

Behar Herald

SECULARISM AND DEMOCRACY OUR MOTTO

" So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them! I call those men who strut about in their finery, having got all their money by grinding the poor, wretches, so long as they do not do anything for those two hundred millions who are now no better than hungry savages! "

- Swami Vivekananda (Vol. V, P. 45)

Estd. 1874

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16th December, Bangladesh Vijay Diwas

Newsdesk - December 16 is the national victory day, Vijay Diwas or Bijoy Diwas of Bangladesh. On this day in 1971, West Pakistani (Present Pakistan) Army surrendered to Bangladesh after 9-month long liberation war and as a result, Bangladesh gained her victory. Now this day is a national holiday in Bangladesh and people celebrate this day with great joy. All the people enjoy this day with parades and paying respect at the National Memorial at Savar near Dhaka.

This is also Victory Day for India because India whole heartedly supported Bangladesh Liberation War. Irritated by that support and to divert the issue at stake, conceding freedom to East Pakistan (as Bangladesh), Pakistan made pre-emptive air strikes on 11 Indian air bases on 3rd December 1971 which finally began a war between Pakistan and India. Pakistan was defeated. To recollect the events, after the night of March 25 in 1971, Operation Searchlight was started by the Pakistani Army on the orders of Pakistan government. As Wikipedia records, Operation Searchlight was a planned military operation carried out by the Pakistan Army to curb the Bengali nationalist movement in the erstwhile East Pakistan in March 1971, which the Pakistani state justified on the basis of anti-Bihari violence by Bengalis in early March [an alleged massacre of 300 'Biharis' in Chittagong - BH]. Ordered by the central government in West Pakistan, this was seen as the sequel to "Operation Blitz" which had been launched in November 1970. The

original plan envisioned taking control of the major cities on 26 March, and then eliminating all opposition, political or military, within one month. President Yahya Khan at a conference in February 1971 said "Kill three million of them and the rest will eat out of our hands."

Pakistan Army killed thousands of Bengali people in only one night. On that night, the main reinforcements made were in Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, Comilla, Jessore, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Saidpur and Sylhet, areas where West Pakistani army units were concentrated. Pakistani Army also arrested Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other top class political leaders, intellectual persons and some students. But the next day on March 26 in 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the Bangladesh's independence.

As a result, the nationalist movement of Bengali people, mainly inspired by the Language movement, Bhasha Andolan continuing since 1952, converted into a liberation war. And after that announcement, Bangladesh liberation war broke out into the whole country.

Finally, on 16 December in 1971, Pakistani Army surrendered to the joint forces of Bangladesh freedom fighters and Indian army headed by Lt. Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora (the Allied forces commander) in Dhaka. Air vice Marshall A. K Khondoker represented the Bangladesh freedom fighters. Pakistan General A. A. K. Niazi (Commanding officer of the Pakistani Armed Forces) signed



Pic courtesy: http://1971liberationwar.weebly.com/uploads/2/7/1/4/6/2746835/6498799_orig.jpg

the surrender letter. Millions of people were martyred in this war. In Bangladesh, this day is observed all the over the country with joy and respect.

Bengalee Association, Bihar has a special reason as well, to remember this day. It is already a known story in Bengali, narrated by Late Guru Charan Samanta and others.

Government of Bihar was trying to find some trustworthy persons who would take the responsibility to go with the trucks loaded with food and other materials crossing the border and deliver to Bangladesh Liberation Army. Government representatives asked Bengalee Association, Bihar for help. BAB named D. N. Sircar and G. C. Samanta. Finally, D.N. Sircar could not go due to illness. G. C. Samanta alone went with the trucks. BLA men and women soldiers gave him a great welcome. They presented him books and periodicals.

Patiala MP Dr Dharamvira Gandhi had organised. The speakers expressed their serious concern for the marginalisation of Punjabi in the state itself.

Protest rally held, resolution seeks making education a state subject. The participants also held a protest rally and handed over a memorandum of their demands to the Punjab government through the Patiala deputy commissioner. At the convention, five major resolutions were passed to ensure Punjabi got its due.

The first resolution stated that education needed to be made a State Subject in the Constitution. "Putting education in the Concurrent List of the Constitution (meaning that both the Centre and

Continued on Page-4

Shyamada is no more.

Senior advocate of Patna High Court Shyama Prasad Mukherjee died on 30th December at 5.45 PM. He was at 84th year of his age and ailing for a long time. A few days before his death he fell down from his chair at his residence and his hipbones broke. He was operated upon. The operation was successful but due to heart problems he had to be shifted to a nursing home where he was kept in ICU. There he died.

His ancestral home was in Chapra, Saran distt. Lifelong he remained a bachelor. Selflessly he aided and helped so many organisations and people. He was elected 11 times and remained President of the Advocates Association for a record period of 16 years. For 59 years he worked as a lawyer. During this period he remained the helping 'Shyamada' for all the lawyers of High Court and Civil Court.

