

Editorial

Re-defining Mr. Clean perspectives

The one simple thing that could make much of almost everything much easier and smoother, yet seemingly impossible to accomplish is the act of coming clean. It would indeed take a much greater strength of character to own up our mistakes and short comings, and still greater willpower to refrain from deliberately committing acts we consciously know is wrong and false. The few fortunate ones who have the grit and will to transcend these urges are acknowledged and respected. On the other hand, a new breed of "Go-Getters" who would not stop at anything to achieve their goal is on the rise the pressures of present day society helping in developing and pruning such mindset to perfection. They are the restless, hyperactive and aggressive ones who do not cater to emotions and aesthetics.

Modern parents and guardians are increasingly urging their wards to adopt the letter approach towards life in order to carve out a place in the society that invariably results in a level of respect-respect that again is dependent on the earning capacity, the social circle adopted and living status maintained. Increasing compulsions for security in terms of food, shelter and a step towards a more secure future could be the factors that prompted the collective thinking towards adopting such an attitude towards life.

But then, does that mean the adage "All is fair and love and war" will be made true? Is our life becoming a daily struggle, a battle-if not a war, we are destined to wage every single living day of our lives? Where does that leave us with any room or opportunity for improvement not the financial kind, but a more rounded and holistic, as a person? The present developments in the society-particularly that of mindless atrocities and lack of considerations that is becoming rampant would be a spill-off of this new approach towards life. The struggle for security-for the basic necessities of life has become the all-consuming tryst for wealth which invariably leads to the thirst for power and influence.

Greed takes over everything else, making our lives worse off than when we started. What then could be the panacea for these aberrations that has come to plague our lives of late? The answer lays within us common knowledge which just needs to be acknowledged, and more importantly to act on. Putting up a façade of make-believe and a show of benevolence and righteousness will not absolve anyone of the crimes and wrongs. This is of utmost importance for everyone, and more so for those who are donning the role of public representatives who we are following.

Concepts like beauty, peace and harmony can only be experienced if we can rise above our petty urges and look at life-that of ourselves and the ones around us in a different and totally new perspective one that does not have anything to do with wealth, power or fame.

"The earth has enough to satisfy man's needs but not man's greed". Mohandaskaramchand Gandhi.

Contd. from page 1

Rims Celebrates 46th Foundation Day

Speaking on the occasion, Kshtrimayum Bhabananda Singh, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and also the president of the foundation day celebration said that RIMS has been a premier healthcare institute in North East. It can play a big role in developing the healthcare sector not only in the State but also in the region. Two important sectors - Healthcare & Education need to be developed to make India a developed nation. Medical fraternity should do a lot of things that can be productive in bringing a change in healthcare delivery system. He said, trust deficit between people and men in the profession should be removed so that the goal of achieving best

healthcare delivery to people can be made possible. He will also urge the concerned Ministry to fulfil the need of RIMS, he added.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister distributed Gold Medals, Citations and Certificates to the position holders of Post Graduate and MBBS professional examinations 2017. He also released annual magazine of RIMS Students' Union in the function.

Director RIMS, Prof. A. Santa Singh, Dr. E. Nandini Devi also spoke on the occasion. Faculty members of various Departments in RIMS, students and staffs also participated among others in the celebration.

India's leap to High-Speed Corridor for Holistic Progress

By : G.Srinivasan

As India will commemorate its diamond jubilee in 2022 to mark its 75 years of Independence, the NDA government has pulled up the socks to ensure that a decade-long dream of having the first bullet train in India realized. The first step in this direction is taken on September 14 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat when the visiting Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe and India's Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the maiden 508 km long high-speed rail project between Mumbai, the commercial capital and Ahmedabad, the iconic city of the country.

Mr. Modi succinctly underscored the importance and significance of the rail project, the first of its growth-propelling genre, by remarking that "more productivity with high-speed connectivity" is what the nation would gain from the bullet train. He rightly stated that the prestigious bullet train will be a game-changer, besides being 'a symbol of New India' that his government seeks to build by 2022. A little background is in order to render the euphoria generated by this project across the country a bit enduring and to highlight the huge challenges and humongous opportunities ahead once the project is commissioned. Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project has been sanctioned for implementation with technical and financial underpinnings from the Government of Japan. National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHRCL) has been incorporated as

a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to undertake the implementation of this project with a joint feasibility report contending that the project is targeted for commissioning in 2022-2023. With the Prime Minister Mr. Modi keen on commissioning the project on the 75th year of the country's independence in 2022, the project deadline is advanced by a year.

