

Editorial

Performance anxiety: and its election again

Panchayat election is knocking on the door. People are once more driven by the election euphoria. Though a local body election, candidates contesting the election are using every means to win the game - be it muscle power or Money power. Nothing is seen change in the way that elections were held earlier. The coming of new government are not of much help as the system remain the same.

The electoral politics (be it local body or assembly) being practiced in the country in its present form has come under increasing attacks and criticisms from all quarters, and with credible reasons which are acquiring greater relevance considering the fact that even after more than sixty years since the country regained independence, the rate of development and progress across every parameter remains dismally low, especially in comparison with countries like China and many of the southeast Asian countries.

Yet, despite the conceived flaws and drawbacks, representative democracy or electoral politics remains the most widely followed form of electing public representatives throughout the world, a clear indication that either the system or the method of implementation has gone awry, either through inefficiency or as a deliberate mechanism. The seemingly inexplicable contradiction should be analysed in detail if the country is to make radical changes and expedite progress and development.

A perfect or fail-safe system, when used in the context of a political environment, is something non-existent, and yet this inherent drawback should not be allowed to be used as an excuse to cover up deficiencies or, more alarmingly, to pilfer from the huge amount of resources allocated for public welfare by a few who have the wherewithal to control and regulate such schemes. There has been a perceptible increase in the pace of initiation of development measures with more promises and assurances, a signal to the changing work ethos of the government and the increasing awareness of the general populace of the intricacies of governance coupled with the willingness to air one's views and opinions ably supported, and at times, sensationalized by the rapidly expanding reach and influence of the print and electronic media. What is woefully absent is the fruitful completion of these initiatives. Till date, almost every public project conceived for the general welfare of the public has yet to have a smooth run and are often beset with disruptions, cost and time overrun, and in many cases, ending up being scrapped altogether after huge amount of funds have been sunk in.

There surely has to be a remedy for these unfortunate and undesirable deviations and shortcomings. Public opinions have it that the overlapping jurisdiction and authority of many implementing agencies and departments have been playing an unenviable role in propagating such rampant inefficiencies, discord and opportunities for pilferage and misappropriation in the actual implementation of the schemes and projects which are always often launched with much pomp and promise. A persistent and continuous monitoring system with clearly defined objectives and procedures should help in carrying out the plans.

A system of checks and measures to take prompt actions, whether remedial or punitive, should also be in place which would act as a deterrent for any individual or department with the intention or inclination to deviate from the given procedures and process. Perhaps it is high time for the government think tank to hunker down and draw up a system which would improve the delivery or implementation system rather than conjuring up populist schemes and grand plans that serve to benefit a few unscrupulous individuals because of the inherent loopholes and defects that allows them an easy escape route.

Registration Certificate lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my original Registration certificate (Registration No. 15120010/2015) issued by Manipur University on the way between Kanglatombi and Sekmai on 5/9/2017. Finder are requested to kindly handover the same to the undersigned. Sd/-
Veronica Quikiumali Wijnunamai
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THE BUDDHA SAID:

THE MORE THE GOVERNMENT MAKE RULES, THE MORE THE PEOPLE WILL FIND LOOPHOLES TO BREAK THEM

By Sanjoo Thangjam

Albert Einstein once said that if there were any religion that could cope with modern scientific needs it will be Buddhism as it has the characteristics of what would be expected in a cosmic religion for the future: It transcends a personal god, dogmas and theology; it covers both the natural and the spiritual, and it is based on a religious sense arising from the experience of all things, natural and the spiritual, as a meaningful unity. Therefore, in view of a above premises or rather in another terms, what Albert Einstein meant to say is that unlike human beings, animals have no politics, or government, religion or education, but yet maintain themselves without facing many difficulties among themselves. What would be the situation among human beings, if they were allowed to live without any government, religion or education?

And for this raison d'être, the Buddha said that Government cannot control human beings merely by imposing more and more rules. The more the Government make rules, the more the people will find loopholes to break them. If man or woman were morally trained by a religion which makes him or her understand why he or she should behave as a good citizen, no problems would arise.

