

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, March 12, 2016

India and the threat perception: Solution urgently requires

Do I need an educational qualification to prove the grade of my patriotism towards my country? Does anybody in the nation need a certificate to show his or her loves for his motherland? The answer is obviously 'No'. But certain act of sincerity, commitment and their responsibility is a must to prove that they are the sons and daughter of this nation. The changing world today is depending to various people - from daily wage earner labour to policy makers whom we call bureaucrats; from salesmen to tycoon business entrepreneurs; from construction labourers to engineers and architect; from voters to elected representatives commonly called MLAs/Ministers and not the least from attendance to nurses and doctors. The quantum of development or civilisation of the nations is the product of all these constituents of a nation. If each of these renders their services as according to what had been assigned to them as according to their specialisations, then for sure the nation will shine bright. But the kind of nation that is stated only existed in Hindu Mythology and they called it Ram Rajya. For India, the nation which is the product of the great leaders who had diplomatically fought the British colonial regime, Ram Rajya is becoming an impossible dream. The then Indian Intellectuals, who were responsible in the framing of the constitution showed the European and American system as the only tools for the success of this complex nation. And more importantly the rigid character of the constitution and the failure to re-frame by redefining the mandate of the people so that equal representation of each states irrespective of the sizes is now creating a backlog to many critiques. It is no doubt and people across the country and the world who had proper knowledge of History will say that provision provided in the Indian constitution is contradictory to the process of merging some of the erstwhile kingdom like Manipur and Hyderabad or Jammu and Kashmir. This write up is not a critique on whether secessionists should be favoured or not, but it is an indication to draw the attention of the fellow countrymen who still want India to emerge as one of the most powerful nation in the world. The exposures in the aftermath of the JNU Row have now painted the real picture of the country. The hunger for real freedom to many of the Indians and the rationale behind the struggle for restoration of freedom at many states has been well highlighted. The present government instead of using all their muscle power to shut the mouth need to learn and think of some theories to put together the whole of this nation. As the nation is a nation of multi nations a mechanism to redefine the Indian Nation is a must.

All these has been stated after we in the Imphal Times felt that India is now hot bed and caught in-between those who are working whole heartedly to affronting the country and those who think that people are free to live with the kind of religion that they choose. The army who are taking all responsibility to protect the country are now using as a tools for propaganda purposes. And the farmers dying in the fields and students dropping out of the schools due to poverty are now a mockery. On the other hand the media now is divided into two groups broadcasting two different opinions. Most problems are not as danger as when giant media houses divides and started broadcasting two different opinions base on ideology which have the tendency to impact the unity of the nation. As we have earlier stated that if something wrong is committed then there is nothing wrong to say "wrong" as the one who have the courage to say wrong will gain more respect from the people. Besides, we once more appealed our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap all outdated inhumane laws which the British colonial regime has used to suppress the freedom movement of India. This was promise by you Mr. Prime Minister during your historic speech at Madison Square Garden of the United States.

Awareness prog. on desertification, land degradation and drought held

Imphal, March 12: Human Environment and Resource Organisation (HERO) Uripok Naorem Khulem leikai, Ngangom leirak, Imphal West today organised a one day awareness programme on Combating Desertification, Land degradation and Drought at Naoremthong Khumanthem Leikai today. Around 50 persons from around the localities attended the programme. A resource persons speaks on about the need for protection of the environment. As a part of the programme 3250 numbers of Sapling were planted in and around Naoremthong Khumanthem leikai.

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Be Happy, make others Happy

By : G Chandra Shekar Marar Hyderabad

Everyone desires happiness. But each one has his own idea of how he can be happy and successful in life. Some believe that falsehood and dishonesty are ways to prosperity. They brush aside morality, thinking that it is useless.

There is the story of a group of fisher women who were returning home late from a fair. They were delayed by rain. On the way home they rested near a cottage close to a flower garden. The gardener was a good man. He allowed them to spend the night there and go home early the next morning. The fisher women agreed and stayed. But they could not get a wink of sleep. They rolled on the ground unable to sleep. There was a basket of jasmynes in the room, meant for sale in the morning. The fisher women were overpowered by the fragrance of the flowers so they could not sleep. After sometime, one of them said "this foul smell is so strong that we cannot get any sleep. We must do something to put it down". They took some water sprinkled it on their fish baskets and drew them near. The fish odour overpowered the fragrance of the jasmynes. The fisher women slept soundly thereafter. This story clearly shows that every one conceives of bliss according to

his own tastes. If good company and good habits do not govern us, bad ways will seem superior and indeed, essential to our life.

