

Editorial

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Towards optimistic ideology

The rather unfortunate and undesirable turn of events in the state has left the public the worse for the wear. And to put it bluntly, things are set to turn for the worse, going by the looks of it. The naïve public has been taken for a ride by various groups with vested interests who surprisingly are slowly uncovering the thin veil that were masking their myopic agenda by themselves. What is surprising is the amount of blind trust and irrational support that the public has accorded these self-serving and self-professed misleaders of the expectant mass, even after the state government has categorically declared that its decisions will not harm or infringe on the interests or resources of any individual or group.

Though we would like to hope otherwise, perhaps the people in the state have yet to experience the darkest hour as a collective society before realization sets in, albeit at a cost everyone of us are neither willing nor able to afford. Perhaps a rigorous churning of the society is what is required for the easily excitable and often misdirected public to come to its senses- that the real power to make ourselves better lies not with those who wield power and influence, but within ourselves. But to come to such a state of enlightenment, we need to look inward, to introspect with detachment, without the mirage of our egos which has been the greatest drawback to shedding our baseless pride and narrow views. We need to realize that the greatest enemy to our own happiness and contentment is ourselves. What could be the basis of the fear psychosis consuming the minds of the people in the hills of Manipur which made them to overlook the grim realities of the past to forge alliances with the declared aim of battling an illusionary foe? Since when have we started considering anyone or any group casting even a shadow of doubt on our unhindered flights of fantasy as our arch enemies? Do we not wish to have friends who make us see our mistakes and shortcomings without mincing words rather than people who offer us lavish praise and spoil us only to further their personal gain? Do we reject friends who points out our mistakes because it might make annoy us? Are we intellectually so weak that we believe every misinterpretations and rumours, especially those which concerns our belongings and pride without feeling the need to find out the truth? Our life, or our society for that matter, is what we make of it. We need to inculcate the habit of finding out the facts before drawing conclusions and passing judgments. We need to exercise restraint and communicate better. But above all, everyone of us need to develop empathy and a rational approach. If we are as concerned about our roots as we portray to be, we should be trying to leave a better world for our children. The only way that can be done is by showing them by example the ideals and values we want them to imbibe, and we would not certainly want them to indulge in mindless violence with a herd-mentality.

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Lack of regulations, apathy blamed for hooch tragedies

Agency

New Delhi Feb 26,

The latest hooch tragedy in Assam that claimed over 150 lives came barely two weeks after 99 people died in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh after consuming spurious liquor. Experts say the tragedies point to lack of regulations and continued apathy on the part of authorities as well as a lack

of awareness among people. The state excise department, they say can also use anti-counterfeiting methods to fight this menace. "Various factors are responsible for increase in hooch tragedies. The most important is lack of adoption of technology that can help consumers, enforcement authorities and industries differentiate genuine from illegal or

fake products," UK Gupta, President, Authentication Solution Providers' Association (ASPA), told Agency. Gupta said not a single security feature is implemented on liquor bottles by the state excise departments. "The key is awareness. The people were misled to spurious liquor assuming they were consuming genuine stuff. It's the

government's responsibility to implement an effective system and ensure that liquor is available only through registered outlets and each bottle has a revenue (tax) stamp, which can be used to identify the genuineness of the product," Gupta said. "When one consumes alcohol, it gets metabolised into a substance called aldehyde, which again gets converted into acetone.

But methanol (from spurious liquor) does not get converted into acetone and it destroys the respiratory system of mitochondria, causing acute liver and kidney injuries, along with blindness," Anil Arora, Chairman, Department of Gastroenterology at Ganga Ram Hospital, told Agency. Arora said alcohol-related problems are becoming more frequent. Remarking that alcohol related diseases and ailments are a global phenomenon, he said it can be prevented by banning liquor, or ensuring that the standard policies are followed in manufacturing. According to a report, "Magnitude of Substance Use in India," by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), around 16 crore people consume alcohol in India. Of this, country liquor is consumed by about 30 per cent.

Congress slams BJP on hooch tragedy; demands CBI probe into deaths

Agency

Guwahati 26,

Congress has launched a scathing attack on the state government ahead of Rahul Gandhi's visit, for its failure in preventing hooch tragedy.

Senior Congress leader and former chief minister Tarun Gogoi demanded a CBI probe into the incident. He accused the BJP-led government of allowing illegal liquor dens to flourish in the state.

He said, "The state government is to be blamed for the tragedy. They did not take steps to stop the sale of spurious liquor even after women's organizations alerted the

Golaghat district administration two years ago."

He added, "The state government, instead of curbing sale of liquor, decided to give more licenses for enhancing excise revenue after coming to power. A government which wants to increase the number of drunkards has no moral right to be in power for a single day," said Gogoi.

He alleged that families of the deceased are struggling to collect firewood for cremation in Jorhat due to government apathy.

Congress, which is gearing up to make Rahul's rally in Guwahati a 'grand success' by bringing in over one lakh party workers, is going to

make the hooch tragedy a prime issue for cornering the government.

Party in-charge for Assam Harish Rawat said Tuesday's rally in the city will reflect the mood of the people ahead of the coming Lok Sabha elections.

