

Editorial

Of war, wine and women

It takes a lifetime to build up a reputation but a moment to ruin it. The adage couldn't have been truer than for people who are constantly in the glare of the public. It would indeed prove a difficult task for anyone to tread the line and balance the private and public side of oneself. This is the inconvenient choice one has had to make when the decision to spend one's life in the public domain is made. And given the inherently instinctive nature of man, it would be an understatement to say that every step that an individual takes is fraught with temptations, enticements and influences that could and often lead to disastrous results. A restive society such as ours is often a hotbed for various forms of enticements, corruptions and temptations as have been experiencing by the public till the present day.

War, by its very definition is the state of armed conflict between different groups- political, ethnical, social, religion of financial. While there is a perceptible improvement in the situation in the state regarding administration of law and order, it would be a blunder for anyone to assume that the society has returned to normalcy. However, credit must be given where it is due and it would not be much further from the truth to state that the Biren-led state government has managed to make exemplary headway in steering the society towards the path to peace and reconciliation and as a result the general feeling of the public has been an upbeat one. The air of uncertainty and suspicion that was hanging like a suffocating shroud over the entire state has been lifted, replaced by a palpable feeling of bonhomie and appreciative gestures all around. However, it would be a premature move to hark on the achievements if one could term it as such because the present situation should rather be viewed as a desirable beginning towards a long and arduous journey.

Wine, and all drinks alcoholic has been portrayed as a cause for many a misery in the society, and not without any reason. And yet, it has been accepted and offered as a drink for the gods among some faiths and has been an integral part of rituals and cultures for since time immemorial. And the so-called ban on alcohol in the state is but a half-hearted joke which is neither beneficial nor effective. The issue should be on regulation and awareness rather than on total prohibition which only encourage unscrupulous bootleggers and spurious products, not to mention the loss of precious income to the state. The most pragmatic solution would be to lift the prohibition and instead enforce strict regulations on sales and consumption.

Women have been proven to induce cognitive impairment in men according to scientific experiments. Wars have been fought and dynasties have been laid waste on account of women since ancient times beginning with when Adam fell prey to Eve's words despite god's warning. Cut to the present, our society is no exception and there are more instances than one would care to acknowledge of the influence and sway women holds over men who are in positions of power and authority. There is the ever present threat of well-meaning and righteous leaders giving in to the emotional manipulations and wiles of women who managed to capture their attention and interest, and if the past is any indication it would only be right for the public leaders to exercise caution in this regard else all efforts and intents will come to naught along with their reputations. The worst loser will be the public who will ultimately bear the brunt of such foolish indulgences.

Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my original certificate of my HSLC Examination bearing roll no 6706 conducted in the year 2000 issued by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur on the way from Singjamei to Babupara on September 9, 2017.

Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.
Sd/-

Pebam Joychandra Singh

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A MESSAGE TO THE MEITEIS LIVING ABROAD

By Sanjoo Thangjam

REPAYING YOUR PARENTS, ELDER BROTHERS & ELDER SISTERS

Even if you folks there in abroad accumulate great wealth, many possessions, and an esteemed position in society, if you all show no gratitude or kindness towards your mother and father and your elders then you guys are without true wealth. To put it simply, you all are without the distinguishing features of good persons.

When you people there, out of our Kangleipak Ima Manipur, realise the goodness your parents have shown towards you, you should try to repay the goodness with wholehearted effort. They cared for and look after you for many years, so you can in turn look after them in their old age inclusive of your poor elder brothers and sisters. And even if they have passed away, you can still benefit them by performing good deeds and sharing the merit with them.

When you were in school, you

should be diligent and put all your efforts into studying and succeeding with the best possible grades, so as not to priced your elder brothers, sisters and your parents as a whole any anxiety. This will also assist you all in finding good jobs and worthy life partners as well.

Moving from there into a workplace, you then have the opportunity to give a hand to them financially or with whatever physical help they might and the society need as a whole instead of passing comments via print or electronic medias without knowing or rather bearing in mind the ground reality. At this point in your life, you can start to look after the people of Manipur apart from your parents and elder brothers and sisters in the way they looked after you up until now.

Because our parents have our best interests at heart and do whatever they can to guide us in life. Sometimes they aren't practising generosity, virtue or

meditation, and worry about their inner welfare. But if we truly want to help them, the best we can do is to develop goodness within ourselves first. When they see the positive results in us, they will naturally be inclined to follow our self first. When they see the positive results in us, they will naturally be inclined to follow our example.

