

When you go into court you are putting it into the hands of people who aren't smart enough to get out of your duty
Norm Crosby

Privatizing the railways

The talk was on the air for quite some time that the Government wants to privatize the Railways. Now it is official. In an interview to The Hindu, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has confirmed that the Government wants to "give operations and management of railway tracks to private players for enhancing competition." The Minister did not clarify competition with whom. The Indian Railways are wholly owned by the Government of India. Inviting private players to operate railway lines for "competition" can mean only one thing - that the Government wants private players to compete against itself. This seems self-contradictory but well, there is the Minister's comment.

The Railway Minister has gone on to say that the Government intends to "lease out" at least a hundred railway stations to private players. An earlier attempt for leasing out stations, he said, evoked "lukewarm response" from the private sector. This time, to make the leasing more attractive, the Government has decided to increase the lease period from 45 to 99 years. Private operators who take the lease will be allowed to sub-lease stations to others for increasing their investment value and mortgaging assets to enable banks to give low-cost funds. The Minister has not clarified what will be the process of sub-leasing and whether the Government will have a say in it or the sub-lessees will be chosen by the lessees according to their sweet will. Private parties operating railway tracks and taking over railway stations seem to be the first step to privatizing the railways. This fits in with the economic philosophy of the present government which is understood to be interested in privatizing the banking sector as well.

If the Government hands over the railway tracks and stations to private operators, then it will be able to wash its hands clean of any responsibility for railway accidents and paying compensation to the kith and kin of the dead and the injured. The Government has not clarified the eligibility criteria for the private parties who will make bids for operating tracks and stations. This becomes more important if the lessees are allowed to bring in sub-lessees. The Railways are the lifeline of the nation, carrying goods and passengers through its huge network spread across the length and breadth of this vast country. Handing over the Railways to private operators, whether gradually, step by step, or at one go, will be detrimental to the interests of the country. The Government should think many times and seek the opinion of specialists before taking a final decision.

Durga Puja at Seva Niketan
PORT BLAIR, SEPT 25/- / Seva Niketan here will organize Sri Sri Sarvajna Durga Puja from September 26 to October 1 and Sri Sri Kojagiri Laxmi Puja on October 5. Programme to follow: (Wednesday) Maha Saptami (Pushpanjali at 11.00 am to 12.00 noon. Bhog Aarti at 12.30 pm), (Thursday) - Maha Astami (Pushpanjali at 10.30 am to 11.45 am. Bhog Aarti at 12.00 noon), (Friday) - Maha Nabami (Pushpanjali at 11.30 am to 12.00 noon. Bhog Aarti at 12.30 pm. Hawan Aarti at 1.00 pm, Saturday) - Maha Dashami (8.00 am to 9.29 am. Cultural Programme by inmates of Seva Niketan at 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, Sunday) - Bisarjan procession starts at 2.30 pm. (Thursday) - Sri Sri Kojagiri Laxmi Puja at 7.00 pm. For more information, one can contact over phone 09192-233349, 09434291866.

Tourism stakeholders meet LG
PORT BLAIR, SEPT 25/- / Mr. M. Vinod, president, AATO led a delegation of tourism stakeholders to meet the Lt. Governor in his office on Monday and discussed various tourism related issues through AATO and a resident joint representation. The main issues discussed were shortage of boats for Neil and Havelock, plying of Coral Queen for Havelock, passenger service fee, and basic amenities for tourists, parking place for tourist vehicle. The Lt. Governor gave patient hearing to the delegation and assured to look into all their grievances. Mr. M. Vinod, president, Mr. S. Vijayan, organising secretary, Mr. Abdul Majeed, FORTO, Mr. N. Kannan A&NTVDW and Mr. Anand, FORTO, ANTC&E Association formed the delegation and expressed gratitude to the Lt. Governor for assuring early redressal of the issues.

