

Editorial

Thursday, September 6, 2018

Honours to Bamboo; an ubiquitous gift

It is just around a week from today that the "World Bamboo Day" will be observing throughout the world. In an ever increasing need to replace and supplement the man-made materials that is being utilized to fuel the constructions and creation of infrastructures, newer avenues and innovative use of natural resources are being taken up in a big way.

One of the most promising and abundantly available natural resource of building material being bamboo, the world is taking a renewed look at this ubiquitous grass to sustain and fuel buildings and other infrastructures of the future. The inherent advantages of this unique material has only been starting to be appreciated- from the climate friendly and relatively economic attributes to the added aesthetics and versatility, not to mention its unique ability to sustain and thrive in diverse climatic conditions.

Yet so far, apart from celebrating the day and waxing eloquence on the subject once a year, precious little have been done by the State authorities, nor has there been any support or visible effort by the Government to infuse the private entrepreneurs to work with this wonderful material and develop commercially viable products. The most glaring point being the lack of any facility for treatment of bamboo- a prerequisite step for development of any product using bamboo due to its propensity to attract termites otherwise. Manipur is naturally endowed with an abundant supply of huge varieties of bamboo, and cultivating them commercially will not be a formidable task, given the conducive climatic conditions, yet the lack of infrastructures coupled with the lackadaisical attitude of the Government in making these infrastructures available as well as the indifference shown in taking the initiative in promoting and encouraging the individuals and organizations in their efforts to develop and popularize bamboo products has so far resulted in the precious and versatile material being relegated to temporary substitutes for fencing and as makeshift scaffoldings- a huge waste of efforts.

For a fund-starved State with very limited opportunities for gainful employment such as Manipur, the humble bamboo grass presents the perfect opportunity to enable the society to pole-vault itself out of the pit of misery and trouble it is in at present.

A sustainable system for value addition and marketing the products with a planned approach towards the development of artisans and adequate raw materials will ensure that our naturally endowed State benefits from such a venture.

Sensible fashion

Handloom and fashion has been an integral part of the Manipuri culture since time immemorial. Many folk tales and lore have been woven around this traditional craft- and the subtle art of displaying them, which has been so deeply ingrained with the way of life that a woman's worthiness is measured in part in her ability to weave and work the loom and in adorning themselves in accordance with the occasion. The relevance of handloom and fashion to a society can be further understood from the distinct and varied patterns and unique colors to identify a particular tribe or group, as also the way of dressing them. Fashion- a popular way of doing something, when viewed in the context of dressing, has undergone a sea change- influenced by the varied customs and traditions, amongst other things, to which we are increasingly being exposed to. These changes are intricately linked to the level of awareness a society has of other different societies and new trends being followed by them, especially of those more developed ones. While these points to a keen mindset with a desire to portray a more polished and developed culture and for self improvement, it is important to keep in mind the relevance of a particular trend to the society in which one exists. Fashion



designers and fashionistas can do a lot in promoting and developing our local resources and utilizing them in contemporary designs, alternative and innovative uses and presenting modified versions of our traditional motifs and patterns which can be used in different contemporary textiles and fabrics. But fashion for the sake of being different is not the right way of going about it. Aesthetics should be given importance over exclusivity- and appropriateness for the occasion be the priority else it will turn out to be an eyesore instead of the beauty and elegance with which fashion strives to achieve. In a land with more than 32 different tribes with their distinct and unique patterns that signifies the diversity of fashion as witnessed from times immemorial, surely there cannot be a better place for anyone to get their inspirations for clean, elegant and appropriate fashion sense.

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On the Present crisis at Manipur University

By- B. Angousana Sharma
An Onlooker.

Today, the people of Manipur floored on with curious to insight the hidden desire of the Vice Chancellor of Manipur University; rather exposed to be answerable subject of the H.R.D. Minister, as well as, Governor of Manipur. The prevailing atmosphere in M.U. carrying prolonged strike of MUSU, co-ordinating students bodies and teachers bodies against Prof. A.P. Pandey, reject Prof. Pandey to be V.C.

The People of Manipur have been continuously watching the situation of M.U. as well as the responsibility of the Authorities, leaders of the Nation. Indeed responsible leaders have to appropriate the academic career of the 30 thousand students belonged to Manipur University. Otherwise, chances of wild fire round the corner in Manipur. Prof. AP. Pandey creates the situation, hence he has been scanned with the constitution of an enquiry against him. He has been sent on leave after

appointment of the In-Charge V.C. But, I/C V.C. endeavouring to bring normalcy in the campus; in the meantime, Prof. Pandey has declared himself joining from leave. At the same time he has submitted petition to the High Court, to justify himself right, for the wrackage of administration in M.U.