He was president of the Rabindra Parishad, Patna and also President of Patna Kalibari. He had a long association with Bengalee Association, Bihar. The marble bust of Vidyasagar at Nandan Kanan, Karmatar was donated by him in early nineties of the last century.

Chief Minister of Bihar has mourned his death. President of Bar Council of India has also mourned his death. Bar Council of India had donated a cheque of 4 lakh rupees for the treatment of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

A number of other advocates have mourned the death of their respected and beloved 'Shyamada'.

Bengalee Association, Bihar, Vidyasagar Smriti Raksha Samity and Behar Herald express their grief and pay respects to this benevolent soul, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

Merry Christmas

Christmas is not a Christian festival for us. Due to its being the 'Bara Din'(the daytime beginning to be longer), beginning of winter holidays in the schools and colleges, the sweet associated with it, the 'cake' (world says that Indians love sweets) and the family trips, Christmas is an Indian festival. But, it is Christ's birthday first of all! And that way also, like all countries where poor, hapless people are suffering oppression of the economic, political and social system they belong, India has a strong case to observe the birthday of this rebel as a hero of the downtrodden! That way the liberation theology world over has owned Christ!

EDITORIAL "Jesus is stated to have visited the Temple in Jerusalem, where the courtyard is described as being filled with livestock, merchants, and the tables of the money changers, who changed the standard Greek and Roman money for Jewish and Tyrian money. (Gentile money could not be used at the Temple because of the graven images on it.). Jerusalem was packed with Jews who had come for Passover, perhaps numbering 300,000 to 400,000 pilgrims.

"And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." [Jn 2:13-16]

"And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." — Matthew 21:12-13

In Mark 12:40 and Luke 20:47 Jesus accused the Temple authorities of thieving and this time he names poor widows as their victims, going on to provide evidence of this in Mark 12:42 and Luke 21:2. Dove sellers were selling doves that were sacrificed by the poor who could not afford grander sacrifices and specifically by women. According to Mark 11:16, Jesus then put an embargo on people carrying any merchandise through the Temple—a sanction that would have disrupted all commerce. This occurred in the outermost court of the gentiles.

Matthew 21:14-16 says the Temple leaders questioned Jesus if he was aware the children were shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David." Jesus responded by saying "from the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise." This phrase incorporates a phrase from the Psalm 8:2, "from the lips of children and infants," believed by followers to be an admission of divinity by Jesus, thus confirming his divinity via proof-texting the Old Testament. (Wikipedia, Cleansing of the Temple)

Roman Empire was already in crisis. Orders were given to the administrators to halt and punish any troublemaking within the borders of the empire. So, Jesus was arrested, tortured and then punished with death by crucifixion.

And that 'trade within temple'? It is still there. We face it today as 'crony capitalism in religious extremism'! So the Son of God posits itself here by logic! Of course with people of different millenium, with new advances of humanity!

Punjabi language convention in Patiala bats for education in mother tongue

Patiala MP organised the conference where the likes of writer Dalip Kaur Tiwana, Professor Joga Singh from Punjabi University and Professor Raunki Ram from Panjab University pass five resolutions; say Punjabi must be on top on signboards; also hold a protest. - HT Correspondent, Patiala

Reaching unanimity on the fact that ignoring the role of imparting education in the mother tongue has created a serious educational, linguistic, cultural and political crisis for the country, eminent Punjabi writers and experts participated in a 'Punjabi Language Convention' in the city on Sunday. The experts agreed that in Punjab, Punjabi needed to be given the numero uno status — something that had not been happening and ensuring that education is imparted in the

mother tongue. They sought the inclusion of education in the State List of the Constitution to ensure states can exercise better control. They also advocated that Punjabi needed to be the language on top on signboards in the state.

Writer Dalip Kaur Tiwana, Professor Joga Singh from Punjabi University, Professor Raunki Ram from Panjab University, Chandigarh and Professor Panditrao Dharenavar were the major experts who attended the convention that

This Issue Sponsored By Dr. (Capt.) D. K. Sinha to wish Happy Birthday



to his granddaughters

Chinu (Bani Gourab)

22 December

Adya (Krisha Sinha) and

Arna (Kaira Sinha)

25 December

How a nation is collapsed!

Prosper Dzitse

Strategic Management & Public Administration Practitioner/ Public Relations & Communications Consultant/ Author. Leadership/ Mentorship Expert.

A lecturer in a South African University wrote an expressive message to his students at the doctorate, masters and bachelors level and placed it at the entrance of the college.

I believe that it resonates with us everywhere. More often than not we are not mindful of how the things we consider to be little could destroy our society.

He wrote, "Collapsing any Nation does not require use of Atomic bombs or the use of Long range missiles. But it requires lowering the quality of Education and allowing cheating in the exams by the students.

The patient dies in the hands of the doctor who passed his exams through cheating.