Human nature is a mixture of good and bad, noble thoughts and evil tendencies. Even in the evilest of men we find sparks of mercy and compassion.

The story of the three robbers illustrates this point. Once a rich man was passing through a forest, when three robbers pounced on him and robbed him of all his wealth. Then one of the robbers wanted to kill him. He was about to strike their victim with his sword when his second robber stopped him and said that it would be better if they tied him to a tree. Then he would not be able to inform the police about them. Accordingly they tied him to a tree and left. After a while the third robber who felt pity for the rich man, returned and consoled him and set him free. He led him out of the forest and showed him the way to go home. The rich man felt grateful, thanked the robber and asked him to accompany him to his house. But the robber declined, because he felt that if he went to the rich man's house in town, the police would arrest him. This clearly shows that there is goodness and kindness even in robbers and murderers.

We all know the story of Valmiki how he was changed from a state of animal propensities, into a state of divine purity. In his youth he indulged in highway robbery to feed his family. One day he happened to attack sage Narada. When he told the sage he was doing this to support his family, the sage rebuked him and asked him to find out whether his family members also shared with him the enormous sin he was committing daily. The robber tied Narada to a tree, went home and told his father, mother and wife that he supported them by killing and plundering innocent people. His family members said that it was his duty to feed them. They did not care how he did this and they also declined to take any share of the sins he was committing. This shocked him and opened his eyes. He fell at the feet of Narada, begged his forgiveness and requested him to become his Guru and show him the path to enlightenment. The sage instructed him and he engrossed himself in meditation for so long a time that an anthill grew around him. When Narada returned years later to visit him, he found that the erstwhile robber and murderer had become an illumined soul. That was Valmiki, the author of the great epic Ramayana. The scriptures say that man is made

in the image of God. So divinity is inherent in every human being. We should develop the divine qualities in us and make our lives, blissful and beautiful. Banish all the negative thoughts and feelings. Don't be cowed down by cares and worries. Always have a positive attitude towards life and its problems. There is no problem which has no solution. Firstly believe that everything happens for the best. Welcome everyone with a smiling face - Always think well of others. Be happy within and spread happiness every where. Your positive vibrations and healthy attitude towards life should encourage others to lead good lives. Make your life peaceful and purposeful. Wherever you go you must spread sweetness and light so that everybody should feel happy in your company and cherish your friendship. Thus you can be happy and make others happy. You will find that life is indeed, worth living and full of happiness and bliss.

About the author, Retired as News Editor of 'Deccan Chronicle', a leading English daily in Andhra Pradesh. He has contributed articles to leading dailies and magazines like The Times of India, Hindustan Times, Illustrated Weekly of India, Caravan, Quest, Mirror and other journals.

National & International News

Congress declares highest total income at Rs 1,687 crore followed by BJP

Hyderabad, March 12: Indian National Congress topped the chart of political parties in India by declaring the highest total income at Rs 1,687.12 crore, followed by the BJP, for the period 2010-11 to 2013-14, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). "The total income of national parties, excluding BJP, INC and the Nationalist Congress Party for 2014-15, collectively for five years (2010-11 to 2014-15), from all over India was Rs 4,261.23 crore. "Despite lack of information for 2014-15, Congress declared the highest total income from all over India of Rs 1,687.12 crore followed by BJP with Rs 1,475.44 crore," the NGO said.

The report titled 'Analysis of Income Tax Returns and Donations received by National and Regional parties of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for FY 2010-11 to 2014-15 was prepared by the 'Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Election Watch' and ADR. The report stated that CPM collected Rs 552.30 crore, Bahujan Samajwadi Party Rs 391.21 crore and CPI Rs 9.02 crore. "Income for INC from sale of coupons/publication amounted to Rs 1,311.96 crore (77.7 per cent of total income)," stated the report released at a press conference by the office-bearers of both the bodies. Voluntary contributions/donations is the most common and the highest source of income for

most of the national and regional political parties. It forms 46.49 per cent (Rs 2039.647 crore) of the total income of all political parties together, it said. BJP has received 87.93 per cent income (Rs 1,297.37 crore) from voluntary contributions while Congress received 10.93 per cent (Rs 184.408 crore) income from donations. According to its IT returns, 54.39 per cent (Rs 212.78 crore) of the total income of BSP was through voluntary contributions, but the party declared that it never received any amount above Rs 20,000 as donations, the report claimed. Sources for the data used in the report are audited accounts contribution statements submitted

by the political parties to the Income Tax Department and Election Commission of India. ADR recommended that national and regional political parties must provide all information of their finances under RTI. Besides, ECI should impose rules that no part of the form 24A submitted by political parties providing details of donations above Rs 20,000 should be left blank and full details of donors should be made available for public scrutiny under the RTI. It further recommended that any party which does not submit its donation statement to the ECI on or before the due date, their income should not be tax exempted and defaulting parties should be derecognised.

