

Editorial

Monday, September 2, 2019

Myopic leaders and misplaced priorities

Now that the people of the state is unmistakably clear as to where the priority of the elected representatives lies, it is time to come together and draw up an alternative course of action- one which does not involve inconveniencing the common people only. For how would one explain away the inexplicable silence of these representatives of the people on matters which are threatening to push back the state to those turbulent and uncertain times which we unwittingly believed we moved past? Is the security or rather gain of position and power more important the life of a young child who died under suspicious and still-mysterious circumstances? Or the looming scarcity of food grains due to the drought like situation presently haunting the farmers mean little for those who have the resources to pile up on essential commodities without the slightest consideration for those who are depending on their proper discharge of duties and responsibilities to those who put them in the very position of authority and affluence?

In a country ruled by a party which has the temerity to spend thousands of crores on advertisements and image-creation rather than actual implementation of welfare projects and development schemes which are the need of the hour, it is little wonder that many of these leaders have been unduly influenced to overhype themselves and their personal opinions to the point that the observations and suggestions of subject experts and resourceful individuals have been summarily discarded. Perhaps the new political mantra dictated is 'Self before service'.

The inability of the state investigating agency to present any development in the case of the suspicious and mysterious death of a girl child inside a private hostel has brought the state to a grinding halt once again, and the frustration of the public on the issue is unlikely to subside anytime. The silence of the leaders and the apparent attempt to wash their hands off the matter by announcing a decision to hand over the case to the central investigating bureau (CBI) does not sit well with the public either, for the very fact that each and every crime occurring in the state cannot be handed over to the central investigating agencies, and nor is it plausible.

The icing on the cake of woes for the people of the state is perhaps the news of a group of dissident elected representatives preparing to approach the masters at the centre to push forward the demand for change of leadership in the state. It stands to reason that their trust in the present leadership is gone, but the pertinent questions that need to be answered for the public are: has a more versatile and promising candidate emerged from their ranks? Are the supporters joining in the fray for the development of the state or for their personal gains? Other than personal differences, what major leadership flaws have the present CM exhibited to warrant the demand for change of leadership? Is the demand for change in any way related to the present social situation and unrest in the state?

The people of the state have been taken for a ride too often and for too long. Wasting precious time and opportunities by those who won the confidence and trust of the people will only result in outbursts of frustrations and anger. It is time to learn our lessons and change our mindsets before taking up hasty steps based on our emotions and instincts. We need to stop turning against each other to voice our concerns. We need to come together and demand answers from those who sold us dreams. Let us forget, the real power flows from the people, and the people should have the right and the liberty to withdraw the same from any and everyone not worthy of our trust and support.

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The 36th International Geological Congress-2020

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An aged history of more than 140 years, the International Geological Congress (IGC) has come a long way since their inception in 1878 in Paris. With less than 200 days left for the 36th edition of the Congress to kick off, the geoscientist community is on the pinnacle of the scientific display. A second time host India, with the scientific support of Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will be hosting the 36th IGC at New Delhi during 2nd to 8th March, 2020. "Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future" the much relevant theme in this 21st century has been the framed with the hope that this will echo the aspiration of the region from emerging geosciences in respect of its new techniques and understanding of processes in the South East Asian countries. Geological Survey of India (GSI), the third oldest serving survey organisation in the world has shouldered the burden of being the nodal agency to host and organised the 36th IGC in collaboration with the partners viz. Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Mines and the Indian National Science Academy. While the supportive scientific help is to be rendered by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Pakistan Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka. Indian Geology is nature's gift to the Earth Science Community, with its rich rock record of geological events from the Archean, to the present day tectonics and from the oceans to Mars. More than 3 billion years of history of rocks, with Gold, PGE and Diamond deposits in the Archean craton have provided insights into the Archean tectonics and thermal regimes. The Deccan volcanism of the