And the buildings collapse in the hands of an engineer who passed his exams through cheating.

And the money is lost in the hands of an accountant who passed his exams through cheating.

And humanity dies in the hands of a religious scholar who passed his exams through cheating.

And justice is lost in the hands of a judge who passed his exams through cheating.

And ignorance is rampant in the minds of children who are under the care of a teacher who passed exams through cheating.

The collapse of education is the collapse of the Nation"

Please permit me to add the following to the above;

Shoddy laws are made by the politician who passed exams through cheating.

Half or unverified information is given by the journalist who passed exams through cheating.

Unjustifiable/unpatriotic actions are supported by citizens who passed exams through cheating.

Substandard works are done by the public/civil servant who passed exams through cheating.

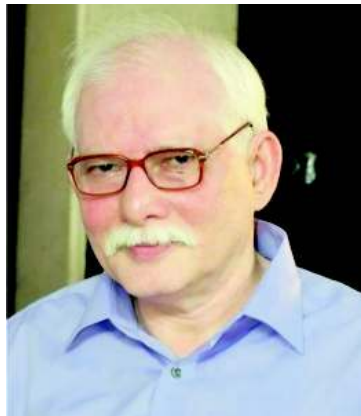
Half/subjective analysis is given by civil society organizations whose leaders passed exams through cheating.

Uninspiring leadership is given by the leader who passed exams through cheating.

Indeed, the collapse of Education is the collapse of the Nation.

Published on: Apr 26, 2017
Courtesy: <https://medium.com/@presidentdzitse/how-a-nation-is-collapsed-4e97625c4e07>

Prof. Binay Kanth



Behar Herald mourns the sad demise of Prof. Vinay Kanth whose learned presence, participations and all round activism in the educational, cultural forums of the state capital used to spread warmth in the efforts of the citizenry to bring positive changes in the system. We reproduce with courtesy an obituary published in counterview.org.

Prof Vinay Kanth fought for modern society based on equity and robust public system of education

- Mitra Ranjan

Education sector in India received a huge loss in the sudden demise of Prof Vinay Kanth, a renowned educationist, social worker, human rights activist and one of the founder members of Right to Education Forum (RTE Forum), said RTE National Convenor Ambarish Rai.

Prof Kanth passed away on December 25 in Delhi after a prolonged illness. He was one of the founder members of RTE Forum constituted in 2010 just after RTE Act came into force with a view to organize civil societies, social workers, educationists, academia, students associations, teachers associations and communities on one platform. He had founded Voluntary Forum of Education (VFE) in Bihar more than a decade ago.

Ambarish Rai, National Convenor of RTE Forum, said that he was not only working for the rights of children for quality and equity education, but he always worked for the downtrodden and deprived in the society. He added that it is a great loss to the education world as we have lost one more pillars who believed in rational thinking to achieve the goal to build a just and modern society based on

Prof. Surendra Snigdha



Eminent Hindi poet, novelist, editor and teacher of Patna University, Professor Surendra Snigdha died on 18th December.

Snigdha was a litterateur from those plains of Kosi from where the great hindi writer Phanishwar Nath Renu came. On 5th June 1952 he was born in Singhiyan village of Purnia distt.

Since youth he was in contact with Naxalbari movement. His novel 'Chharan' (alluvial fan) narrates the emergence of revolutionary peasant movement in those areas, termed Seemanchal. His books of poems 'Pake dhaan ki gandh', 'Kai Kai yatraein' etc. are widely read. Some books of criticism were also written by him. He edited various literary periodicals. He was awaarded with Nagarjun Samman, Sahitya Samman and Sahitya Seva Samman by Bihar Rashtra Bhasha Parishad.

Behar Herald mourns untimely demise of Prof. Surendra Snigdha.

principles of equity and a robust Public System of Education.

In 2016, Bihar Govt had honoured him with the prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Shiksha Puraskar for his remarkable contribution on education.

In 2006 as a Member of the Expert Committee on Education constituted by Government of Bihar, he was chiefly responsible for the writing of Reports on School education as Convenor of the group. As Chairman of the Curriculum Committee constituted by the Bihar Council for Education, Research and Training (BCERT), Patna, he had been the chief architect of the draft Bihar Curriculum Framework, 2006. Policy advocacy in education had been one of his areas of work in recent years.

He was also a member of Core Committee of the Peoples Campaign on Common School System (CSS), which had been spearheading the campaign for the introduction of CSS in India. He has been writing and speaking on diverse topics like education, child, environment, human rights etc for many years. Kanth is a human rights activist as well working with Peoples Union for Civil liberties (PUCL) in Bihar, the pre-eminent human rights organization in India.

