

Editorial

Impal, Friday, January 8, 2016

Inner voice

It was a petty matter but sparks turn into flames destroying all the integrity that bind us together. Had I know the tendency I should have remained as a timid salaried employee. The boldness that I considered necessary to being in the second topmost position of one specific department of a firm fails to impress the management team. The decision of the committee to retire me over a scuffled with my boss on the matter of inserting a news item lacks to show in-depth understanding and attitude of both my boss and me. It was rather a decision carried away by emotion.

In the nature of service we are providing to the people either by becoming an employee of a firm or individuals we need to deliver our service without fear. We need arguments and sometime the nature of argument arises between us created a deadlock or perhaps leads to catastrophe.

To the words of famous author AG Gardener - all laws are made for human needs. If the laws no longer serve the convenient of the human being, it needs to be reviewed. There is no such rule that "decision" once taken should be absolute. If the decision taken in the state of urgency or anonymity has hurt the sentiment of score of people including the particular community at which the "decision" was taken for, then there is no harm in reviewing the decision. There is no reason to regret for what had happen for anger had no boundary and realization should be welcome offering a room for forgiveness. But even a burning charcoal need some few hours to cool down. And human heart too certainly need time to cool down. This is all about the incident that had created a deadlock between my boss and the firm that we have been serving with heart and soul. As for me I have done no wrong by starting an argument with my boss as I am paid for doing so. By challenging the decision of my boss I am showing that I deserved for what I had been serving for the firm. In the same way my boss was right from his own perspective. But still then we have every right to clash and express our inferences during the course of rendering our service. We both are doing that for the cause of improving the firm. Both of us did not have any personal gain. At this juncture, I think my boss had every right to decide and award me penalty what deems fit for me. And I also have every right to challenge his decision. I can raise my objection to his decision by showing my concern for the job that I had been assigned for. Had my boss awarded me some penalty for acting against him (even though I was right) and had the management hear an explanation from me and served me notice I would have no reason to let other knows my inner voice.

The story does begin and what is good is that we all now are steps ahead of what we had been. Now I ride in a different boat but I am happy that we are all riding in the same river even though the boat that I ride is comparatively small.

Now my journey is completing 3 years tomorrow and with zeal to serve the nation I along with my team is opening up a new chapter on what more we in the Impal Times can contribute to the future. In connection with our 3rd foundation we are organizing a discourse on FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION at Manipur Press Club. We hope our readers will not hesitate in attending the new initiative that me and my team is taking up.

Four prisoners escape from jail in UP

Jalaun, Jan 8 (PTI) Four prisoners today escaped from the district jail by climbing the boundary wall with the help of a bedsheet while the jailor is on leave. Jaswant, accused of kidnapping, Brijmohan, accused of rape and loot, Dhyan Singh, accused of rape, loot and murder and convict Munna were found missing during the morning roll call. District Magistrate Ram Ganesh said. Deputy jailor Altaf Ansari has

informed that at the time of roll call this morning, four inmates were found missing as they scaled the boundary and escaped, he said. Initial investigations reveal that it was a well planned escape. Ganesh said, adding that a report has been sent to the government in this regard. Meanwhile, a hunt has been launched to nab the prisoners while jailor Uday Pratap Singh is presently on leave, he added.

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The impact of Globalisation

IT Desk

Globalisation, governed primarily by a market-oriented philosophy, has a number of implications for modes of governance. In the realm of education, the institutions of higher education face new pressures and demands for accountability, access, quality, introduction of new technologies and curriculum. A number of countries have introduced reforms to meet the challenges arising out of such a situation, though the context and nature of reforms vary from one country to another. First, is the concrete references available for post secondary education gave rise to privatisation of higher education.