Muslim personal board's speak on triple talaq

REFLEX ACTION

L.S. Herdenia

All India Muslim Personal Board after its two-day meet here seems to have chosen the policy of no-confrontation with the government or judiciary on the issue of triple talaq. Reiterating its well-known stand of no interference in matters of Shariah, the Board gave a call for reform to end the practice of instant triple talaq. The Board adopted a novel method to refute the Supreme Court's claim that the majority of Muslim women are against triple talaq. It organised an exclusive meet of Muslim women in an open maiden where several women speakers and also some members of the Board stated: "Triple talaq is bad but effective under certain circumstances, dilution in Sharia would lead to abandonment of women after divorce".

AIMPLB women wing president Dr Asma Zehra said, "The Muslim Personal Law remains intact after the Supreme Court decision over triple talaq as the decision has banned instant triple talaq." Dr Zehra further said that though the Board respects the apex court verdict, it is compelled to say that it is not as per the board because it violates the basic rights provided by the Constitution of India to all faiths and religions to live as per their religious beliefs. She said that as the issue is related with women, country wide conventions would be organized by the board, well-versed with Shariah to educate the community. In every convention a resolution would be passed stating that Muslim men and women believe in Islamic Shariah and talaq is part of Islamic Shariah.

The on talaq is depriving us of our fundamental right; hence the freedom provided to us by the Constitution to practice Shariah should be continued. This resolution signed by the attendants of the conventions would be sent to President of India, Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, Women Commission and Law Commission," she added. Dr Zehra, along with AIMPLB president Maulana Rabey Hasan Nadvi, Maulana Rabey Hasan Nadvi, Maulana Sajjad Noman, Bhopal Shahar Qazi Syed Mushtaq Ali Nadwi and others, then read the resolution before the gathering and

asked the crowd whether they believed in Shariah and in response hundreds of women present on the occasion raised their hands to express their consent and uttered Allah hu Akbar. AIMPLB's first executive committee meeting after the Supreme Court verdict over triple talaq was held here on Sunday.

The meeting decided that a committee will be formed to study the verdict in detail and find a solution to the conflict between the judgment and Shariah. Besides, the board made it clear that it would not tolerate any interference in Muslim Personal Law and gave a call for social boycott of those who practice instant triple talaq. The meeting was perhaps the largest gathering of Muslim women ever held in Bhopal. An estimated 10,000 women still practices triple talaq will still continue to sever ties with his wife and it will not change.

How to implement it is a headache of the court and government," said Rahmani. AIMPLB member Khalid Rashid Firangi Malli said, "We are now jotting down the various interpretations of the constitutional articles involved in triple talaq. We have also decided that the struggle we have been waging since the last several decades to discourage the practice of instant talaq will continue. Syed Jalaluddin Umri, secretary of the AIMPLB, said, "In a democracy, we cannot oppose the verdict of the court, but we cannot welcome it.

We have to safeguard our personal laws. The court thinks by this verdict they will save women. I am yet to understand how it will happen." (IPA)

MIOT saves poly-trauma patient against failing ventilator support

From page 1
His friend, who was driving the bike, did not notice the stacked mud. The bike hit the stacked mud and Mr. Vignesh sitting in the back seat was thrown onto a concrete mixer machine. He was badly injured and immediately taken to GB Pant Hospital, where he underwent initial treatment for three days. There, they had identified severe chest injury and collection of blood in both his lungs. Tubes had to be placed on both sides of the lungs to drain out blood. For further treatment he was referred to MIOT Hospitals, Chennai under Anishi Scheme. He was airlifted along with a doctor from GB Pant, Port Blair to Chennai in a critical condition.