Posted on December 26, 2017.
Courtesy: <https://counterview.org/2017/12/26/prof-vinay-kanth-fought-for-modern-society-based-on-equity-and-robust-public-system-of-education/>

Newsdesk – The Patliputra branch of Bengalee Association, Bihar has successfully organized three rounds of 'distribution of old garments' among the poor on 17th, 24th and 31st of December at South-west wall of Moinul Haque Stadium, New Ambedkar Colony, Sandalpur and near Dhobi Ghat, Adalatganj.

(Continued from last issue)

Middle Class as a tool of Economics

- Jasdeep Singh

This era of LPG envisaged that capital and funds, instead of being vested with the government be made available to the market forces, that is, the private players, and the norms and regulations be liberalised for private enterprise to flourish. The strangulating hold of permits and quotas was to pave the way for an open environment bringing together the forces of demand and supply for an efficient and effective market where their benefits are shared by the consumer and the producer.

Again, the genesis of any economic activity is finance, and the same is even more true in a market economy. It may be seen that most of the savings were blocked in the bank accounts of individuals and Government Bonds, and with the interest rates being tempting, there was no incentive to part with the savings. This implied that if the funds are not to be made available to private players, then these funds would have to be had at the prevailing savings bank or fixed deposit rates. This in turn meant that capital would be too costly for private players and it was a big disincentive for private players to go for public funds. The market model functions on the premise of free trade with consumers and SUPPLIERS interacting in the marketplace. The consumers need to spend and suppliers need to service the demand. For such interaction to take place, the funds need to come out of the closet.

The savings habit espoused so far was therefore not to be encouraged. Thus, another rethink was to move the savings-driven economy towards a market-based, expenditure-driven economy, that is, to incentivise persons to spend rather than to save. Figuratively it can be put as a transformation from a Recurring Deposit-person to an Equated Monthly Instalment-person. There is a school of thought in economics that states that expenditure brings with it forward-and-backward linkages of economic activity that propel the economy.

The first step for this expenditure-driven economy was towards making the money, that is, finance, being made available to the players of the market at a reasonable rate. This was done by the stroke of the pen by slashing bank rates by about more than half for fixed deposits. It is strange but true that market forces were unleashed not by the market itself but by the government. Even the savings bank account rates were reduced to about 3 per cent. This move suddenly made the savings and fixed deposit accounts non-lucrative vis-a-vis the prevalent rate of inflation — keeping money in banks over a period of time would mean its value depreciating in real terms. It was thought that the cheap and easy finance now available to the private sector would give the private sector adequate funds to kickstart the economy. The savings and fixed deposit accounts were no longer lucrative. Incentives were given to channel the available money towards the capital market by way of incentivising investments in equity and share capital. During that time, many private enterprises came out with IPOs or offers of investment in the capital markets promising huge returns that lured people to give them their savings. The money that goes to the equity market is available to the company at face value. There is an assurance to the investor of an uncertain but higher rate of return in future in the shape of dividends. Also if the company does well, the value of the share appreciates in the secondary market.

Here again it could be seen that the money that came to be used by the big business houses was again being offered by the same middle class that was earlier being used by the government by offering them high interest rates. Our middle class that does not have any social security buffer is on a constant and eternal search for some succour towards its latter stage of life. This time the hope had come from very tempting returns from investment in capital markets, from IPOs, as well as secondary markets. But this phase of transition from a savings-driven economy to an expenditure-driven economy had its own share of victims, who were largely pensioners. Many pensioners who retired in the late-1980s had planned their retirement life and their medical expenditures based on their pension coupled with interest earned from fixed deposits. However, suddenly one day in 1993, these savings were slashed remorselessly by more than a half. That upset their retirement plans and they were virtually in the doldrums. The avenues that were offered in lieu of bank accounts were mostly share markets and IPOs that were beyond the comprehension of these senior citizens who had mostly spent their lives without any exposure to market forces. And wherever they tried to venture out to capitalise on the market forces by investing in share markets and IPOs they had burnt their fingers in the various scams that have hit our share markets. Many a time, it is infested with insider-trading. Most of the small investors are eventually the losers and the bigger fish swill by devouring the smaller ones. Whether any of the victims of these share-related scams that ran into thousands of crores of rupees have got their money back is anybody's guess.

The rules and regulations of providing loans and extending capital were eased — meaning easy availability of credit, less strict underwriting and easier monitoring. And with funding costs already reduced by lowering the interest rate, there were business houses making a beeline for availing the opportunity. The banking industry in India has been a monopoly of public sector banks, and with the prodding of the government and different schemes unveiled, a large amount of funds could be made available to private players for investment in all aspects of the economy ranging from small retail businesses to industrial giants, infrastructure projects to big software companies. In a way, to give due credit to liberalisation, the software industry is a consequence of these policies. However, with reports emerging from banking sources regarding increasing non-performing assets (NPAs) that are nothing but bad loans, the same story of non-retrieval of money is perhaps repeated in the manner the public sector faltered earlier.