The protagonists of privatisation see it as an alternative when the supply and demand do not match or when demands are diversified or when public education is seen as not promoting quality. Second, the Governments are under pressure to attract foreign capital; and this means providing a ready supply of skilled labour. This translates into pressure to increase the average level of education in the labour force. The higher level of education are important in a society wherein the economy is becoming more

knowledge-based than product-based. Third, there is the closer relationship between the private sector including multinational corporations and the state agencies concerned with product development and innovation. Further, globalisation should have a profound impact on the production and transmission of knowledge, some have argued that this has not occurred; they are casting doubts on the capacity of globalisation to permeate knowledge production and transmission as per local needs. In the context of Asia, this seems more relevant. Sometimes, we even find people advocating the replacement of textbooks with the motion pictures or instructional television. At another level, even when there were attempts to use modern technology in higher education, it has remained limited to the use of computers. It appears that the educational practices at the classroom level have changed only a little in most developing countries of Asia.

In terms of labour market reforms, the Governments are under pressure to attract foreign capital and this requires a ready supply of skilled labour. Further the shift

from manufacturing to the services sector is an important development in the nineties. Thus, the concerns about attaining quality and curricular relevance in higher education with reference to international standards and demands have become prominent. This has placed increased emphasis on mathematics and science in the curriculum, and techno-scientific areas of knowledge. Thus the discourse today is about the skills 'relevant for employment, and enterprise'. In the context of globalisation, two major developments have taken place. One is the inclusion of members of the business houses on the boards of the public universities in order to enhance the industry-institution linkages. This is expected to ensure the relevance of the contents of the curriculum and new academic programmes vis-à-vis the needs of the industry.

The advocates of globalisation today argue for internationalisation of curriculum. For them, a truly global university today is characterized by its engagement with the process of globalisation, its international networks, and its internationalised curriculum. The

internationalisation of curriculum entails a complex interplay of history, politics, knowledge production, and its use as well as teaching and learning. All these, however, are influenced by international market conditions and professional orientation. If this is so, the internationalised curriculum involves the development of new skills, attitudes and knowledge among students and teachers alike. It requires creation of new learning practices, spaces, ethos and cultures.

However, there is a danger in such internationalisation of curriculum. For instance, it also means the homogenization of curriculum across all the nations and cultures. This obviously undermines the values of uniqueness and diversity in cultures. This may create conflict acts at the local level, which can threaten the social harmony as is evident in some of the South Asian countries. In developing countries such as India, globalisation seems to be increasing the gap between the rich and the poor, thereby aggravating the problems of social inequality, which is also inherent in the education system as well.

International and National News

Two suicide bombings in police training school, checkpoint kill 56 in Libya

AFP

Benghazi, Jan. 8: Suicide bombers in Libya attacked a police training school and a checkpoint on Thursday, killing more than 56 people and prompting renewed calls for unity in a country torn by rivalries and jihadist threats.

The deadliest incident was in the coastal city of Zliten, where a truck bomb exploded outside the school, killing more than 50 people, a security source said.

The attack was the deadliest since the 2011 revolution that toppled longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi. A witness in Zliten, about 170 kilometres (100 miles) east of Tripoli, said that 300 men, mainly coast guards, were inside the compound at the time.

Health ministry spokesman Ammar Mohammed Ammar said 50 to 55 people were killed and at least 100 wounded. Victims were rushed to several hospitals and urgent calls were issued for blood donations. The blast blew out windows and charred concrete buildings inside the compound and turned cars into black and twisted wrecks.

Hours later another bomber drove an explosives-packed car into a checkpoint in a key oil region under recent assault by the Islamic State group, killing six people, including a baby.

"I am at the morgue where six bodies from the site of the attack were brought, including the body of a child," said Mansour Ati, the

head of Libya's Red Crescent. Eight people were also wounded. Osama al-Hodeiri, a spokesman for the security forces that guard near oil facilities, "A driver in a Toyota Land Cruiser blew himself up at a checkpoint at the entrance to the town of Ras Lanouf."

Hodeiri, who was at the scene, aid three guards and a 16-month-baby were among the dead.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks in Zliten or Ras Lanouf but IS has claimed previous suicide bombings and other atrocities.

