

Poetry Section

Attitude

By- Dr Nunglekam Premi Devi  
Independent Scholar

Always I do, as always I did,  
I stand aloof silently, cool and calmly;  
I love the way, I was and I am and I use to,  
On one seems understand 'me' and desire motifs;  
Understanding far left behind; some seems awkward,  
Some seems hopeless; friends with foe, surprisingly!  
Left out alone nowhere; sitting, standing and waiting;  
Come closer no body, alone I draw my path;  
I choose not, stay 'away', nor I design living,  
My 'moves' an 'attitude' too biased;  
My 'looks' an 'attitude' dull and boring and wicked;  
What may come, which may goes, I intrude lesser;  
Neither I seek the truth; I may be dismay,  
Numbers countless, wandering hither and thither;  
Should I? Should I not? Silently I do concern.

I pray enough dutifully; healthy and wise  
I suggest staying happy and join 'them' loudly;  
I smile for a cause; and I laugh bitterness, just as I do  
Morning's a friend, smooth and serene, I witness much;  
I think not a cause and not for a cause; silently as I stay,  
I cried no bloody; No vicious I choose to friend;  
Help me not merrily; Held me not harshly; I pray  
Understanding! 'They' took away from me,  
My 'gestures' an 'attitude' motionless and mindful;  
Lone I walk, distant as I go, I carry 'attitude';  
Swinging all my way, I pursue dreams living high;  
I bother not any, friends and family,  
Still, they doubt 'me' in, I have 'attitude' silently.

Asking myself hundreds and thousands,  
Lesser the words, I speak of humanity's kindness;  
'They' knows me little effortless, I doubt all egos,  
What makes 'them' so? I know nothing,  
How carefree I am? Wrap within those solitude;  
Seclusion! I know some; still I company all peace,  
'Think' all I could, walking through the rhythm  
Judging onto, fancying and engaging I go wildly;  
Lie! Lie 'me' not to; I hate the worse  
I see friendship and all a lot best friends,  
My 'No' to an 'attitude' simply,  
My 'yes' to an 'attitude' so daring unfair;  
Have I touch them sharing? Crazy I go unpopular;  
Freaking out sadly I console 'me' soothingly,  
How may? What may I be? I have 'attitude' silently.

Indian on pilgrimage to Pakistan fails to return home

**Agency Amritsar, April 22**  
An Indian national, who had gone to Pakistan on a 10-day pilgrimage as part of the Sikh Jatha on April 12, has failed to return home, police said today. The Sikh Jatha returned home yesterday but 24-year-old Amarjit Singh, a resident of village Niranjapur in Amritsar district, was not part of it. "The group of Sikh pilgrims after observing Baisakhi festival and paying obeisance at various Sikh shrines in Pakistan returned yesterday but Amarjit Singh was found missing", SSP, Amritsar (Rural), Paramjit Singh said. Singh had arrived in Pakistan along with other pilgrims to celebrate Baisakhi on April 12. His disappearance was only noticed when the Jatha started its return journey to India, according to a Pakistani media report. Singh's passport, like that of

other pilgrims, was with the officials of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), who immediately informed top officials when Singh failed to collect it within the stipulated time. According to an initial probe, Singh disappeared on reaching Lahore from Nankana Sahib. A search to locate him is underway, the report said. Earlier, a woman member of the Jatha, Kiran Bala too failed to come back after she reportedly solemnised marriage in Pakistan with a Muslim after embracing Islam. Both Amarjit and Bala had gone to Pakistan for a 10-day pilgrimage as part of the Jatha on April 12. Amarjit had earlier reportedly worked in Malaysia, but had been living at home and helping his family with their agriculture business for the last couple of months.