(To be continued)

(The author, an officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a Commissioner of Income Tax.) Courtesy : <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/open-page/The-middle-class-as-a-tool-of-economics/article14680381.ece>

BAB Patliputra in a weekly round of benevolence



65 RTI activists murdered since 2005 – here's a tribute to India's fallen heroes

- Kritiha Rajam

With more than 65 people killed and close to 400 harassed or intimidated, violence against RTI activists is a menace that continues.

In 2015, 17-year-old **Yallalinga Kuruba** was pursuing a Pre-university course in Karnataka. He was convinced that corruption was coming in the way of the implementation of government projects in his village, Kanakapura, in North Karnataka. Deciding to take matters in his own hands, he approached the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) and Public Information Officer (PIO) to find out how to file right to information (RTI).

Yallalinga wanted to know the details of the projects under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), as to who had signed the contract, what was the status, etc. On January 10, 2015, he reportedly filed RTI and the next day he was killed. Initially filed as a suicide, it took three months and continuous persistence from his mother to make the police start investigating his death as a murder.

Unfortunately, it is not just one RTI activist's story. With more than 65 people killed and close to 400 harassed or intimidated, violence against RTI activists is a menace that continues. What is worse, with no official data on the actual number of deaths related to RTI, activists say that the figure is a conservative estimate.

More than a decade's journey with right to information

It has been twelve years since India joined other countries across the world in providing its citizens right to information, with the National Right to Information Act coming into force in 2005. The Act enables citizens to access information from various public authorities including legislature, judiciary and executive, and that applies to state, local and central governments.

With harassment and intimidation of RTI activists constantly on the rise, let us remember some activists who lost their lives in their attempt to make India a safer place for the present and future generations.

Lalit Mehta – engineer turned activist from Jharkhand

Civil engineer by profession, Lalit gave up his career to fight for the underprivileged. At the age of 36, he was a prominent member of the right to food campaign in Jharkhand.

Lalit was also involved in advancing rural employment opportunities and health facilities in Jharkhand. In 2008, he started looking into the scams related to NREGA with RTI as his aide. Few months after that, on May 14th, he was beaten to death. This happened in Fatlahi forest, 25 km from the Palamu district headquarters.

Bhupendra Vira – aged 72, with 3,000 RTIs

Bhupendra was leading an uneventful life in Mumbai until his landlord allegedly grabbed his factory from him.

In an attempt to expose his landlord's illegal land dealings, Bhupendra filed a series of RTIs. The documents proved that the landlord had seized not just Bhupendra's land but other properties in the area too.

After years of struggle, as the authorities started tearing down the illegal properties, Bhupendra was shot dead in his house in the year 2010. Apparently, he had filed close to 3,000 RTIs.

Amit Jethwa – Green crusader

Amit's campaign was against the illegal mining and poaching in the Gir wildlife sanctuary, which he alleged was backed by some politicians. He had filed many Public Information Litigations, including one against the BJP MP Dinubhai Solanki.

In July 2010, the environmentalist and RTI activist was shot dead near the Gujarat High Court. He was 35 years old.

Bhuvaneshwar – Chennai's RTI activist

S. Bhuvaneshwar of Kolathur started fighting against goons encroaching on his family property. He too believed that the goons had the support of a few politicians. He filed RTI to get the back the ownership of the land.

At the same time, Bhuvaneshwar was also helping others file similar cases. He was hacked to death in the beginning of 2012.

This year, in April, Suhas Haldankar from Pune was killed. He was fighting against civic lapses and had exposed several of them.

India is among the 70 countries across the globe that have given their citizens the right to information. Though the estimate of killings is in itself disturbing, there is no way to know how many were intimidated, harassed and silenced in other ways.

Despite that, not losing hope in the Indian democracy and for what it stands, four to six million Indians file RTI every year.

How do we protect them?

Whistle Blower Protection Act which was initially passed in the Lok Sabha in 2011 has still not been implemented. Activists opine that the proposed changes to the RTI in 2015 indicate that the government is not taking its moral obligation towards protecting its whistle blowers seriously.

Though it is imperative that the Act is implemented, it is also important to bring in amendments to the law after transparent consultation with activists and human rights crusaders.

About the author : A dreamer with an insatiable appetite for literature, food & adventure, who is set out on a journey of self-realization.

Published on: 28 SEPTEMBER 2017

Courtesy: <https://yourstory.com/2017/09/rti-activists-murdered>

Family is more important than employers' rules and regulations

Newsdesk - Honorable High Court of Kerala has observed the fact that Family is more important and it's the backbone of the society.

"No service Regulations can stand in the way of a woman for claiming protection of her fundamental right of dignity as a mother,said the Court. The High Court has asked the state to bring law to protect employees against discrimination due to family responsibilities.

Court has directed the employers to consider the genuine leave and transfer applications of employees (both male and female) if the situation is an unavoidable family obligation.

