

If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.
Abraham Maslow

Step in the right direction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at Surat earlier this week that the Government was contemplating introducing a legislation that would make it obligatory for doctors to write only generic names of medicines and that too in a clear and legible form. The current annual turnover of the Indian drugs industry is estimated to be over \$14 billion. The same medicine (generic name) having the same quality and the same efficacy is sold under different names (brand names) manufactured and marketed by different companies. It is the price of the same medicine which varies, from the very cheap to the very costly. The giant drug companies, often multinationals, have an advantage over their less fortunate competitors. The 'unholy trinity' of the manufacturers, their widespread string of salesmen (who call themselves 'medical representatives') and the 'gifts' liberally given by the manufacturers to the prescribing physicians always keeps the patient or his relatives at the receiving end. They have to buy what the doctor prescribes and what the doctor prescribes is dictated by the drug manufacturers.

The Prime Minister's announcement was like stirring the proverbial hornets' nest. Associations of drug manufacturers, organizations of doctors - all are up against the policy decision announced (not yet implemented) by the Prime Minister. Some say the choice of medicines in the proposed system will be shifted from doctors to chemists, not patients. As if now it is the patients who choose their medicines. In fact in the proposed new system it is the patients who will, for the first time, be able to choose their medicines. How? Well, the doctor prescribes a medicine by its generic name. The patient goes to the pharmacy and says: "Tell me how many medicines of this generic name made by different companies and sold at different prices do you have?" The pharmacist tells him and he makes his choice, depending either on the price or on the name of the company the patient trusts.

Already, dark warnings are being given that, making a tenuous difference between a 'safe and effective' medicine with a brand name and a 'similar' which may be neither safe nor effective, under the new prescription regime the chemists will be able to 'substitute' products of different manufacturers. 'Substitute'? What does it mean? Substituting which drug by another? And why should the patient (or his relatives) be supposed to be ignorant as not to distinguish the difference. The Prime Minister has taken a long overdue step in the right direction. He should stand firm and not allow the powerful drugs lobby to undo his decision by high-decibel anti-propaganda.

Restraint should be the watchword for CPM

REFLEX ACTION

P. Sreekumaran

It is gratifying to note that the unfortunate recurrence of the war of words between the CPM and the CPI has been halted with the call for restraint by both the CPM state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan and his CPI counterpart Kanam Rajendran.

Kodiyeri's offer of talks to sort out the differences has been welcomed by Kanam. That is how it should be. What had led to the verbal spat was the rushing to the press by both sides instead of discussing the contentious issues at the appropriate forums like the LDF Coordination Committee. It goes without saying that opening air of differences provides the opposition with a powerful weapon to belabour the LDF Government. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that both the CPI and the CPM should avoid a washing of the dirty linen in public. Being the biggest partner in the coalition, the CPM has a greater responsibility in this regard. In his press conference to rebut Kanam's contentions, Kodiyeri has rightly stressed the need for avoiding public criticism of Government's policies and programmes. Allies should avoid the tendency to do so, emphasized Kodiyeri. But the Government has an equal if not greater responsibility to ensure that it does nothing by way of word or deed that provides ammunition to the Opposition. Kanam in his reply to Kodiyeri said that all that the CPI did was to strengthen the LDF Government and not to weaken it. He has a point. When the LDF Government goes against its declared policies, it is the duty of the allies to point out the lapses. And the CPI would continue to do that, Kanam averred, and rightly so. But care should be taken to see that there is no public exchange of hot words between the two principal LDF allies. It is also true that

Kodiyeri's reply to Kanam bristles with contradictions. On the one hand, he says that allies should not provide sticks to the opposition to beat the government with. But when the government does something wrong, the allies cannot remain silent spectators. Kodiyeri must realize this unless it is his contention that allies should remain tight-lipped even in the face of clear cases of wrong doing. Another point to be noted is that while Kodiyeri doled out dollops of advice to the CPI, he failed to pull up the CPM leaders who provoked the latest round of mutual criticism. It was the intemperate outbursts from CPM leaders EP Jayaram and Power Minister MM Mani against Kanam and Revenue Minister Chandrashekhara respectively that triggered the latest verbal fireworks. These loose CPM cannons must be firmly kept on leash. Otherwise, all the efforts being made to restore normalcy and ensure smooth sailing of the LDF Government would be rendered futile.

In this regard, the central leaderships of both the parties have a big role to play. The central leaders must make sure that there is no open airing of mutual criticism any more. If necessary, a meeting should be held with the state leaders to enforce the 'ceasefire' strictly. Last but not the least, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in particular and the CPM in

general must change forthwith their style of functioning. It is the CM's autocratic style of doing things and proclivity to make ill-thought-out remarks and statements which had raised the hackles of the allies, particularly the CPI.

Particular mention must be made of the manner in which the police department, under the CM's direct control, is being handled. To say that the handling of the police department has been an unmitigated disaster is only to state the obvious. The glaring and inexcusable failure to restrain the police was evident in the way in which the police treated the attempt to stage a peaceful dharna by Jishnu's mother and his family members. The brutal way in which she was removed evoked criticism even from within the CPM. But the CM would hear none of it. He came out with an utterly ridiculous statement that the government is fully behind the Jishnu family. In the same breath, he defended the police excesses on the family when it tried to stage a sit in front of the DGP's office! Such double standards would only chip away at the base of goodwill which helped the LDF to assume power in the state.