IS has been growing in power in Libya, feeding on the chaos that has gripped the country since the revolution.

On Monday it launched an offensive against the oil terminals in Ras Lanouf and nearby Al-Sidra, after trying for weeks to push east from its stronghold of Sirte.

The terminals are located in the so-called "oil crescent" along the northern coast, and officials have warned of crippling consequences if the jihadists manage to seize control of Libya's oil resources.

Calls for unity

Libya has had rival administrations since August 2014, when an Islamist-backed militia alliance overran Tripoli, forcing the government to take refuge in the east.

The internationally recognised government condemned the attack as a "cowardly terrorist act" and

called for the lifting of an arms embargo it says has prevented authorities from tackling IS.

A deputy defence minister for the Tripoli-based government, Mohammad Bashir al-Naas, vowed to revenge.

"The perpetrator is not known but he is a coward. He kills our sons from the shadows. We must avenge them and do everything possible to protect them," he told a press conference.

Hundreds of people braved the cold and high winds Thursday afternoon to attend a prayer service for the victims of the truck bombing at Zliten's stadium.

The United Nations is pressing Libya's rival sides to implement a power-sharing deal agreed last month on forming a unity government.

UN envoy to Libya Martin Kobler said implementing the political agreement was crucial.

"I condemn in the strongest terms today's deadly suicide attack in Zliten, call on all Libyans to urgently unite in fight against terrorism," he wrote on Twitter.

EU policy chief Federica Mogherini also urged Libyans to back the unity deal.

"The people of Libya deserve peace and security and... they have a great opportunity to set aside their divisions and work together, united, against the terrorist threat facing their country," she said.

Libya, the former colonial power in Libya, offered its support in helping to bring stability.

"In the face of this terrorist threat, the first answer must be unity among Libyans," Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said. "It is urgent that the recently signed political agreement be implemented."

Struggle for power
 World powers fear Libya could descend further into chaos and become an IS stronghold on Europe's doorstep.

In a report to the UN Security Council in November, International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said that IS had been responsible for at least 27 car and suicide bombings in Libya in 2015.

The group claimed responsibility for suicide car bombings in the eastern town of Al-Qoba in February that killed at least 40 people.

Calls have been growing for a possible foreign military intervention to bring stability to Libya and contain IS, which is reported to have at least 3,000 fighters in the country. Mohamed Eljarh, a Libya analyst with the Atlantic Council, said the Zliten attack was aimed as a show of strength and to highlight the vulnerability of security forces.

"Despite IS's evident presence in Libya, various political groups are still consumed with their struggle for power and control."

Gunmen attack tourist bus of Arab-Israelis in Egypt's Giza

PTI

Cairo, Jan. 8: Motorcycle-borne masked gunmen opened fire on a tourist bus of Arab-Israeli citizens and a hotel close to the Giza pyramids in Egypt during a rally of Muslim Brotherhood supporters today, but the tourists escaped unhurt. The attackers, apparently part of a group of around 15 Brotherhood supporters, used birdshot and targeted the tourists while they entered the hotel on Al-Haram Street, the official said.

No casualties have been reported, however. But the attack caused some damages to the bus and the

hotel gate and facade.

A suspect was arrested and police were searching for the rest of the group, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. The passengers on the bus were Arab-Israeli citizens, Al-Ahram reported, citing a statement by Israeli government.

The attack on the tourists came on a day when Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Christians were celebrating Christmas in the predominantly Muslim country.

Egypt's security forces have been battling insurgency in North Sinai, which has witnessed many violent attacks by militants since the

January 2011 revolution that toppled president Hosni Mubarak. The attacks targeting police and military increased after the ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 by military following massive protests against his rule. More than 600 security personnel have been reported killed since then.

Some extremists in the restive Sinai peninsula have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State terrorist group. They have also claimed the downing of a Russian jet that killed 224 people there last year.

Al-Haram Street in Giza, close to the Pyramids, regularly witnesses pro-Morsi rallies and protests.

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