Court has also observed that "motherhood" is the most difficult and challenging task and no rule should hinder the obligations and commitments of a mother. To quote the observation of Hon'ble Justice Mustaq, "Motherhood is all about love, care, affection, protection, nurturing of child etc. It is a dignity inherent in a woman. Dignity means the quality that holds her in esteem. She is considered to be noble and honourable. Motherhood is perhaps the most important challenging job in the world. The principles enunciated through the Human Rights Law demand that the dignity of the individual is to be protected. On account of her social status as above, a woman shall not be discriminated while competing with men in the field of employment or in any other segment."

He further observed, "Motherhood is an option. In this Universe, life of everyone is an option of his parents, but that does not mean that motherhood has to be subjugated to any other interest. Right to procreation is intrinsically associated with right to live. It is a basic right of man. Thus, choice of option does not change character of such right as fundamental right. In general, employer has no legal obligation to have concern over employee's private affairs. However, this has an exception, if those private affairs are interest protected as fundamental rights," ...

"Person-hood of a woman as mother is her acclaim of individuality essentially valued as liberty of her life. This was so designed by culture, tradition and civilisation. Mother's role in taking care of the child has been considered as an honour; she enjoyed such status because of her position in respect of the child. If on any reason she could not attend her workplace due to her duties towards child (compelling circumstances), the employer has to protect her person-hood as "mother". If not that, it will be an affront to her status and dignity," ...

"In patriarchy, woman belonged to kitchen. It needs to be realised that girls do have a dream and woman do have a vision, and motherhood cannot be seen as a burden on them to pursue such dreams and visions. The court while considering amplitude and meaning of life under Article 21 of the Constitution has to embrace its full meaning in the societal background on which the court is called upon to decide such disputes. Thus, a woman employee cannot be thrown out from service for remaining absent on account of taking care of child, if such taking care is indispensable for her," ...

In the instant case, the court was faced with the petition of a "distressed mother, a working woman who was confronted with the complexity of working environment designed by an architecture without adhering to rules of gender equality; often overwhelmingly to suit men".

Petitioner KT Mini was an assistant with the Life Insurance Corporation of with 17 years of unblemished and uninterrupted service. She had joined LIC as Assistant in 1989 and was working in Calicut. She gave birth to her second child in 2001. The child was afflicted with chicken pox after two years. Later, the child developed speech impairment and abnormal behaviour. Doctors diagnosed her condition as mild autism. Mini, at that time, was working in Calicut.

Mini took her daughter to Chennai sometime in the year 2007 for better treatment and applied for transfer to Chennai and proceeded on leave. Her husband, employed with a bank, got posted in Bahrain. Mini also joined him and found looking after her child easier in the company of her spouse.

LIC, ignoring her request for extension of leave or transfer to Bahrain, initiated disciplinary action against her and removed her from service. Mini then moved the court. Court has directed to reinstate the services of the employee and give her all benefits during the period.

Major observations from the honorable court

★ Baby care leave should be granted to employees exclusively and necessary amendments were already brought in Central Civil Services (Leave) section 43(C).

★ No discrimination to employees on account of Family obligations & commitments and it is applicable for both *male and female employees*.

★ If its brought to the notice of the employer that the employee is facing unavoidable family commitments then the leave applications and Transfer requests of the employees should be considered positively.

Honorable High court has directed Central and State Govt. to bring in necessary Acts to ensure the above verdict.

Resourced from Vimalavidya Ramadass at facebook and Livelaw News Network.

Kerala's second literacy revolution? Govt teaches Malayalam to migrant workers

The larger aim of the programme is to integrate the migrant workers with the state's culture, so that they don't feel alienated.

TNM Staff

The 100% literacy achieved by Kerala for the first time in the country as part of the Kerala State Literacy Mission, was viewed as the first revolution by the state government. Now, the second is 'Changathi', which represents the Mission's quest to teach Malayalam to migrant workers in Kerala.

"The first education revolution in the state was when the state achieved 100% literacy in April 1991. "Teaching Malayalam is indeed the second education revolution in the state," said Mission Assistant Director K Ayappan Nair. Changathi, which means friend in Malayalam, was launched in December 2016 by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. It is Kerala's unique mission to teach the land's native language to workers of other states. The larger aim of the programme is to integrate the migrant workers with the state's culture, so that they don't feel alienated. They will be taught how to read and write in Malayalam so as to enable them to mingle more freely with locals in the state.

On Friday, selected local bodies in 13 districts of the state submitted a survey report to state Labour Minister TP Ramakrishnan at a function held in Thiruvananthapuram. Of the 14 districts in the state, the pilot programme was launched in August this year in Perumbavoor municipality, in Ernakulam district. The population of migrant labourers is the highest at Perumbavoor in the state.

"We were faced with many questions during the launch and now at the expansion phase of the project, like what is the need to teach Malayalam to workers from other states and apprehensions regarding their criminal nature. But this didn't dampen our spirits. We view migrant labourers as human beings and not as criminals. Migrant workers are an integral part of Kerala's industry and construction sector. Without them, these sectors would come to a standstill for several days. We can't isolate them," Mission director PS Sreekala said.

