

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, February 18, 2016

The mental breakthrough

A detached and impersonal observation of the present developments around us strongly suggests an increasingly hardened tussle between a section of the society who are starting to assert their own natural freedom and spontaneity of right to life without the enforced support of any individual or group on the one hand and a group, while acutely aware of the disillusion being increasingly felt by the long intimidated public, still conveniently ignore the subtle changes since the outgoing social order primed them to be smooth opportunists living off on the fear and insecurity of the common public who have been bearing the brunt of the undeclared war between the Government and the self declared emancipators of the society. The society is starting to wake up to the sordid reality behind the slogans and show of concern by the opposing parties who have been hemming in the collective enthusiasm and liberties for so long. This is a very positive and necessary turnaround- a breakthrough of sorts. Fear of physical harm has been the one driving force behind the relentless search for improvements ever since the evolution of mankind which has continued till the present day. Yet this very inherent feeling of insecurity has been used by a reckless and inconsiderate few to take advantage of others in various ways. Realizing the things that needs to be done inspite of the dangers posed by such threats and intimidations has made the society to take calculated risks and step up the efforts to progress and prosper. Fortifying our minds against such unwanted distractions and instead focusing on the tasks at hand, not only to sustain ourselves but also to make the future that little more efficient, developed and safer should be our common goal. All of us have a huge stake in this line of thought. Aberrations and exceptions notwithstanding, a concerted effort would bring about a desirable chain reaction of help and cooperation and sense of togetherness. Most of us are still wary of the next person and critical of the opinions of the rest of the communities. We all need to step out of this mental cocoon and try to reach out with sincerity and goodwill. The response will almost always be more pleasant and positive than we expect it to be. We only need to open up our minds and reach out in good faith. This is so much more necessary for those who are still harbouring hatred and revenge, their precious efforts and manpower being diverted towards scheming other's downfall. Same goes for the elected representatives who are living off the resources meant for the welfare and development of the society, waxing eloquence all the while, while the less fortunate are fighting a losing battle against poverty and opportunity for self-improvement. Live and let live.

Jadavpur University students condemn ABVP-RSS attack on campus

ANI Kolkata, Feb. 18: Following the vandalisation of the Jadavpur University complex on Wednesday, several students' organisations, including the All India Democratic Students Organization (AIDSO) on Thursday took out a protest march in the campus to condemn the incident. "We think it would be absolutely docile to sit quiet after the attack. So we have decided to take to the streets and decided to hold a rally to condemn the incident that took place yesterday in the campus. There are apprehensions of violence and apprehensions of students being beaten up once again within the campus," AIDSO member Shromon Gupta told ANI. The students on their part are very clear on their stance. They are determined to maintain peace within the campus and to resist against any sort of fascist mobilization within the campus premises," he added. Another protestor Jubi Saha said they are protesting against the attack in the campus by the ABVP and the RSS, adding that if the students of the ABVP come in the campus they will

protest and try to stop the Hindu fascist power. Posters calling for 'azadi' for Kashmir, Manipur and Nagaland were put at the Jadavpur University (JU) were tore down by ABVP activists, who allegedly vandalised the university complex yesterday evening. The posters had been signed by a group called 'RADICAL' and described by both the Jadavpur University Students Union (JUSU) and VC as a 'fringe' group allegedly responsible for raising 'pro-Afzal' slogans at a rally on Tuesday. Earlier, University Vice Chancellor Suranjan Das said that the posters had been put up by 'fringe elements'. "These are some fringe elements. I met the students' union leaders in the morning and they told me that they disassociate themselves with all anti-national slogans," vice-chancellor Suranjan Das said. He added that as VC it was his "responsibility" to ensure that students have their "right to protest" and that their "freedom of speech and expression is protected." He added that in a university the police has no role and that he will never call police in the campus.

National & International News

JNU row: 3 Policemen Were Present, But Kanhaiya Kumar Case Based On TV Footage

NDTV New Delhi, Feb. 18: For six days now, Kanhaiya Kumar, a 28-year-old student leader from the Jawaharlal Nehru University or JNU has been in custody. Yesterday, after he was attacked on his way into a hearing, a court said he will remain in prison for another 14 days. Mr Kumar has been arrested - along with five other students who have not been located - on charges of sedition for making anti-India remarks at an event organized by a Leftist student union last week. But the police case against him, the FIR, filed on February 11, two days after the rally he led, bases the sedition charges - punishable by a maximum sentence of life imprisonment - on footage of the demonstration that was aired on Zee News. The FIR says that after the police received information from JNU officials warning about possible trouble at the event on February 9, three constables were sent in civil clothes to observe the rally. "HC Rambir No. 2923/SD, CT Kamrbi No. 1664/SD, CT Dharmbir No. 3846/SD were sent in civil dress to the Sabarmati Dhaba and were briefed accordingly", says the FIR. The demonstration was called to question, in part, the hanging three years ago of Afzal Guru, convicted for masterminding the attack on Parliament in 2001. Though the policemen watched the event in person, the FIR says an inspector two days later reviewed Zee News' coverage which