The hallmark of a genuine politician is the possession of genuine compassion and humility. Unfortunately, Pinarayi Vijayan has exposed himself to the charge of lacking both. This is an impression which he must erase at the earliest. That the police should run amok when a communist government is in power is unpardonable. The Government must act and act now - to ensure that the police become people-friendly and people-hostile. The LDF Government has been forewarned. It must read the writing on the wall and mend its ways. (IPA)



Princess Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge speaks with runners from heads together charity, ahead of the upcoming 2017 London marathon.

Calcutta HC slaps 50k cost on writ petitioner for misleading Court

From page-1
"Another shocking fact has come out that the petitioner's husband has already been allotted land measuring area 150 sq. mtr. at Haddo village in Port Blair Tehsil under the pre-1978 encroachment regularization policy. Therefore, the present petitioner's family has availed the benefit of allotment of land. The 500 sq. mtr. herself purchased a land which was not owned by her predecessor in interest in its entirety. This apart, she herself sold a portion of her land to a third party and now she is claiming further allotment. This factual aspect has come out from the report of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, and the same has been controverted by the petitioner," said Justice

Chattopadhyay ruling that the petitioner was trying to mislead the Court and is not entitled to get any relief. In the writ application, the petitioner, Smt. Lakshmi Kantam, claimed that she purchased a house site bearing Survey No. 2754 Area 340 sq. mtrs. situated at Dugnabad village on 28.9.1973 and she had constructed a small house. In the year 1978, she could not carry out repairs of the house as a considerable portion was allegedly encroached by her husband. Following which she registered a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner. The Department, after inspecting the land, concluded that since one Jogin Singh had constructed the house on Site No. 2754 some times during 1969-70, the

Revenue Court had no jurisdiction to settle the dispute and to allot the alternate land in lieu of her existing site. As the Revenue Department was unable to allot an alternate land to the petitioner, she moved the High Court in 2008 and the Single Bench then directed the Deputy Commissioner to implement the decision of allotment of land, if taken. The Deputy Commissioner dealt with the issue and came to the conclusion that since no decision has been taken on the proposal for alternate allotment, the department was unable to allot her any relief. Failing to garner relief, the petitioner continued filing writs and contempt applications before the High Court, which was ultimately dismissed this month.

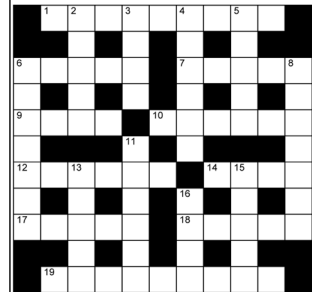
ANSCB launches all women modernized bank branch at Garacharma

From page-1
At the end, he conveyed his best wishes to the Management of A & N State Coop. Bank for the commencement of an Innovative All Women Branch, which is first of its kind in A & N Islands. In his address, Mr Bhagat Singh, Chairman requested the august gathering to propagate the various schemes of Govt. of India/ Administration like Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Scheme among the bank customers and villagers. He also emphasized that the modernised branch is functioning under the CBS platform and recording each and every financial transaction digitally without any human error, ensuring the perfect recording of the transaction. He urged all the people of the area to come forward and open their savings A/c with the bank and avail the benefits of ATM. He has informed the people present on the occasion that the ANSCB is issuing instant Rupay debit cards which are accessible in ATMs of all banks and the ATM cards of all banks are accessible in ANSCB ATM.

more feather to its banking fold by the inauguration of its Modernised All Women branch for the people. He further informed that ANSCB, Garacharma II had commenced its banking services in the year 2001. The branch has a deposit of Rs. 19.00 crores and advances of Rs. 8.00 crore. He also urged all the general public to come forward and avail ATM services of the bank. He also asked the general public to be cautious with their ATM Pin and other details and urged all the customers not to reveal their card and Pin details to anyone. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Smt. Zubaida Begum, Branch Manager, Garacharma II branch.

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QUICK CROSSWORD 1541



- Across**
1. Bargain (9)
6. Exile (5)
7. Trunk (5)
9. Spanish painter (4)
10. Nebula (anag) (6)
12. Gradually diminish (6)
14. Pleased (4)
17. Sailboat (5)
18. Conscious (5)
19. Be attorney for (9)
- Down**
2. Vacate (5)
3. Unctuous (4)
4. Purpose (6)
5. Ache (5)
6. Enthusiastically (7)
8. Late (7)
11. Newspaper chief (6)
13. Hidden store (5)
15. Discover (5)
16. A planet (4)

Previous solution
Across: 1. Decision, 7. Charm, 8. Visor, 9. Exhale, 10. Stay, 12. Seam, 14. Domino, 17. Raise, 18. Stain, 19. Response.
Down: 1. Death, 2. Comply, 3. Save, 4. Onset, 5. Accessory, 6. Greyhound, 11. Worsen, 13. Arise, 15. Inane, 16. Seep.

SUDOKU: 1828

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3	7						9	2
			8		7			
6	2					7	4	
	7	9			8	5		
	5	3	7					
8			1	5				

Yesterday's Solution 1827

3	6	1	9	5	8	4	7	2
2	5	9	6	4	7	3	1	8
7	4	8	2	1	3	9	5	6
6	2	3	4	9	1	7	8	5
4	1	7	8	6	5	2	9	3
8	9	5	3	7	2	1	6	4
1	7	6	5	2	4	8	3	9
9	8	2	1	3	6	5	4	7
5	3	4	7	8	9	6	2	1

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