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National & International News

AICTE planning to drop 1.3 lakh engineering seats from July this year

**Agency Kanpur, April 22**  
The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is planning to reduce intake of seats by almost 1.3 lakhs in B.Tech and M.Tech courses, from the new academic year, starting from July this year. In regards to this, students of Harcourt Butler Technical University in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur have blamed increasing unemployment and unwillingness to take up engineering as their future careers for the decision. A student of the university welcomed the AICTE's move and told ANI, "Many students are doing preparations for engineering. Parents also are worried about their child's performance. However, as per industry standards, they don't know proper engineering and hence, they don't acquire the

practical knowledge needed today. It's good that the government is pushing for fewer seats so that children are admitted in good institutes and get a good and quality education." Meanwhile, a professor at Harcourt Butler Technical University expressed concerns over the decision by the AICTE to reduce the number of seats in B.Tech and M.Tech courses. "One of the major reason behind this is that AICTE couldn't provide job opportunities in the ratio in which they increased the number of seats. Such a situation only exists in private colleges. Government colleges have followed uniform standards in imparting quality education and practical knowledge in engineering, but for private colleges, it has been changing over the years." Another professor at the university

said as per the current industry standards, 96 percent of passed-out engineers were not employable. Many Information Technology (IT) companies were laying off engineers as part of the cost-cutting move. "Engineering students have not moved on with the industry standards. They need more practical exposure. Which is why, students are not taking admissions in engineering colleges," the professor added. Another student also voiced her concerns over the reduction of seat intake in B.Tech and M.Tech courses. "In India, when a child is born, parents say that he or she will become an engineer. But they do not see the future prospects. The student may have passed out, but does not get a job anywhere. So, that student's value in the IT industry is zero and useless," the

student said. She further said that many private engineering colleges did not have proper laboratories for M.Tech students and the syllabus for engineering courses was not up to the current industry standards. "Due to this, many of them are looking for different job prospects such as opening a start-up or making videos on YouTube. Admissions for engineering have become less over the years. Also, private engineering colleges do not guarantee the students proper jobs." As per media reports, at least 83 educational institutions in the country, having around 24,000 seats have applied for permanent closure. Also, over 450 colleges have sought permission from the AICTE to discontinue some undergraduate and postgraduate engineering courses.

Senior Merchant Navy Officer Arrested For Allegedly Stalking 5 College Girls

**Agency New Delhi, April 22**  
A 29-year-old man was arrested by the Delhi Police on Friday, for allegedly stalking and sending lewd messages to five girls of a college in south Delhi. The man has been identified as Suraj Dey, a senior officer, working with a Hong Kong-based merchant navy Company, said police sources. Reports suggest, the accused, a resident of Amar Colony, met one of the girls in a park where they exchanged phone numbers, after he

told her that he was looking for a PG accommodation for his friend. The girl told the police that a few days later; the accused started misbehaving with her on the phone and when she blocked his number, he sent her obscene messages from another phone number. He also started stalking her, said the police. The student filed a police complaint on April 17. The accused also threatened the girl after she filed the complaint, say police sources. On the basis of the girl's complaint, the police arrested Mr Dey and started investigations.

During investigations, the police found that the accused had been sending lewd messages to four more girls of the same college. He used multiple phone numbers to harass the girls, say sources in the police. On Saturday, he was produced in court and sent to three-day judicial custody. On April 15, an Army captain and a hostel warden were arrested for allegedly stalking and molesting a woman professor in Kanpur. A case was registered against the two under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. The army

official, who is a doctor, had come to the city to attend a medicos' meeting where he met the woman professor, who is also a doctor, say police sources. According to a complaint filed by the professor, the army official, who was in an inebriated condition, misbehaved with her and tried to pull her away from her car when she was returning to her hostel. She also alleged that the army captain, accompanied by the hostel warden, followed her to her college hostel in Bithoor, and started knocking at her door.