It's normal that in the course of our relationship with our parents there will be some conflicts and disagreements. But deep in our heart we still have a sense of appreciation and gratitude towards them, even if sometimes negative emotions spill out. Our parents have shown us great kindness throughout their lives. So if any times we have mistreated them, we should ask wholeheartedly for their forgiveness.

We can also repay our debt to them by being cautious with our speech and behaviour. Since the

day we were born they looked after our welfare. They imparted knowledge, raised us, and cared for our needs. So if we speak or act in a harsh way towards our parents, even the smallest thing can have a great impact. Words take on an extra intensity and meaning when they come from one's own children. This is the love a parent feels for their child.

If our parents have reached a stage where they can no longer look after themselves, it's now time for us to selflessly give all the assistance we can. We repay our debt by caring for and looking after them with all the kindness in our heart. And as we perform these types of good, wholesome actions and express our gratitude, then our lives will take on a newfound, inner wealth and meaning. Being supportive of one's parents, the Buddha said, is among the highest blessings.

The writer is a lay Buddhist and Human Rights activist for People Who Use Drugs (PUDs)

Recognizing teachers as nation builders

By: Priyadarshi Dutta

September 5 is observed as Teachers' Day in honour of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1888-1975), the second President of India, who was born on that day. But how did it get instituted? Dr. Radhakrishnan's 75th birthday on September 5, 1962 came within weeks of his being elevated to the President's post. He was flooded with felicitations from home and abroad, a testimony to his wide reputation as professor and exponent of Indian philosophy. Those who wished him included international figures like Dr. Albert Schweitzer, Daisetz T. Suzuki, Horace Alexander, Arnold J. Toynbee, Kingsley Martin, and Charles A. Moore etc. At home, politicians cutting across party lines hailed his contribution to education and Indic scholarship. "But above all, he is a great teacher, from whom all of us have learnt much, and will continue to learn", stated Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in his message.

But Dr. Radhakrishnan wished that his 75th birthday should not be celebrated as such. It is should be observed as Teachers' Day in honour of the noble profession he had been attached with throughout his career. The Teachers' Day was instituted thus in 1962. The convention of collecting funds for teachers in need started that very year. But due to the Indo-Chinese War erupting on October 20, 1962 the money collected during 1962 and 1963 were put in defence bonds. Every year the President of India gives away National Awards to teachers on September 5. It is awarded to outstanding teachers of primary, middle and higher secondary schools in recognition to their meritorious services. Not only

is the academic efficiency recognized, but genuine interest/affection towards children, reputation in local community and involvement in social life of the community also considered.

These awards are being given annually since 1959, even before the Teachers' Day came into existence. In 1968, the scope of the awards was extended to the teachers of Sanskrit Pathshalas run on traditional lines. In 1976, the scope was further enlarged to include Arabic/Persian teachers of Madrasas. Further reforms in 1993 led to the inclusion of teachers from Sainik Schools, Navodaya Schools and schools run by the Atomic Energy Education Society. Maximum numbers of awards could go up to 350 during a year. The awardees are selected through three tier system of district committee, state committee and union government.

India has a long tradition of venerating the teachers. In the Vedic times the students were taught at teacher's home, serving him in their free time. It was called Gurukul system, which was in principle free of cost, except the student would pay a Gurudakshina (a symbolic fee in cash, kind or vow). The emphasis was on moulding their character as much as honing their intellectual faculty. A student in ancient India was identified by the lineage of his teacher. This gave rise to the concept of Guru-Shishya Parampara i.e. mentor-disciple relationship. In later centuries the teacher would reside in student's home - like Dronacharya staying with the Kauravas in the Mahabharata.

The subsequent centuries saw the rise of residential universities, which were apparently copied from Buddhist monasteries. It meant

teachers and students met on neutral ground. The Taxilla University in northwestern India (in present day Pakistan) was world's first university. India had several universities like Taxilla, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Odantapuri, Vallabhi, Pushpagiri etc. But their destruction in the medieval era by foreign invaders left a great void in education.