Violating the norms of the inquiry and law of the land against him, rather by passing upcoming inquiry findings, which is necessary to be awaiting, Prof. Pandey once again trying to expose himself stubborn, irresponsibility and unsocial in public by ignoring the law of the land, by overlooking the academic career of the 30 thousand students, would be anti-social.

At this point of time our conscious is culminating upon the H.R.D. Minister for not advising the rejected V.C. Prof. Pandey, for enduring to wait the inquiry report; rather than, the V.C. is also showing political backing behind the crime. Therefore, he is bold looking even been discarded him in the Campus. But, Shri Narendra Modiji, the Prime Minister of India and Shri Yogi Adityanathji like personalities also

"HAS H.R.D. MINISTER NO RESPONSIBILITY, NOR GOVERNOR HAS MORAL PRESENCE TO THE IMFLAMING MUSU V/S V.C. TANGLE IN MANIPUR UNIVERSITY?"

must be associated from among the ruling govt., so that such deficiencies would be removed from the administration. Because, both of the leaders of the Nation are examples of clean career who can properly deal such corrupt V.C. at the earlier possible time. Because, both leaders have care of the nation; zero interest in family related matters. Otherwise, the ruling govt. and leaders might appear such incident frequently, which is national problem. At such point of time Her Excellency Governor of Manipur

could have intervened the maladministration problem coming up in the Manipur University. Such incident has frequently been occurred in Manipur due to lack of administration, lack of transparency in administration; selfish administration, mind sided administration exist in the corner of the top bureaucrats/leaders of the nation. This is the lack of democracy in the multi-party Parliamentary System of India; which can only remove by clean hand of the leaders.

The Impact and Import of Cartooning and Caricature as a Medium of Expression of Opinion

By : Dr. Aribam Ibomcha Sharma, IIS
New Editor and Head, Regional News Unit, AIR, Imphal

Introduction : Press Council of India is observing the National Press Day today, the 16th November, 2015 and is commemorating the day by holding a discussion on "The Impact and Import of Cartooning and Caricature as a Medium of Expression of Opinion". This day will also be an occasion to remember the two legends in the field of cartoon and caricature of journalism in India - Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Laxman popularly known as RK Laxman and Rajinder Puri. Both of them breathed their lasts in this year. Both are remembered for their creative genius.

Two legends of Indian Cartoon - Laxman and Puri : RK Laxman (24 October, 1921-26 January, 2015) was an Indian cartoonist, illustrator and humorist. He was best known for his creation The Common Man and for his daily cartoon strip "You Said It" in The Times of India, which started in 1951 and continued for five decades. After Shankar (Kesava Shankara Pillai who is considered as the father of political cartooning in India), Laxman became a household name among cartoonists in the country.

In a leader article entitled Uncommon Man : Laxman Speaks For The Ordinary Citizen in The Times of India on 28 March, 2005 Rajinder Puri wrote "Laxman pondered to the common man. Inevitably he created his own Common Man. The character caught the public's imagination and swept through the length and breadth of India to become a national icon. Laxman's draughtsmanship was impeccable. His knowledge of anatomy, eye for detail while drawing background and dexterous brushwork rendered his draughtsmanship world-class. He was never a stylist. His work is founded or realism, no fancy abstractions. I suspect he was inspired in part by the legendary David Low. But low used fewer lines and less detail. That painstaking elimination of unnecessary detail gave Low's work more simplicity and more strength.

It was Laxman's pocket cartoon that made him and his Common Man national icons. There was a time when all the maddening everyday inconveniences caused

by the city administration were caught brilliantly by Laxman to empathise with the ordinary citizen. Bombay learnt to wake up with morning tea and a rueful laugh over the Common Man's travails. The Common Man became a habit. He is now an addiction. The Times of India can't do without him".

Rajinder Puri (20 September, 1934-16 February, 2015) was an Indian cartoonist, veteran columnist and political activist. He has associated with The Hindustan Times and The Statesman as a cartoonist and writer and also with the Outlook magazine. His unique creation was Common Leader.

