

# Editorial

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

## Education: addressing the core issue

The BJP-led state government have just observed the completion of its first year of governance, and while many critics have already started highlighting loopholes and drawbacks in its functioning, one cannot deny the fact that the pace of developmental activities aimed at improving the lives of the public and increase convenience, and the perception of transparency in administration have increased considerably- an important indicator of the level of trust in the government by the public.

However, there remains an area where any attempts and efforts being prepared and implemented so far have failed to get anywhere near the desired result or the predetermined objective- the education sector. The present education scenario in the state can at best be described as controlled chaos. The makeshift system in place at present that is prone to changes with the slightest interference from forces from within and beyond the socially accepted spheres have led to an air of uncertainty amongst the students and school administrators that has ultimately affected the psyche of the students. The grand schemes and studied projects of the government have so far proved to be a dud, but what is of greater concern is the visibly nonchalant attitude of the state officials and authorities to the worsening situation especially with regard to the functioning and administration of the government run schools in the state. It may be mentioned that The Manipur Private School (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2017, and Manipur Coaching Institute (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2017, were passed unanimously during the last assembly session in a desperate bid on the part of the state government to curb the mushrooming private educational institutions which have cropped up due to the failure of the government educational institutions to perform their basic duties.

The mad rush for admission to these private schools have resulted in various unscrupulous elements to take advantage of the situation and have employed methods fair and foul for their personal benefits at the cost of these desperate students and their parents. And while the move of the state government is an attempt to regulate and control the situation, the effort can by no means be termed as a comprehensive or lasting solution. On the contrary, some concerned intellectuals have expressed dismay at the trajectory of the whole exercise which is seen as a deviation from the real challenge of finding a comprehensive and pragmatic solution which is both sustainable and flexible enough to incorporate changes with the passage of time.

The fact of the matter is that instead of diverting resources for slapdash solutions to the worsening problem, it is time for the state government and its department to get down and get into the root of the matter. Denying the fact that the state run education system is in total rot is still proving to be the biggest hurdle to initializing a radical change in the education sector in the state.

Appreciating the role the private schools are playing in maintaining a basic level of efficiency and credibility in education would be a good point to start. There are various points and systems that can be emulated and adapted from these private educational institutions. Taking them as partners rather than rivals in the new endeavour would yield better results.

### Name changed

I, Ajay Kumar Jain Resident of Mahabir Pharmacy Thangal Bazar Imphal declare that my son **Naman Kumar Jain** and **Naman Jain** is same.

Sd/-

Ajay Kumar Jain  
Thangal Bazar

### Name changed

I, the undersigned, **Nongmaithem Bidyarani Devi** of Yumnam Leikai, Imphal West, Manipur do hereby declare that, I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name **Nongmaithem Bidyarani**, as I have assumed my new name **Nongmaithem Bidyarani Devi**.

Sd/-

Nongmaithem Bidyarani Devi

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## A World without Judgment

By: Prem Rawat

I want to feel good every single living second of my life. I do. What does that mean to me? Priority number one. And what else does that mean? It means to try and try and never give up. Never, ever give up the effort to achieve it a hundred percent. The beauty of this choice is that you don't have to be a rocket scientist to be able to do it. Anybody can do it. Anybody.

There is a place where a human being is not judged. Good, bad, right, wrong are not the issues. Wouldn't you like to live in a place like that - a place where you are not looked at according to what you have done? Don't we feel lucky, to know that it doesn't follow the world's social structure? It doesn't say, "You are a good director of

so-and-so Company. All right, you can come in." No. It does not say, "Okay, you are a nun. You can come in," or "You are a monk, fine. You got it." No, It doesn't matter who you are, rich or poor. No judgment; no judgment whatsoever. Is there a world like that? Absolutely - and it is within you.

We do not need anybody else to judge us, right? We can very easily do that ourselves. And, of course, in case we ever miss, there is the world waiting to judge us. And if the world misses, you have your relatives. It is like there are all these built in safety checks, just in case somebody misses.