Teachers again came to the fore with introduction of modern education in India in early nineteenth century. The Hindu College (estd.1817), now Presidency University in Kolkata, was the first institution of higher learning in the modern sense of the term. This institution played a major role in the creating a modern national discourse. The youthful teacher who inspired it was Henry Louis Vivian Derozier (1809-1831), an Anglo-Indian who lived merely for 23 years. He captured the imagination of his pupils by inculcating rationalism and humanism of contemporaneous Europe in them.

He also wrote the first known patriotic poem of India viz. *My Native Land* - "My country in thy days of glory past/A beautiful halo circled round thy brow/And worshipped as a deity thou wast/ Where is thy glory, where the reverence now". Derozier was hounded out of Hindu College, by irate parents of his pupils, who accused him of corrupting the morale of his followers. He passed away prematurely shortly afterwards. But his pupil-disciples who were called Derozians or Young Bengal grew up into leading lights of the society. They included likes of Radhanath Sikdar (1813-1870) who trigonometrically calculated the height of

Mt. Everest, orator Ram Gopal Ghose and writer Peary Chand Mitra.

In western India it was Bal Shastri Jambhkar (1812-1845) who was pioneer teacher to a generation of public personae. A teacher of mathematics at newly established Elphinstone Institution (now Elphinstone College) in Bombay his students included Dadabhai Naoroji, V.N. Mandlik, Sorabji Shapurji, Dr. Bhaui Daji. They were the pioneers of public life in erstwhile Bombay Presidency. Jambhkar, along with Ragoonath Hurrychanderjee and Junardhan Wassodewjee, brought out English-Marathi bi-lingual newspaper *Mumbai Durpan* (Bombay Mirror) in January, 1832. Poet Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) and political leader Madan Mohan Malaviya (1861-1945) donned to role of educationists. Tagore through his Visva Bharati University and Malaviya through his Banaras Hindu University represented two different approaches to national education. They stand out as iconic teachers. With increasing commercialization and professionalization of education, value system is under threat. If education is seen as commodity, then role of teacher is reduced to mere service provider. The rise of distance education and online education has made teacher content provider. But professional and commercial achievements alone cannot be benchmark of success in life. Nor can these alone lead to a happy society. Idealism and sensibilities have profound role to play. Teachers are best placed to instill and inspire those virtues. Every one of us owes something good to our teachers. It is often the noblest part of us.

(PIB Feature)
The writer is an independent researcher and columnist based in New Delhi.

National & International News

248 Dead In Powerful Mexico Earthquake, 21 Children Crushed Under School

Agency Mexico City, Sept 20: At least 248 people were killed when a powerful 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck Mexico on Tuesday, including 21 children crushed beneath an elementary school that was reduced to rubble. The destruction revived horrific memories in Mexico on the anniversary of another massive quake in 1985, the disaster-prone country's deadliest ever. One of the most gut-wrenching scenes was at the Enrique Rebsamen primary school on Mexico City's south side, whose three floors collapsed into one, trapping students and teachers inside.

Twenty-one children and five adults were killed, said Major Jose Luis Vergara of the Mexican navy, who was coordinating a rescue effort that involved hundreds of soldiers, police, civilian volunteers and rescue dogs. He said another 30 to 40 people remained trapped inside, while 11 children have been rescued so far. Emergency workers found a teacher and a student alive beneath the rubble and are trying to get them out, he said. But the situation was precarious. Late into the night, part of the wreckage collapsed as rescuers continued their search. Local media reports said soldiers had administered oxygen to one

trapped child through a tube. President Enrique Pena Nieto, who rushed to the site, warned the death toll could rise. "Unfortunately, many people have lost their lives, including children, in schools, buildings and homes," he said in a national address. The devastation struck across a swath of central states and the death toll as of early Wednesday was 248, the head of the national disaster response agency, Luis Felipe Puentes, said on Twitter. In addition to Mexico City, people were also killed in Puebla, Morelos, Mexico state and Guerrero, said Interior Minister Miguel Osorio Chong.

Mobile app for retiring govt staff

AIIR New Delhi, Sept 21: Government will today launch a mobile application for central government employees to help them to monitor the progress of their pension settlement cases. Retired employees will also be able to assess their superannuation funds and record complaints through the pension calculator. Minister of State for Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh will launch the app in New Delhi. Dr Singh will also inaugurate the first Pension Adalat. The Ministry said, the Pension Adalats is being convened with the objective of bringing the aggrieved pensioner, the concerned department, the bank on a common table so that such cases can be settled within the framework of extant rules.