included "JNU Students raising anti-national slogans and slogans such as 'Pakistan Zindabad'. The police then asked Zee News to submit the footage for review. There is surprisingly no reference in the FIR to any statement by the police's own witnesses present at the venue to suggest that they saw or heard anything untoward. The FIR also says that the police sought and received the footage from Zee News on the 11th of February and filed the case on the same day - which raises questions about whether there was any time at all to verify the authenticity of the footage before imposing such serious charges. A review of the footage - telecast on Zee as well as numerous videos circulating online - throws up an array of questions. To begin with, in none of those videos can Mr Kumar be seen or heard chanting anti-national slogans. He is glimpsed in the midst of a shouting match between Left students and the BJP-affiliated ABVP union that broke out after the event ended. Two videos filmed the next day, February 10, that are posted on social media show Mr Kumar giving speeches on the steps outside the JNU's administrative wing. The first has become a widely-cited clip where he talks of how he respects the Constitution of India, but is against the Constitution "imposed by Nagpur" (the headquarters of the ruling party's ideological parent, the RSS).

In the second, he is heard shouting for "Azadi" (freedom), standing next to Umar Khalid, the student who organised the Afzal Guru meeting. Upon review, he appears to be asking for Azadi from casteism and prejudice. These speeches, however, find no mention in any of the police records as basis for the sedition charge. In fact the FIR doesn't mention Mr Kumar as an organizer of the event which was arranged by members of the extreme-Left Democratic Students Union. (Mr Kumar is a member of another Left-wing students union, AIFS). So who can be seen chanting slogans, and what are they saying? Of the five students charged with sedition, five - including Mr Khalid - can be seen and heard chanting Azadi (there are references to independence for Kashmir), and "Har Ghar se Afzal Niklega" (an Afzal will be born in every house). Two cellphone clips, in which voices can be heard chanting "Pakistan Zindabad", and asking for "Bharat Ki Barbadi" (the destruction of India) are filmed in darkness. It is next to impossible to identify who specifically is raising those chants. One relatively clear cellphone video shot in daylight show a group of men shouting some of the most hardcore slogans being chanted including "Bharat Tere Tukde Honge" (India, you will be broken up). The men who recited these, according to some people who were

at the rally, are outsiders. In the video, one of the accused students - or for that matter the rest of the crowd - can be seen joining in. Shehla Rashid, the Vice President of the union headed by Mr Kumar claims she has never heard such chants on campus, and made an attempt to stop these men, since it goes against the ideology of most Left unions. There is however no video evidence of this. It remains unclear though why men with such extreme views were invited by the organisers, and whether more of an effort should have been made to stop them. But it also begs the question why police records have no mention of these men, given that there was a plain clothes police team present at the venue of the event. Delhi police chief BS Bassi maintains that they have enough evidence against Mr Kumar and the others to merit the charge of sedition. He did, however indicate that the police might be making a distinction between the other students and Kumar, saying that since he (Kumar) has expressed faith in the constitution, the police will not oppose his bail. Legal experts such as Soli Sorabjee have held that simply chanting anti-India slogans does not constitute sedition, far less being present at a gathering where such chants are being made. He said that asking for the destruction of India is "problematic", but he would still avoid counting it as sedition.

Delhi Police files FIRs against unknown persons

ANI New Delhi, Feb. 18: The Delhi Police on Thursday registered two FIRs against unknown persons over scuffles in the Patiala House Court that took place yesterday. Earlier, two groups of lawyers were seen raising slogans inside the court premises and beating up each other and journalists.

There were two groups of lawyers present. One pro-Kanhaiya and another anti-Kanhaiya. I was curious as to what was happening. So, I went over to the side of the police to find out what was happening. An anti-Kanhaiya lawyer saw me taking a picture and started beating me up," said one of the journalists.