"The success of the pilot programme makes us more confident. It was the college students who took classes for the migrant labourers there. Now, the society in general, be it the public or the students are friendlier to the migrant workers in the state and our apprehensions have gradually disappeared," she said.

In Perumbavoor, 432 migrant labourers have been taught the basics of Malayalam in the past three months, through the Mission's Continuing Education Programme. The schedule of the classes was arranged as per the working hours of the labourers, in the evenings and on Sundays.

The next phase of the programme will be launched in those local bodies where the number of migrant workers is the highest in each district, like Kazhakuttam in Thiruvananthapuram and Perinad in Kollam.

The survey was conducted by college students and volunteers of non-governmental organisations. Kerala hosts migrant workers from almost all the states in the country as well as Nepal. An estimated 25 lakh migrant workers are working in the state.

The mission has also launched a programme to bring trans persons drop outs back to school.

Published on : Friday, December 15, 2017

Courtesy : <http://www.thenewsminute.com/article/kerala-s-second-literacy-revolution-govt-teaches-malayalam-migrant-workers-73223>



Patna Sahib Gurudwara by night, ready for Shukrana Samaroh



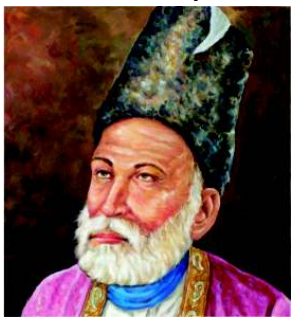
Q & A

Breaking the language barrier

- Kuldeep Kumar

bas-ki dushv r hai har kaam k s n̄ hon
aadm ko bh mayassar nah n̄ ins n̄ hon

Born : 27th December 1797
Died : 15th February 1869



Who is the poet whose lines are quoted in almost every situation and in almost every conversation in the vast Hindi-speaking region? There is only one name that comes to mind: Mirza Asadullah Khan 'Ghalib'. His 219th birth anniversary has just passed us by as he was born on December 27, 1797 in Agra. Acutely aware of his genius that was recognised by only a few but mocked by many of his contemporaries, Ghalib craved for the status that was due to him in a hierarchically stratified feudal society. It's a big irony that after his death in 1869, his poetic reputation as well as popularity has been growing exponentially and today he is the most popular poet whose couplets come handy in all kinds of situations because he appeals both to the head as well as heart.

Another irony concerns the vexed relationship between Hindi and Urdu, which are perhaps the only two languages in the world whose basic word stock, nouns, pronouns, verbs and sentence structure happen to be exactly the same. In fact, linguistically speaking, they may not even qualify to be considered two different languages. Their common linguistic base is Khadi Boli, the language of Delhi and surrounding areas, and their differences are hugely outnumbered by their similarities. Little wonder that Christopher R. King, who wrote a very readable book on the Hindi movement in the 19th Century North India, chose to name it as "One Language, Two Scripts". Scholars such as Lakshmidhar Malaviya have underlined the fact that many prominent Hindi writers of the 19th and early 20th centuries were proficient in Urdu, Persian and Arabic although they opposed Urdu in order to promote the cause of Hindi that was nothing but a form of Khadi Boli that leaned on Sanskrit and was written in the Devnagari script.

This was the time when the Perso-Arabic script of Urdu came to be identified with the Muslims, while the Devnagari script was associated with the Hindus. Even Sir Syed Ahmed Khan had expressed the view in one of his private letters, quoted by Alok Rai in his book "Hindi Nationalism", that Urdu written in the Persian script was part of the Muslim identity. In the 20th Century, Urdu movement played an important and supportive role to promote the Pakistan movement, thus reinforcing the Hindu bias towards the language.

Erasing the Berlin Wall

However, the post-Partition era witnessed a turn in its fortunes. Conscious efforts were made by concerned individuals to demolish the Berlin Wall of script that unnaturally and unnecessarily divided the two sister languages. In Bombay (now Mumbai) V. Shankar ICS, Lala Yodhray and Syed Shahabuddin Dasnavi founded the Hindustani Book Trust to "promote emotional unity between Hindiwallahs and Urduwallahs" and decided to publish great writers of both the languages in Devnagari as well as Urdu script. Mulk Raj Anand and Ali Sardar Jafri were appointed General Editors of this series that produced beautifully designed and aesthetically printed diwans of Mir

Taqi 'Mir' and Asadullah Khan 'Ghalib' as well as a collection of Mira's songs.