For people inured to hearing and witnessing the wonders wrought by high-speed trains in the continental European countries, Japan and China, the image of a similar modern train criss-crossing the country's major cities is a dream come true. Many an analyst of global geopolitical trends say the picture of the platypus-snouted blue and white Shinkansen (the name of the Japanese bullet train) speeding past a snow-capped Mount Fuji has become a part and parcel of Japan as its popular sushi. Since October 1964, when the first bullet train broke the time it took to cover the 582 km between Tokyo and the commercial hub of Osaka to four hours (now it is down to two hours, 22 minutes), the Shinkansen has emerged as the iconic image of Japan's post-war pinnacle to economic supremacy in the globe. The Japanese bullet train exemplifies the archipelago's engineering efficiency and incredible standards of safety and punctuality. So far, the Japanese bullet trains had carried ten billion passengers sans a single accident or casualty with an average enviable delay of less than one minute! It is small wonder that the Prime

Minister Mr. Modi is fully convinced of the worth and wealth it would bring forth to the economy through efficiency gains of unquantifiable amounts. That is why in his foundation-stone laying ceremony Mr. Modi said the high-speed corridor should be seen in the context of overall economic development. He contended that considering the time it takes to reach the airport and then take a flight and eventually reach the destination in the city, the bullet train would take half the time for people to reach their destinations, unhampered by any intervening and common obstacles such as traffic snarls, pollution and road rage. This would also spawn a lot of savings by consumption of fossil fuels. For Japan, the prestigious project in India has been hard-won as it deems friendship with India a strategic gain and geopolitical victory of sort when it outsmarted China by offering a loan worth 12 billion US dollars at 0.1 per cent interest to be disbursed by India over 50 years. This duly takes care of over 80 per cent of the project's estimated cost. Japan would also supplement the financing with the largesse of technical assistance and training package. The bullet train project in India must perform to be viewed from a new perspective. India's first train way back in 1853 between Bombay-Thane covered the 34 km distance in about an hour. More than several decades later and a century, the average

speed of the Indian Railways is among the slowest in the world at 60 kms per hour. Even the country's fastest train Gatiman attains a top speed of 160 kms per hour. But, if things swing according to the authorities' calculations, the high-speed rail at its acme would operate at more than twice this celerity to win credibility and concurrence of many an Indian wishing to see a modern nation relishing panoply of comforts and convenience.

For critics bashing the bullet train project as baloney, it needs to be dimmed that over and above pulling traffic from air, rail and road, high-speed rail also generates new traffic with people weighing the comfortable and convenient mode of expeditious travelling as a new experience. In an economy plagued with low and slow investment from private sector with the government doing the heavy-lifting of public investment, this is a viable way of making exemplary use of low-cost surplus capital sloshing in abundance globally to build modern infrastructure in India. In fine, the high-speed rail project is bound to bring immeasurable benefits to the Indian economy if the teething troubles and managerial snafus get overcome through well-laid advance plans and rigorous executing standards and sticking to deadline milestones with metronomic precision.

The author is formerly Deputy Editor The Hindu Group and is currently freelance commentator on economic issues.

Views expressed in the article are author's personal. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

National & International News

BSF jawan killed in ceasefire violation by Pak troops

PTI Jammu, Sep 15: A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was killed when Pakistani troops violated ceasefire for the third consecutive day today along the International Border (IB) in Jammu district.

Constable Bijender Bahadur was on duty at forward point along the fence in Arnia sector along the IB when Pakistani Rangers resorted

to mortar shelling and small arms fire at about 0020 hours today. A bullet hit the jawan on the left side of his abdomen and he succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital, a BSF officer said. "BSF troops retaliated strongly and gave befitting reply," he said. "Intermittent fire continued from both side from night till morning," the officer said. Bahadur, 32, hailed from Vidya

Bhawan Naraypur village in Uttar Pradesh's Balia district. He is survived by his wife Sushmita Singh. There have been continuous ceasefire violations by the Pakistani troops for the past three days. Two Pakistani soldiers were killed in retaliatory action by the BSF yesterday while three Indian jawans were injured in

unprovoked firing and shelling by Pakistani troops along the IB and the LoC in Jammu and Poonch districts on Wednesday. Incidents of ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops have increased sharply this year. Till August 1, there have been 285 such actions by the Pakistan army, while in 2016, the number was significantly less at 228 for the entire year, according to figures by the Indian Army.