He added that the police stood on watching as he got thrashed by the lawyers. "I told them again and again to save me but to no avail. I have a picture of the clash that ensued with me," he added. The lawyers, yesterday, chanted pro-India slogans and carried the national flag as a scuffle broke out

among them during the proceedings of Jawaharlal Nehru students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar. Earlier on Monday, a group of lawyers and others, including Delhi BJP legislator O.P. Sharma, were seen beating up reporters and students, calling them 'anti-national'.

Car bomb attack on military in Turkish capital kills 28

ANI Ankara (Turkey), Feb. 18: At least 28 people were killed and dozens wounded when a car laden with explosives detonated here on Wednesday. The Turkish military condemned the "terrorist attack" on the buses. The attack, the latest in a series of bombings in the past year mostly blamed on the Islamic State, comes as Turkey gets dragged ever deeper into the war in neighbouring Syria

and tries to contain some of the fiercest violence in decades in its predominantly Kurdish southeast, reported Reuters. President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey's determination to fight those behind such acts would only get stronger and that it would not hesitate to exercise its right to self defence. "We will continue our fight against the pawns that carry out such attacks, which know no moral or

humanitarian bounds, and the forces behind them with more determination every day," he said in a written statement. Deputy Prime Minister and government spokesman Numan Kurtulmus said 28 people including soldiers and civilians were killed and 61 wounded in the blast, which occurred near a busy intersection during the evening rush hour. Justice Minister Bekir Bozdog

described the attack as an act of terrorism and told parliament, which was in session at the time, that the car had exploded on a part of the street lined on both sides by military vehicles. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who had been due to attend meetings in Brussels on the migration crisis on Thursday, cancelled the trip, an official in his office said. Erdogan postponed a planned visit to Azerbaijan.

Six CPI(M) activists arrested for RSS worker's murder

PTI Kannur, Feb 18: Six CPI(M) workers were tonight arrested in connection with the brutal murder of a 27-year-old RSS worker in poll-bound Kerala's Kannur district, from where two incidents of bombs being hurled were also reported this morning. Police said the arrests were recorded late tonight. Those arrested are - Srijayan, Joy Joseph, Prasanth, Prabesh, Libin and Akash, all hailing from the district. Police said a 20-member gang was involved in the attack on Sujit, carried out on Monday night. The CPI(M) workers had barged into the house of Sujit at Pappisseri in the district and brutally hacked him in front of his aged parents and brother, who also suffered injuries. Sujit later succumbed to injuries. While BJP had slammed CPI-M for the attack, the Marxist party had denied it saying it was the fallout of a local incident relating to insulting a girl. BJP had maintained that CPI(M) was behind the attack to get over the

embarrassment of the arrest of its party district secretary, P Jayarajan, an accused in the murder of a BJP functionary in 2014. The violence comes after a lull in Kannur, which frequently witnesses

clashes between CPI-M and BJP. This morning, country bombs had been hurled at an RSS seva kendra and at the house of a BJP worker in thalassery in the district. But none were injured.

Supreme Court adjourns Delhi air pollution case to next week


ANI New Delhi, Feb 18: The Supreme Court of India today adjourned the hearing of the Delhi's air pollution case to next week. The Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) said apex court directed measures have helped to bring down pollution levels in Delhi. It said night time pollution has particularly come down in Delhi. The Supreme Court and Delhi government took up initiatives to contain pollution in the national capital and adjoining areas. The Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) has canvassed for government to support a complete ban

on passenger diesel vehicles in Delhi. EPCA member Sunita Narain met road transport ministry officials to convince them to, barely two days before the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Delhi's air pollution case. Delhi's battle against air pollution, dates back to at least 2001, when India's Supreme Court, appalled at conditions in the city and ordered public buses, taxis and autorickshaws to switch from diesel to compressed natural gas. Residents still talk about the massive lines at petrol stations. The actions forced by the Supreme Court, combined with new fuel standards, greatly improved air quality.

IPS officer N Harish found dead in officers' mess

Chennai, Feb. 18: On Thursday, 32-year-old IPS officer N Harish was found dead at the police officers' mess in Egmore. The cause of his death is not known as of yet. He seems to have died under mysterious circumstances. The New Indian Express reports that N Harish is from Karnataka and was Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) with the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) unit in Chennai. Harish passed out of the IPS in 2009 and was posted ASP Madurai before being posted to DVAC-Chennai. The daily reports that he was found dead in room no.104 in police officer's mess around 12 pm on Thursday. Police have started to investigate his death. A senior police official at the rank of additional commissioner will reportedly be investigating Harish's death.

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