.

Two children die of suspected food poisoning in Punjab

Kapurthala, Aug 3: Two children died of suspected food poisoning at an 'ashram' for mentally challenged children here while 31 were taken to hospital after they were taken ill.

The deceased children were aged between 10 and 12. Deputy Commissioner Jaskiran Singh said 33 children were residing at Sukhjit Ashram near the railway station here. On Monday, two children showed symptoms of food poisoning and started vomiting.

Within an hour, one of them died at the ashram, while the other child died at the hospital on Tuesday morning.

As a precautionary measure, all 31 children have been put under observation after around seven of them showed symptoms of food poisoning and were rushed to the civil hospital, he said.

The cause of deaths is not yet clear but an inquiry has been ordered, he said, adding the food samples have also been taken by the health teams that are camping in the ashram. PTI

Choppers, Divers, Lifeboats On Raging River After British-Era Bridge Collapses

Mumbai, Aug 3: Hours after a British-era bridge collapsed on the Mumbai-Goa highway following incessant rain, two aircraft, a chetak chopper and 80 rescuers and divers searched for vehicles believed to have fallen into the flooded river with dozens of people.

Two bodies have been found. Two state-run buses with 22 people are missing after the bridge crashed late last night around 11.30 pm. Four private cars are also believed to have fallen.

A crowd of local people holding umbrellas watched as a chopper sent by the Coast Guard hovered over the raging river, a rescuer dangling from it. Along with the two Sea King aircraft also searching for debris, there have been at least four sorties since

morning. Eight Navy divers rushed towards the collapsed bridge, which was built in the 1940. Large chunks of the bridge have fallen into the river. Navy teams on lifeboats negotiated strong currents to get to the bridge.

Around 80 rescuers and divers are at the spot, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) says. This will increase to almost 200 personnel in a few hours.

"Each team consist of 40 people and there are four teams. We will start from the bridge and move 10 meters by clearing the area with the help of divers," said Anupam Shrivastava of the disaster management body.

The 50-foot bridge was built more than seven decades ago in Mahad town, and lies along the highway connecting Mumbai to the popular holiday destination Goa.