President signs ordinance on death penalty for rape of children under 12

**Agency New Delhi, April 22**  
President Ram Nath Kovind today signed an ordinance to pave way for providing stringent punishment, including death penalty, for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years. The Union Cabinet on Saturday approved the ordinance to allow courts to award death penalty to those convicted of raping girls under 12 years. New fast-track courts will be set up to deal with such cases and special forensic kits for rape cases will be given to all police stations and

hospitals in the long term, according to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2018. It stipulates stringent punishment for perpetrators of rape, particularly of girls below 16 and 12 years. Death sentence has been provided for rapists of girls under 12 years, officials said quoting the ordinance. The minimum punishment in case of rape of women has been increased from rigorous imprisonment of seven years to 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment, they said. In case of rape of a girl under 16 years, the minimum punishment has been increased from 10 years to 20

years, extendable to imprisonment for rest of life, which means jail term till the convict's "natural life". The punishment for gangrape of a girl below 16 years will invariably be imprisonment for the rest of life of the convict, the officials said. Stringent punishment for rape of a girl under 12 years has been provided with the minimum jail term being 20 years which may go up to life in prison or death sentence, they said. The Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Evidence Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual

Offences (POCSO) Act will now stand amended. The measure also provides for speedy investigation and trial. The time limit for investigation of all cases of rape has been prescribed, which has to be mandatorily completed within two months. The deadline for the completion of trial in all rape cases will be two months, the officials said. A six-month time limit for the disposal of appeals in rape cases has also been prescribed. There will also be no provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gang rape of a girl under 16 years.

Rohingyas lose means of livelihood in refugee camp fire

**Agency New Delhi, April 22**  
Tasleema does not remember the last time she lived somewhere she could call home. As she fled Arakan in Myanmar to Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and finally arrived in New Delhi, Tasleema, a member of the besieged Rohingya community, found that she was always on the move. A fire in the only Rohingya camp in Delhi has displaced her again. At least 44 shanties housing Rohingya refugees in southeast Delhi's Sarita Vihar were gutted in a fire early last Sunday. It left 226 Rohingyas, including 100 women and 50 children, homeless once again. Tasleema, 23, was among the 75,000 Rohingyas, the majority of them Muslims, displaced by two waves of violence between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine in 2012. Thousands of people fled Myanmar then to take refuge in neighbouring countries, including India.

"I have been on the move since I was 17. My children have been born as refugees and they are growing up seeing one problem after another," she told PTI. The fire that broke out because of a short circuit in the electrical wiring system in the camp spread rapidly and razed it to the ground. No casualties were reported, but the refugees lost all their belongings, including their UNHCR refugee cards which help prevent arbitrary arrests, detention and deportation. The fire spread fast as many of our tents had plastic coverings and the houses that had gas cylinders burst, spreading the fire further," Abu Fazal, another resident of the camp, said. Refugee Amina Begum noted how they had made peace with their situation and were trying to rebuild their lives, but the fire not only destroyed their shanties but also their hope of finally burying the horrors of the past. "I had bought a sewing machine using which I started making clothes to earn a living but I even lost that machine in

the fire. It is like we have been pushed six years back from where we started," Amina, 28, said. Children in the camp still look for their belongings in the charred debris every day since the fire, she added. We are still trying to cope up but what do I tell my children who lost all their toys and school books in the fire? Amina said through a tattered curtain in a tiny space where she was trying to put her six-month-old baby to bed. Before the fire, the Rohingyas refugees had constructed several brick and mud huts. They are now living under plastic covers. The men sleep outside and the women inside some 20 makeshift tents covered with dupattas, clothes and mosquito nets. NGOs representatives said the camps lacked basic services such as sanitation, healthcare, education facilities or drinking water and after the fire the living condition in the shelter had further deteriorated. "Children are especially vulnerable to mosquitoes and diseases and the makeshift camp is further increasing

their vulnerability," said Syed Azhar, national secretary of the Students Islamic Organisation of India, one of the groups seeking to provide aid to the refugees. Many refugees have lost their means of livelihood with the fire. "The refugees had their own small society inside with small grocery and tailoring shops. Now they have to start from scratch," Azhar said. The UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency, told PTI it had reissued cards to the 226 refugees that could act as their identification document. As a matter of priority, UNHCR has re-issued documents to affected families. UNHCR ID cards help prevent arbitrary arrests, detention and deportation of refugees and asylum-seekers and ease their access to essential services such as health and education and legal assistance. Temporary shelter arrangements are currently in place near the site. Other shelter options are being explored," UNHCR policy associate Ipsitha Sengupta said in