Ali Sardar Jafri prepared critical editions of these works and wrote detailed introductions. Later, Rajakamal Prakashan republished the two diwans in its paperback series. In 2001, Delhi government's Urdu Academy reprinted the Hindustani Book Trust edition of "Diwan-e-Ghalib" that was first published in 1958 and had become unavailable. In 1992, Delhi government's Hindi Academy had already published "Yadgar-e-Ghalib", the first biography and literary evaluation of Ghalib, written by his disciple and friend Maulana Altaf Husain 'Hali' (1837-1914) in 1897 to mark the birth centenary of the great poet.

Universally regarded as a classic, "Yadgar-e-Ghalib" makes us familiar with the free thinking, irreverent and rebellious nature of Ghalib whose life was like an open book and who never tried to hide his fondness for mangoes, gambling, poetry and alcohol. Reading it also makes us aware of the fact that trolls are not a new phenomenon. Even in Ghalib's age, there was no dearth of them. He regularly used to receive abusive letters because of his free thinking and propensity to break social norms.

Hali tells us that once he went to meet Ghalib and found him reading a letter. After finishing it, Ghalib said: "See, what kind of times are these! People have forgotten how to properly abuse a person. When you are abusing a child, you should use an expletive that concerns his mother; when you are abusing a teenager, you should use a word that concerns his sister; when you are abusing a young man, you should use a word that concerns his wife; and when you are abusing an old man, you should mention his daughter. Now, look at these characters. They are giving an old man like me "maa ki gaali!"

Everybody knows how great a poet Ghalib was. However, not many might know that had he not written anything but his letters, he would have still become an immortal name in Urdu literature because he had pioneered an informal, conversational and earthy style of prose. Moreover, they are an invaluable source of information about the events of his times. Publications Division brought out a collection of these letters in Devnagari script in 1972. Well-known Urdu writer Arsh Malsiyani had edited it.

Courtesy : <http://www.thehindu.com/books/Breaking-the-language-barrier/article17000272.ece>

Continued from page-1 Punjabi language ...

the state can make laws for it), has weakened the states' control over education. This had damaged Indian federalism, the education system and has also eroded the mutually-agreed concept of unity in diversity," the resolution said, adding that education was included in the Concurrent List during the unconstitutional emergency rule from 1975-77.

The second resolution demanded the imparting of education through mother tongues.

The third resolution said that the mother tongue needed to be the basis for tests, education and functionality in states in the country.

The fourth resolution demanded that Punjabi needed to be kept at top in all signboards in Punjab.

The fifth resolution condemned the filing of police cases against Punjabi lovers and demanded immediate withdrawal of these cases. It also demanded that people showing disrespect to Punjabi language needed to be made accountable.

Members of the convention demanded immediate implementation of the resolutions. "This is essential to fulfil economic, cultural, emotional and political aspirations of Punjabi population," the members added.

Among others, who participated in the event, were Sarbjit Singh Virk, a senior advocate; Professor Harjinder Walia; Raj Kakra, a lyricist; Narayan Dutt of Inquilabi Kendra and other.

punjab Updated: Oct 29, 2017 21:15 IST

Courtesy : <http://www.hindustantimes.com/punjab/punjabi-language-convention-in-patiala-bats-for-education-in-mother-tongue/story-hpw3w7C8vpy6BckZelLLO.html>

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Behar Herald, published from Patna is the oldest English weekly of Bihar and one of the oldest English weeklies of India as well. Beginning its journey in 1875 AD, it has retained till date the record of being published regularly for more than 110 years.

Eminent and learned media enthusiasts of yesteryears from the bengalee community of Bihar ran the weekly for decades. In the year 1938 Bengalee Association, Bihar was formed. In that very year the ownership of the weekly was transferred to the Association. Since then the Bengalee Association, Bihar and its leadership took care to publish this weekly as its own voice.

The sail was never smooth. Shortage of funds, of volunteers to work for it appeared to be critical many a times. Management had to be taken over by some or other wealthier individual of the Bengalee community or his business unit, for short periods. Yet the trust of Association with Behar Herald never ceased. To quote Rabindra Nath Thakur, the Gurudev, from the blessings he had given to the weekly on 4th Oct'1938:-

*Death, I refuse to accept from thee
That I am nothing but gigantic jest of God.
That I am annihilation*

Built with all the wealth of the Infinite.

Up to 1987 the journal continued. But then the publication ceased. Now, in 2015 the Bengalee Association, Bihar has again taken up the challenge to publish it. The New Series of Behar Herald was inaugurated on 15th July 2015.

Since inception, democracy and secularism have been the motto of the weekly, with representation to all minorities to use the weekly as their forum for rights.

The test of democracy lies in the sense of securities that a minority feels in any society. No minority can expect, consistent with values of democracy and secularism, any special treatment or favour. Likewise no minority must ever be denied rights and securities that the Constitution guarantees.

It is our earnest endeavour to work tirelessly and relentlessly for restoration of pride and glory of our state - Bihar, the ageless Bihar.

We dedicate ourselves towards achieving the same.

Committee for Behar Herald
Bengalee Association, Bihar

Committee of Behar Herald

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