Cretaceous time has resulted in one of the largest flood basalt province. The spectacular rise of the Himalaya and its role in the chemistry of global oceans and the Indian monsoon are too well known. The unique Thar Deserts, the incredible Kutch, the enormously lengthy east and west coastal regimes of peninsular India and the gigantically vast alluvial plains of Ganges-Brahmaputra are serene places of geoscientific concepts. The Indo Myanmar Ranges and collision with the Myanmar Plate and the Himalayas has been the prime destinations for the tectonic researchers. The delegates of the IGC will therefore have a first-hand exposure to textbook examples in almost all aspects of Geosciences. The highlights of the congress are - 12 Plenary Talks by eminent geoscientists from across the globe, 44 science themes, 266 symposia, special theme for national and international scientific organisations, more than 40 parallel discussion sessions, e-poster presentations, State of the Art Convention Centre, 7000 sq. m for Geoxpo area and 71 exciting field trips spread in India and neighbouring countries. The additional far-reaching Geohost Program, massive Geoxpo, and many other Geotourism attractions, the Congress promises to be a truly memorable experience. A geological enthusiast/student/researcher in our country can avail the opportunity to participate in the biggest global geo scientific cluster. The congress under the aegis of

International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is scheduled to be held at India Expo Mart, Ltd. (IEML) Greater Noida, Delhi NCR. In order to provide a learning interface between budding geoscientists and the visiting peers, selected volunteers will be involved in the organisational activities that will expose them to first hand life time experiences. The 36th IGC will engage about 350 geoscientists as volunteers - they will be assigned multiple tasks / activities during the field trips (India) and the main congress (expected to have more than 5000 delegates). Persons who are good at communication and organizational skills with sound geoscience knowledge both in the field and relevant to the congress (preferably with multilingual knowledge) can apply for volunteers. The selected volunteers will work purely on temporary / contractual basis. The selection of the volunteers will be done through an Expression of Interest (EOI) which will be announced soon. Such volunteers may be provided sufficient incentives (i.e. waiver of registration fee, per-diem, to and from train fares) during training, workshop and main congress. For the geoscientist fraternity, the GeoHost Support program of the 36th IGC is unprecedented, offering full support for travel, registration and local hospitality for 1000 delegates. It would provide financial support based exclusively on scientific merit. The GeoHost Support program is designed to enable young and financially

disadvantaged geoscientists to attend the IGC. These may be awarded as either full or partial support. Applicants who can obtain partial funding from other sources will get preference. This support includes the Youth GeoHost Program, wherein one meritorious candidate from each of the IUGS-adhering countries would be offered fully funded GeoHost grant for attending the 36th IGC. Selection would be made in consultation with the IUGS-adhering countries. To encourage early career researchers and students, a Congress Theme Workshop Series (CTWS) is being organized during the 36th IGC for capacity-building. The tentative themes of the workshop are Geohazards, Climate Change, Carbon dioxide sequestration, Water resources and conservation, Sustainable development of georesources, Monsoon system, Energy resources, Applications of isotopes in ground water research, Coastal zone management and Geostatistics. The congress will be a roller-coaster ride for those young enthusiasts, students, researchers, professionals who are directly or indirectly based on geology. As per the bid presented at the 34th IGC, the GeoHost program of the 36th IGC would be made available to every active scientist who has an abstract that is accepted for presentation during the congress. So the concerned fraternity of geology students and workers should optimise this chance to scientifically activate themselves. The congress even has the platform for the private firms, companies and other NGO's to hold business meets during the congress and tie up their own start up programmes. Updates, brochures, happenings and much more details of each facet of the 36th IGC is available at www.36igc.org.