On his demise , noted political cartoonist Ajit Ninan wrote in the Times of India "The sheer power of a cartoonist's pen in plain black and white form is scary in the art of simplicity. Junior cartoonists were in awe of the mind and art Rajinder Puri generated. Senior cartoonists joked he wielded a dagger. That was him, the power of his mind, a combo of Vijayan, Abu, Ravi Shankar, RK and Shankar, so beautifully amalgamated into a synchronized punch. Puri's mind was pure because he had the anti-establishment mindset years before AAP(Aam Aadmi Party), that was the power of his mind.

Cartoon and Caricature : Cartoons and caricature are a powerful means of expression in media. While employing humour, cartoons and caricatures make the readers reflect on issues which are grave and serious; they often convey what words cannot. A cartoon is a form of two-dimensional illustrated visual art. While the specific definition has changed over time, modern usage refers to a typically non-realistic/semi-realistic drawing or painting intended for satire, caricature or humor or to the artistic style of such works.

Generally, cartoons are seen either on the front page of the newspaper or the editorial page. An editorial cartoon is an illustration containing a commentary that usually relates to current events or personalities. Such cartoons typically combine artistic skill, hyperbole and satire in order to question authority and draw attention to corruption and other social problems. Political cartoons can usually be found on the

editorial page of many newspapers. A pocket cartoon is a form of editorial cartoon which consists of a topical single-panel single-column drawing. It was introduced by Osbert Lancaster in 1939 at the Daily Express. A 2005 obituary by The Guardian of its pocket cartoonist David Austin said "Newspaper readers instinctively look to the pocket cartoon to reassure them that the disasters and afflictions besetting them each morning are not final. By taking a sideways look at the news and bringing out the absurd in it, the pocket cartoonist provides, if not exactly a silver lining, then at least a ray of hope." A caricature is a rendered image showing the features of its subject in a simplified or exaggerated way. Caricatures can be insulting or complimentary and can serve a political purpose or be drawn solely for entertainment. Caricatures of politicians are commonly used in editorial cartoons.

Impact and Import of Cartoon and Caricature:

Despite the perception in some quarters that cartoons constitute an important medium for framing social issues, they are often dismissed on the grounds of political absurdity and ideological insignificance. Cartoons are seen as offering just "passing chuckles" rather than any "deep reflection" on social issues. The perception may be related to the cartoon's discursive spatial limitation and its very nature as a visual mode of communication. Visual modes of communication are deemed deficient in performing analytical communication.

Chris Lamb's book, Drawn to Extremes : The Use and Abuse of Editorial Cartoons in the United States, paints a picture of the shrinking role of editorial cartoonists who are increasingly sidelined by a newspaper industry focused on the bottom-line. However, the recent Jyllands - Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy in Denmark, which sparked violent protests around the world, speak to the continuing important and potential media scholars still see cartoons as an important medium for the formation of public opinion on salient social issues. They are seen as both opinion-molding and opinion-reflecting. Cartoons are

intended to transform otherwise complex and opaque social events and situations into quick and easily readable depictions that facilitate comprehension of the nature of social issues and events. In doing so, they present society with visually social issues and events. In doing so, they present society with visually palpable and hyper-ritualized depictions (selectively exaggerated portions of reality) that attempt to reveal the essence and meaning of social events.

There are four main functions of editorial cartoons : an entertainment function, which derives from the ability of cartoons to make us laugh at situations and individuals; an aggression-reduction function, which derives from the fact that cartoons provide a symbolic avenue for the public to vent its frustrations against social leaders; an agenda-setting function, through providing readers with a sense of the most salient issues and topics in society; and a framing function, the product of its spatial limitation (its condensed nature) and therefore its need to distill complex social issues into a single frame that captures the essence of an issue. Editorial cartoons, as an integral part of the media, also play an important role in this process. While they occupy a very limited space in the print media, they are considered as playing a very important role in the editorial content of newspaper.

In a public opinion poll published on a web portal worldpublicopinion.org on 16 February, 2006 after analysis of a series of national public opinion polls conducted in the wake of the cartoon controversy of Prophet Muhammad in Danish newspaper Zyllands Posten, Angela Stephens wrote in her article : Publics in Western Countries Disapprove of Muhammad Cartoons that "the prevailing attitude across several Western nations - Norway, Britain, France, the United State and Australia - is that while the media have the right to publish the cartoons, it was not the right choice to do so." Her analysis covers polling results about the cartoon controversy on a country-by-country basis.

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