Fresh poster issues death threat to Kanhaiya and others

Agency New Delhi, March 12: A fresh poster issuing death threats to JNU student leaders Kanhaiya Kumar, Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, who are facing charge of sedition, reportedly appeared in New Delhi on Friday. This comes days after a similar poster announced a reward of Rs 11 lakh on Kumar which landed a youth in jail. An image of the poster was circulated on WhatsApp and shared on social

media with a caption claiming that a copy of it was spotted this morning at Jantar Mantar. However, a police team searched the area and said no such poster was spotted. The poster said "to shoot the traitors of JNU is a Rashtardham (national duty). I shall shoot Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhattacharya and Kanhaiya." The poster has the name of one Balbir Singh Bharatiya who claimed to be a

social worker and has been a part of the Anna Hazare-led movement against corruption. The poster also contained a phone number and a passport-size photograph of a man. The poster condemned Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for their support to the JNU students. "I shall shoot all who celebrated the anniversary of Afzal Guru's hanging... The country faces more threat from traitors than terrorists... Such traitors should face life imprisonment," the poster read. When asked, Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Jatinder Narwal said, "We have initiated an enquiry into the matter."

When the poster could not be found near Jantar Mantar, policemen dialled the phone number mentioned on it, a police official said. The person who picked up the call, claimed that he runs a shop at Yamuna Bazar area and that he had visited Jantar Mantar today. However, he did not specifically respond to questions about whether he had posted the poster. This man is likely to be questioned soon, the official added. On March 7, Delhi Police arrested Adarsh Sharma, who claimed to be president of Purvanchal Sena which had announced through posters a reward of Rs 11 lakh for anyone who "shoots" JNU Students' Union president Kumar.

Suspension of 8 JNU Students Revoked

New Delhi, March 12: The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Friday revoked the suspension of eight students, including students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar, in connection with an alleged 'anti-national' event held on campus to protest the hanging of Afzal Guru. The suspension was revoked after a high-level inquiry committee submitted its report to JNU authorities. However, officials said it did not signify a clean chit to the students. Besides Kanhaiya, the other suspended students include Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhattacharya, Ashutosh, Rama Naga, Anant Kumar, Shweta Raj and Aishwarya Adhikari. While Kanhaiya was granted bail in a sedition case last week, Khalid and Bhattacharya are in custody. The students' union, which held a protest march on the campus during the day calling the probe committee an eyewitness, issued a statement saying

they will not accept the enquiry committee's report. "Since the inquiry is over, their suspension has been revoked. The suspended students can now resume classes and academic activities. However, it should not be seen as a clean chit, the decision about punishment if any or for whom will be made after the university administration has deliberated upon the recommendations of the committee," said a university official. The five-member panel was constituted by JNU on February 10, a day after the controversial event during which 'anti-national' slogans were allegedly raised. The eight students were suspended on February 12. On the basis of a preliminary report, the varsity had barred the eight students from academic activity, while allowing them to stay as guests at the hostel till the inquiry was over.

Muslims Don't Get to Teach Yoga: RTI Reveals Government Policy

Agency New Delhi, March 12: The Modi government's AYUSH Ministry (the ministry which deals with Ayurveda, Yoga and naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) has admitted, that as per government policy, it does not recruit Muslims. This disappointing revelation was made in response to an October 2015 RTI query about Muslim teachers and trainers recruited by the AYUSH Ministry for foreign assignments during World Yoga Day last year.

Of a total of 711 Muslim yoga trainers who applied for the assignment abroad, none were even called for an interview, while 26 Hindu trainers were sent abroad. Worse, the response also revealed that 3841 Muslim candidates applied to the Ministry till October 2015, but none got selected. Speaking to ANI and responding to the details revealed in the RTI, AYUSH Minister Sripad Naik has said that the report is "false" and that he "strongly condemns it."