Violence against medical fraternity, intolerable - A wake up call The Declining doctor – patient relationship – Save the saviour

By a Correspondent
By : Dr Vinay Aggarwal,

Though healthcare in India is gradually evolving and is expected to reach several heights by 2020, but besides such improvement and growth, it is unfortunate to observe that cases of verbal abuse to physical assaults against healthcare professionals in India are also on extreme rise. And the ironical part is that, these attacks are done by patient's family members and dear ones. According to recent report by Indian Medical Association (IMA) revealed that nearly 75 % of the doctors face physical or verbal abuse inside the hospital premises.

There is a misconception among the attendants that getting into misbehaviour, and violence against the medical fraternity provides a better and clear way of communicating their thoughts to the doctor in order to receive the best possible treatment for the patients. This is not true and the patient's attendants must understand that the doctors always try their best efforts in recovering any patient irrespective of any factor. Many such incidences pop up regularly, where doctors have been beaten up by the patient's attendants. Such incidents have put the doctors and the medical fraternity under extreme threat who create such nuisance putting the lives of doctors and patients at risk. In hospitals, where life and death situations are routine, people are perhaps a lot more

stressed and express their frustrations by misbehaving with the staff members.

Understanding the reasons behind such verbal abuse and physical assaults

More and more violence is seen in Government sector due to lack of staff, overcrowding OPD's and lack of empathy, whereas in the private sector, it is invariably the financials and communication gap. Private healthcare delivers nearly 80% of the country's medical needs. Despite such care and technological advancements, the cases of violence along with public healthcare are still increasing in the sector. But one should also think that the private hospitals have emerged through investments from sources and stakeholders and not by doctors themselves. And just like any other field the investors would want the Return on their investment (ROI) in which doctors don't have any such role. In fact in most of the cases doctors never ever have anything to do with bill payment as the services what they can provide is to the fullest and has no relationship with money making. There could be various reasons for such abuse against the medical fraternity which may include:

Communication Gap - Doctors have always been emphasizing that treatment is an attempt, but the outcomes are unpredictable. Medical sciences do not stick to statistics and not even the doctors are trained to think like wise. Sometimes these stats only

give a false hope to the patient's dear ones which turns out into rage and disappointment on mortality. And this becomes rampant with the double whammy of huge hospital bills. One has to understand that in more than 80% of the cases result in good results and better outcomes, though 20% of the cases may prove to be costly.

Though it is always hard to think such finer concerns during emotionally charged situations, but lack of awareness and the anxiety among the patient's relatives should be handled to the best by the hospital management. Generally, hospitals fails in handling the responsibility they have towards the attendants, so those clinicians must meet the attendants regularly and should address all the queries as honestly and transparently as possible. Better communication is the key to avoid such barbaric incidents against the entire medical fraternity.

Lack of empathy - Many situations arise when the doctors perform the treatment wholeheartedly, but lack of communication about the efforts or plans with the patient's relatives also poise the situation. Attendant is always curious to know what has happened and what needs to be done, and in such a panic if they are unaware of what is happening, panic keeps on piling up and bursts out at saturation. The administration in many hospitals is usually dominated

by the management, who mostly fail to empathize with the complexity of human situations. For instance the final billing is always an insensitivity, where the attendant has to stand in queues for paying the bill and not at all empathized. Instead of finding better solutions, the government and the local politicians instead finds it easy to blame the private medical care and the doctors for not providing proper healthcare and plays along the public sentiments.

A few corrupt quacks - Corruption is another aspect, where one only thinks about his personal benefits and not of others. As in current situation when few quack doctors or hospitals are not honest about their intention, it is also termed as corruption. Our society, sadly is filled rampantly with quackery in few tier 2&3 cities. With years of hard work and struggle (meant to serve humanity), few doctors will absorb the society ethos and try to make money and grow as fast as possible, at times even forgetting that they are dealing with sick and disturbed human beings.

The need of the hour - Violence cannot be justified at any cost, whatever be the reason or the grievance. Mostly doctors and nurses, who bear the brunt of verbal abuse and aggression, we have to realize that beating up the doctor won't help them get better care and treatment. And that beating-up anyone is no solution to any problem.

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