Assam student jumps off building, Police suspect Blue Whale Challenge

NDTV Guwahati, Sept. 15: A college student in Assam attempted suicide by jumping off the second floor of a building on Wednesday evening. Police suspect it to be a case of the online self-destructive game, the Blue Whale challenge. The 22-year-old, who is in the second year of this undergraduate course, is admitted to a hospital in southern Assam's Silchar with injuries on his chest and hands. His

condition is said to be critical. "The matter is under investigation and his mobile hand set has been seized," police officer Rakesh Rausan said. Over the last few months, incidents of teenagers playing and attempting various challenges as part of the Blue Whale Challenge have been on the rise in the country. The deadly game has claimed over 100 lives across the world. Last month, a teenager in Tamil

Nadu's Madurai was found hanging in his room. Vignesh's death is suspected to be linked to the dangerous game after a chilling note was found in his room. The Madras High Court took note of the game and asked the central government and Tamil Nadu to explore possibilities of banning it. The 17-year-old daughter of a soldier in Rajasthan's Jodhpur jumped off a cliff into a lake, as

part of Blue Whale Challenge. She was rescued by divers and policemen. The game, which originated in Russia, gives a set of tasks to be completed over a period of 50 days. Some of the tasks include cutting and isolating oneself, listening to disturbing songs, spending time in graveyards, watching horror movies and finally, jumping off a building. The final task leads to the player committing suicide.

North Korea fires missile over Japan

AFP Seoul, Sep 15: North Korea fired a ballistic missile over Japan and into the Pacific today, responding to new UN sanctions with what appeared to be its furthest-ever missile flight amid high tensions over its weapons programmes. The launch, from near Pyongyang, came after the United Nations Security Council imposed an eighth set of measures on the isolated country over its ballistic missile and atomic weapons programmes. That followed its sixth nuclear test — by far its largest yet — earlier this month, which Pyongyang said was a hydrogen bomb small enough to fit onto a missile. In New York, the Security Council called an emergency meeting for later today. The US Pacific Command confirmed the rocket was an intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) and said it did not pose a threat to North America, or to the US Pacific territory of Guam,

which Pyongyang has threatened to bracket with "enveloping fire". Seoul's defence ministry said it probably travelled around 3,700 kilometres and reached a maximum altitude of 770 kilometres. It was "the furthest overground any of their ballistic missiles has ever travelled", Joseph Dempsey of the International Institute for Strategic Studies said on Twitter. It was a "clear indication North Korea has range - not necessarily accuracy - to follow through (the) Guam plan", he added. The North has raised global tensions with its rapid progress in weapons technology under leader Kim Jong-Un, who is closely associated with the programme and regularly pictured by state media overseeing launches and visiting facilities. The North's last missile launch, a Hwasong-12 IRBM just over two weeks ago, also overflew Japan's main islands and was the first to do

so for years. But when Pyongyang tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July that appeared to bring much of the US mainland into range, it fired them on lofted trajectories that avoided passing over the archipelago nation. "The North is sending a message which is, 'we are not cowering before any sanctions and our warnings are not empty threats,'" Yang Moo-Jin of the University of North Korea Studies in Seoul told AFP. "It has vowed the US would face 'pain and suffering' in retaliation for the UN sanctions." Millions of Japanese were jolted awake by blaring sirens and emergency text message alerts after the missile was fired. "Missile launch! missile launch! A missile appears to have been launched from North Korea," loudspeakers blared on Cape Erimo, on Hokkaido's southern tip.

Breakfast television programmes, which usually broadcast a light-hearted diet of children's shows and gadget features, instead flashed up the warning: "Flee into a building or a basement." Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Tokyo could "never tolerate" what he called a "dangerous provocative action that threatens world peace". "If North Korea continues to walk down this path, it has no bright future," he told reporters. "We must make North Korea understand this." Tokyo had protested to Pyongyang in the "strongest words possible", chief government spokesman Yoshihide Suga added. The missile overflew Japan for around two minutes, reports said, but there were no immediate indications of objects falling onto Japanese territory. The launch came a day after a North Korean organisation warned of a "telling blow" against Japan, accusing it of "dancing to the tune of the US" for supporting fresh UN sanctions.

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