Political religions have no authority to impose religious laws. Their duty is to uphold the religious principles, introduced by the enlightened religious teachers to maintain peace and order in the society. Subsequently, Mahatma Gandhi as well said, "I do not accept India of my dream to develop one religion, to be wholly Hindu, Christian or wholly Muslim, but I want it to be wholly tolerant with its religions working side by side with one another."

Yet again in disparity, people may cheat the Government but not religion. One who tries to cheat

religion cheats oneself. Discipline cannot be brought out by coercion and compulsion or by science, but by sincerely following a religion, which stands for peace, purity and happiness. And we should not judge the merits or demerits of a religion simply by watching certain ill-conceived practices and beliefs adopted by illiterate people in the name of religion.

The original teachings of the great teachers are open to everybody and must be examined before criticism is made. Irreligion is sometimes propagated under the garment of religion. Many people think religion is to found only in a place of worship and a guru and they regard religion as suitable for old folks or women but not for the youths, educated or rich people.

To them, religion can only be found within the covers of some musty books but not among the flowers that bloom so freshly in the fields. These ideas are the results of their negligence, laziness and misunderstanding. Therefore, the Buddha said that in his eyes, a religious man is one who is leading a noble life. Such a person can be a follower of any religion or even a person without any religious label. Yet, if such a person could purify his mind from various defilements or evil thoughts, then he will be able to enjoy a happy, peaceful, contented life and finally attain everlasting happiness.

It is not easy for a person to prove that he is more religious than others, just because he worships and prays so many times a day or by making offerings in the name of a god or a religious teacher. The Buddhists believe that the only way to be religious is by following noble principles to develop the moral and spiritual aspects of our life without harming others.

The Buddha said that we also cannot show the progress in religion simply by erecting big buildings as places of worship, or by making huge images, or

through various functions and ceremonies, or organising some colourful and attractive religious activities to bring more and more people into religion.

But we can show the progress of a religion according to the behaviour of the followers of the religions, how they convince others through their decent life and kindness, sincerity, harmless and unblamable life.

The quotations written below are the sayings of the founders of several religious teachers as well as great philosophers, thinkers, scientists, historians, psychologists, politicians and free thinkers. Their names and references are given below in many places.

1. BUDDHISM IS A LIVING RELIGIONS
Buddhism influenced Indian life in a hundred ways, as it was bound to, for it must be remembered that it was a living, dynamic, and wide-spread religion in India for over thousand years.

Pandit Nehru

2. SCIENCE AND RELIGION
Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind.

Albert Einstein

3. BELIEF IN CHARMS AND MAGIC
Some people resort to charms, magic, supernatural powers and mantras to overcome their problems. But nobody knows just how far they can succeed through such beliefs and practices.

Swami Vivekananda

4. WHY RELIGION WAS INTRODUCED
Religious belief is the invention of a wise man statesman who wished to restrain men from secret and hidden vices.

5. EVERYTHING IS INTERDEPENDENT
World depend on God and God depends on world. All are interdependent.

Prof. Whitehead

6. EXPERIENCE OF THE DIVINE IN MAN

Religion is not a set of doctrines but it is experience. And religious teachers

experience is based on realisation of the presence of the divine in man.

Dr. Radhakrishnan

7. GOD MUST BE IN THE MIND
Beware of the man whose god is in the skies.

8. HOW WE BEHAVE IN FRONT OF GOD
Before God we are equally wise - equally foolish.

Albert Einstein

9. WHY RELIGION INFLUENCES HATRED
We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another.

Jonathan Swift

10. RELIGION IS TO CONQUER
Religion is the conquest of ear; the antidote of failure and death.

Dr. Radhakrishnan

11. MORAL CONDUCT AND RELIGION
Religion is central part of our education that determines our moral conduct.

H.G. Wells

12. MORAL PRINCIPLE ARE IN RELIGION
Religion is the recognition of our moral principles as laws that must not be transgressed.