Yet, there isn't a single person in this world who likes to be judged. Is there a place where I will not be judged? Is there a

place where there can be an acceptance for who I am and not for what I have done? That would really be something to be thankful for—not to have to weigh myself against my accomplishments and my failures. Because if I have to look at my failures, what am I going to be thankful for? And that is the story of so many, many people. Gratitude does not come like it should—naturally—because the barricades of judgment stand in the way. In this world, the sweetest thing has been contaminated by the burden of judgment.

But there is a world, where there is no judgment. There is a love—a love that can reach every human being and touch every human heart. There is a feeling. There is an understanding. And that is the

world inside of you. **Which world do you want?**

This is what Prem Rawat, an International Speaker on the topic of Humanity and Peace says. The honorary title "Ambassador of Peace" has been bestowed upon him by Governmental and academic institutions because of his ability to inspire global audiences. He is also closely involved in various humanitarian programs and projects. In 2001, he started, The Prem Rawat Foundation (PRF), with a mission to address the fundamental human needs of food, water and peace. TPRF's-Food for People, is an innovative program that provides nutritious meals to children and ailing adults in India, Nepal and Ghana. Prem Rawat's message is available on [timesstoday.com](http://timesstoday.com) and [rajivdaykender.org](http://rajivdaykender.org).

## National & International News

### Rajya Sabha adjourns till tomorrow amid protests

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, Mar 20:** Rajya Sabha was today adjourned for the day after parties from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh disrupted proceedings over their state specific demands.

The protesting MPs from the AIADMK, DMK and TDP entered the Well soon after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj made a

statement on the 39 missing Indians in Iraq and Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad made brief remarks.

Yesterday also the House was adjourned for the day without transacting any business after parties from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh disrupted proceedings. The TDP and TRS members were

shouting slogans for special status for Andhra Pradesh while Tamil Nadu parties - DMK and AIADMK- raised the Cauvery water issue.

Amid the protest, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel today said the government was ready to discuss all issues. Goel said the Narendra Modi-led government has done good work and "we are not afraid" of

anything, amid thumping of benches by BJP members.

In an effort to bring order in the House, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said that he has been stressing from day one that all important issues, including banking scam and Cauvery issue, should be debated. As the protesting members kept standing in the Well, Naidu adjourned the House for the day.

### 39 Indians abducted by Islamic State are dead: Here's what Sushma Swaraj told Parliament

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, March 20:** Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in a statement in Parliament said all 39 Indians, who were kidnapped by ISIS in Iraq's Mosul in June 2015, were killed and their bodies have been recovered. Providing a timeline of the events, Sushma said, "As many as 40 Indians along with some Bangladeshis were abducted by the terrorist organisation ISIS three years ago. But one of them escaped by posing as a Muslim from Bangladesh and the remaining 39 Indians were taken to Badoosh and killed later."

Swaraj said, "The last discussion on the matter was held on July 27, 2017 when I had said that I will not declare them dead till I get any concrete proof. It will be a great irresponsibility and a sin on the part of our government. But I had said the day I will get a strong proof, I will request the chairman to stop the Parliament proceedings and give information about it. And if Parliament would not be in session, I will inform the people of India within 10 minutes on Twitter."

She said, "I have two information. First, Harjit Masih who escaped was lying and, second, the Indians are dead. And I have proofs for these." Masih, a resident of Gurdaspur in Punjab, was arrested in March this year on charges of forgery connected to an illegal immigration racket.

The External Affairs Minister further said, "When General VK Singh went to Iraq to track them, I asked him to meet the owner of the company in Mosul where the Indians were working. The owner told Singh that 40 Indians and some Bangladeshis were working in his company. When ISIS started capturing Mosul, he asked all the people who were working there to leave. Iraqi residents left first, then the others, but the Indians and the Bangladeshis did not leave."

"The owner then called his caterer, who said that one day when they were coming to have food at his place, the ISIS people saw them and asked, 'Who are you?'"