Rawat, while addressing the media said, "the rally will give a momentum to winds of change blowing in the country. The mood of Assam and the northeast for embracing this change will be evident. People want to see an end to the injustice of the BJP-led governments in the northeast. They are enthusiastic to see Rahul Gandhi replacing Narendra Modi."

3 more Indian boxers reaches the semi-finals of Makran Cup in Iran

From Correspondent

New Delhi, Feb 26,

Commonwealth Silver medalist, Manish Kaushik alongside two other pugilists progressed to the semi-finals and in the process assured medals for India at the ongoing Makran Cup boxing tournament in Chabahar, Iran on Sunday.

The reigning national champion put up a dominant display to secure a place in the semis after outclassing Mousivand Salar in a unanimous 5:0 victory in the 60kg quarter-final clash.

Following suit was Rohit Tokas who came under the limelight with his promising performances in World Series Boxing, early last year. Tokas is known for his attacking style of



boxing, did not give his opponent Tugrulbeg Pazzyev any chance to settle down, he was declared a 5-0 unanimous winner by the judges at the end of three rounds.

Army man, Duryodhan Singh Negi also guaranteed himself a semi-finals berth in the 69 kg category

after his match against Kamyab Moradi was abandoned in R2 in favour of the Indian.

It was, however, end of the road for boxers Manish Panwar and Madan Lal. Chemistry Cup Gold medalist, Madan Lal, is also the reigning national champion; put

up his trademark aggressive display but suffered an unfortunate result losing out narrowly 2:3 against Mohammad Kaspour in his 56kg semi-final bout.

Young pugilist Manish Panwar too suffered a similar fate after being stunned to a 0:5 loss against Safari Keivan (81kg).

India pugilists have assured a total of 8 medals in the ongoing tournament. Earlier, five other Indians- Deepak (49kg), Lalit Prasad (52kg), Manjeet Singh Panghal (75kg), Sanjeet (91kg) & Satish Kumar (+91kg) assured medals after winning their respective quarters bouts to progress to the semi-finals of the event. The semi-final matches will be played later on Monday night.

Is India's Citizenship Bill a poll stunt, questions Bangladesh PM Hasina

Agency

Dhaka, Feb 26

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently said she failed to understand why did the Indian government bring the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and its intention.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who fled their respective countries due to "religious persecution".

Hasina during an interview with Gulf News in the UAE capital on Tuesday said: "Why this bill... I don't understand."

She also questioned: "Is it for election purpose?" In India, the next general elections will be held in April or May.

Though the BJP-led NDA government introduced the bill in 2016 to provide Indian citizenship

to the foreigners, including Hindu Bangladeshis, who came from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan due to religious persecution before December 31, 2014, Hasina said she never felt that the bill meant to blame Bangladesh for religious persecution of minorities in the country.

In the interview, the Bangladesh PM said: "I don't think so. There is no such [religious persecution] in Bangladesh. Some incidents have happened. But we took immediate action."

While stating that religious extremism and terrorism are a global problem, Hasina added: "It is not in Bangladesh alone."

According to her, people in India are also not happy with the bill. It may be mentioned that most of the organisations and governments of the northeastern states, including states ruled by BJP and their allies, continued massive protests against the bill before it lapsed on the last

day of the last session Rajya Sabha as they feel that if the bill becomes an Act, the culture, language and rights of the ethnic communities of the region will be in trouble.

The people and organisations who have been fighting against the Citizenship Bill argue that if the Bill becomes a law, it will nullify the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is being updated in Assam under direct supervision of the Supreme Court and the Assam Accord.

NRC is a national register to identify illegal foreigners, who entered Assam after March 24, 1971, which is the cut-off year for foreigners as per the Assam Accord.

Bangladesh PM Hasina, who also thinks that there will be tension if the bill becomes an Act, said: "I think they [India] should not do anything that create tension."

Stating that earlier untoward incidents such as bomb blasts took place in Assam and other areas of the

northeastern states of India bordering Bangladesh, she said such incidents "do not occur anymore" as her government had taken strict action against Indian separatists operating from Bangladesh.

She said India "should consider all these factors as a neighbouring country".

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, if becomes an Act, will enable illegal immigrants of Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan to get Indian citizenship.

They will be eligible for Indian citizenship after 7 years of living in India instead of 12 years (as per the existing law), even if they do not have any documents.

The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019, but it could not be introduced and passed in Rajya Sabha as the Upper House was adjourned sine die on the last day of the last Session.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, Ningthoujam Sonali Devi, a residence of Kakching Wairi Ningthoujam Leikai, (House No. 23) P.O. & PS Kakching District Kakching Manipur do hereby declare that my name mentioned in some document written as Zade Sonali Vijay and Ningthoujam Sonali Devi in some document are of the same person that is me and that my real name is Ningthoujam Sonali Devi.

Sd/-

Ningthoujam Sonali Devi
Kakching Wairi Ningthoujam Leikai
P.O. & PS Kakching District Kakching Manipur.

RC BOOK LOST

I, the undersigned have lost my RC book of my vehicle (Activa 5G DLX (Blue Colour)) bearing registration No. MN01AF- 0450 and Chasis No. ME4J50BJ8J066116 and Engine No. JF50E88066150, on the way between Uripok to Keishamthong on 23/02/2019. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Mutum Ashinikumar Singh
S/o M.(L) Tomba Singh
Sagolband Meino Leirak
Mobile No. 961509258/7629026918