Kant

13. Concept of god is important
If the concept of god did not exist, somehow or other, man would have created one because it is very important for psyche. A divine power is necessary to allay our innate fear.

Anotole France

And last but not the least, I, as a lay Buddhist respect and honour the founders and teachers of other religions. All the religious teachers deserve respects and honour, for they have also done service to mankind. If I like, I can also keep pictures or symbols of these religious teachers in my home. Because Buddhism advises us to honour those who are worthy of honour.

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

National & International News

Indian institutions can meet human rights challenges: US

Washington, Sept. 8: The US believes that Indian institutions have the ability to meet challenges posed by cases of infringement of human rights like the killing of Indian journalist Gauri Lankesh, a top American diplomat has said. Lankesh, 55, known for her left-leaning outlook and forthright views on Hindutva politics, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Bangalore on Tuesday.

Addressing a Congressional subcommittee during a hearing on South Asia, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells said India provides the "highest constitutional protections" for religious minorities, and the goal of the US is to work with India to encourage it to meet the goals set in its constitution and laws.

"You know, there are cases, obviously, of religious — as we detail in both the Human Rights Report and the International Religious Freedom Report — of infringements, and there was a tragic murder of a journalist just this week who was often the subject of nationalist criticism," she said, in an apparent reference to the brutal killing of Lankesh. She said these are the challenges for any democracy, but India is a democracy, and it is a "vibrant democracy". "And we have respect for Indian

institutions and ability to raise and meet these challenges. And we certainly, in all of our engagements, at senior levels, encourage the Indian government to do so," Wells said in response to a question from Congressman Ted Yoho, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

In a statement, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said it "is deeply shocked" by leading Indian journalist and media freedom defender Lankesh's murder in Bangalore.

It called on the authorities to do everything possible to quickly find and punish her killers. "We firmly condemn this terrible

murder, which has deprived the media of a tough and determined champion and has deprived India of a voice that was fundamental for the country's democratic life," said Daniel Bastard, the head of RSF's Asia-Pacific desk.

The Indian National Overseas Congress in the US said Lankesh's death appears to be a "meticulously planned" and executed to silence a powerful voice.

"The opposing forces could not match her rationale pointing up the dangers of right-wing politics and its possibly disastrous effect on the secular fabric of the nation. Her harsh criticism of prevailing casteism in the society was often

directed at institutions that still harbour those sentiments and made her more of a passionate activist who had little patience for the status-quo," George Abraham of INOC-USA said in a statement. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director General Irina Bokova also urged Indian authorities to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

"Any attack on the media is an attack on the fundamental right to freedom of expression of each member of society. I urge the Indian authorities to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice and this crime is punished," Bokova said.

36 IAS officers transferred in UP

PII Lucknow, Sept 8: The Uttar Pradesh government has transferred 36 IAS officers, appointing Anup Chandra Pandey as the new Industrial and Infrastructure Development Commissioner.

Prominent among those transferred included Member Judicial (Revenue Board) Lalit Verma, who has been made Additional Chief Secretary General Administration, while Alok Tandon who was on wait list has been made CEO Noida and MD Noida Metro Corporation.

According to the transfer order released by the government last night, while Pandey will be new IICD, CEO-Greater Noida Shailesh Krishna was appointed as Director General Deen Dayal Upadhaya State administration and Management Academy. Principal Secretary Agriculture Rajnish Gupta has been shunted as member judicial, Revenue Board, Allahabad while CEO Noida Amit Mohan Prasad will be new Principal Secretary Agriculture. Sanjiv Kumar Mittal in wait list has been made Principal Secretary

Finance and Finance Commissioner, Vice Chairman Agra Development Authority Ritu Maheshwari has been made DM Ghaziabad. DM Mainpuri Yashwant Rao has been posted as Registrar Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Law University while DM Ghazipur Sanjay Kumar Khatri has been made DM Raebareilly, it said. Special Secretary IICD, Monika Rani has been made MD Farukhabad, while Alok Kumar Pandey who was in wait list has been made Special Secretary IICD and NRI Department.