Relating further, Sushma said: "They said we are Indians and Bangladeshis. The ISIS then said that these people will not stay here

from now and asked the caterer to take them to a textile factory. After reaching there, they separated Indians and Bangladeshis. After some days, they took the Bangladeshis to Erbil, capital of Kurdistan. The caterer said they gave these responsibilities to him." "The caterer told Singh that he got ready to take them to Erbil in his own van." Sushma said, "Harjit knows what he did that night. And I am guessing they asked the caterer to give Masih a muslim name and free him along with the Bangladeshis. The owner said that once he got a call from a man called Ali who said he is the one who is supposed to leave with the Bangladeshis."

The EAM said, "Harjit called me from Erbil and asked me to save him. I first asked that how did he reach there. He was talking in Punjabi. He said he doesn't know anything about that and just said Aunti ji please save me."

"He later cooked up a story saying we were taken to a jungle where ISIS terrorists fired. The bullet shot his

leg. But somehow he managed to leave and the others got killed. Hence, Masih's story was wrong. He had left in the beginning only by becoming Ali," she said.

She further added, "Now the next day when the ISIS counted the heads, they found out that only 39 Indians were there. So they thought this is not the proper place to keep them now. Then the ISIS took them to Badush."

"The company's owner said he doesn't know anything about what happened after that. There is a prison in Badush. Whether they kept the Indians there or killed them at the same time, I have no idea about that."

But then General VK Singh, our ambassador Pradeep Rajput and an officer from the Iraq government together left for Badush. "When I raised this issue in Parliament last time, Iraq's foreign minister was here and I asked him that when VK Singh goes there, I want a person from the Iraq government to be with him so that he doesn't face any difficulty in tracing the Indians. The Iraqi

minister had assured me of that," she said. Search operations led to a mound in Badoosh where locals said some bodies were buried by the ISIS. Deep penetration radars were used to establish that the mound indeed was a mass grave, she said, adding the Indian authorities requested their Iraqi counterpart to exhume the bodies.

Swaraj said the mass grave had exactly 39 bodies, with distinctive features like long hair, non-Iraqi shoes and IDs. The bodies were then sent to Baghdad for DNA testing. For verification of bodies DNA samples of relatives were sent there, four state governments, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar were involved. DNA testing by Martyrs Foundation has established the identity of 38 Indians while there has been 70 per cent matching of the DNA for the 39th person, she said. Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh will be flying to Iraq to bring back the bodies on a special flight.

### Railways in talks with youth who protested for jobs: Fadnavis

**Agency**  
**Mumbai, Mar 20:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed the Legislative Assembly that the railway administration has initiated talks with students who protested in Mumbai today demanding permanent jobs.

Lakhs of commuters had to face hardships during the peak office hours as hundreds of agitated students blocked rail traffic, including suburban services between the busy Matunga and Dadar stations, demanding jobs in the Indian Railways.

Nearly 500 students from several states, who have done apprenticeship with the Indian Railways and want permanent jobs, came out and sat on railway tracks at about 6.45 AM.

The protest was called off at around 10.35 AM, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters at a hurriedly-called press conference in New Delhi. Goyal has urged them to join the ongoing recruitment drive that ends on March 31.

Making a statement in the house, Fadnavis said railways have increased the reservation for apprentices from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. "The youth are demanding

100 per cent reservation for apprentices in railway jobs. Railway administration has initiated talks with the protesters and a solution would be arrived at," he said.

### No immediate arrest of public servants in cases under SC/ST Act, rules Supreme Court

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, March 20:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday laid down stringent conditions to prevent misuse of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and held that there shall be no immediate arrest on any complaint filed under the law against public servants.

A Bench of Justices Adarsh Goel and U U Lalit ruled out that before arresting a public servant under the SC/ST Act, a preliminary probe by an officer not below the rank of

deputy superintendent is a must. The apex court bench also said there shall be no immediate arrest in cases lodged under the SC/ST Act against public servants. There is no absolute bar in granting anticipatory bail in cases lodged against public servants under the SC/ST Act, the court.

To avoid false cases, the Supreme Court said an officer of the rank of DSP will hold preliminary inquiry whether allegations make out for a case under the SC/ST Act.