As soon as he arrived at MIOT he was attended by the critical care team. He was found to have a faulty airway and breathing and immediately needed ventilator for stabilization. In most of the cases, the patient is removed from ventilator by 3rd or 4th day once the condition stabilizes, which was not possible for Mr. Vignesh. The lungs were still in a very bad state. On day 4, a tracheostomy (A hole in the wind pipe) was done for a better ventilator for a longer duration. There was no improvement seen even by the 8th or 9th day. CT chest was done, which showed damaged lungs with persistent blood collection. The Cardio-Thoracic team was called who took him up

ple organs failure with dropping blood pressures and renal shutdown. This is when the doctors decided to take him to the next level of life support, the ECMO (Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation). ECMO is a treatment used, when our lungs fail completely. It is a device that pumps blood through an artificial lung and back into the body. Within 24 hours on ECMO, things started changing. Mr. Vignesh oxygen levels had become normal. Blood pressure started stabilizing and was tolerating dialysis much better. During the course of our ECMO we too had bleeding from multiple sites which were handled, however the worst episode was the lung bleed. His blood started falling and kidneys started shutting down. He had also picked up a bacterial infection in blood (sepsis) by this time. Over the next 12 hours, there were dangerous levels of potassium and acidosis in his blood. It was getting tough to keep him alive. To stabilize kidney failure continuously that is used to treat critically ill, very unstable patients. Within the next 12 hours, acidosis and potassium levels were brought under control. By day 23 despite all these measures he crossed the maximal ventilator support possible and had progressed to multi-



Picture shows a part of the revenue land illegally developed into a parking shed reportedly for staff of Police Station, Diglipur in North Andaman. Altercations between cops of the Station and government employees posted in establishments located in the vicinity over right to park their vehicles in the shed has become a commonplace in the area. claim sources. (EOI Ptx)

QUICK CROSSWORD 1705

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	

- Across**
1. Bitterness, ill feeling (8)
7. Map book (5)
8. Outside (5)
9. Move slowly and idly (6)
10. Legend (4)
12. Coax (4)
14. Mooring cable (6)
17. Long, cliff-bound sea (5)
18. Object (5)
19. Grounded (anag) (8)
- Down**
1. Let (5)
2. Consequence (6)
3. Honey drink (4)
4. Raucous (5)
5. Manacles (9)
6. Mooring (9)
11. Ran suddenly, rapidly (6)
13. Cultivated (5)
15. Oscillate (5)
16. Slight advantage (4)

Previous solution
Across: 1. Bitterness, 6. Late, 7. Gossip, 9. Ether, 11. Queer, 12. Index, 13. Hedgie, 16. Affair, 18. Tolu, 19. Diagonal.
Down: 1. Salsarim, 2. Retch, 3. Edge, 4. Dispute, 5. Let, 8. Perpetual, 10. Emerald, 14. Drown, 15. Area, 17. Fee.

SUDOKU: 1986

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Yesterday's Solution 1985

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

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Gauri Lankesh murdered for ideology

The ghoulish glee expressed in the celebratory tweets expected, by Hindu "patriots" over the journalist Gauri Lankesh's murder in Bengaluru, underlines the insane hatred against what a saffronite calls "Leftist, Naxal sympathizer, anti-establishment and anti-Hindu" people.

Although assassination of political adversaries is not the monopoly of the Hindu Right, it is doubtful if the killers identified with, say, the Maoists or the CPI(M) or any other party would have gloated over their "achievement" as the saffron lobby has done, although there is a Marxist minister in Kerala, MM Mani, who openly boasted in 2012 how his party had eliminated its political opponents. But the abusive tweets against critics have come to be associated in recent years mainly with the Hindutva camp. To make matters worse, it has now come to light that none other than Prime Minister Modi himself pursues these outpourings of hate on his Twitter timeline, although the BJP has quickly pointed out that reading such material does not mean giving a character certificate to the

writer. What the non-partisan observer might have expected, however, was that Narendra Modi would come out strongly against such scurrilous writings just as he once wanted the parents of adolescents to discipline their boys, too, and not only the girls. Since few in positions of authority have spoken out unambiguously against the venomous content of the tweets, the disgraceful propensity of the writers has been spreading like wild fire.

It is only after the noxious tweets on the journalist's murder became widely known that the Union law minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad, criticized the trolls only to be criticized in return by the latter. The riposte made the minister change his tune by asking why those who are "rightly angry" over the journalist's murder were silent over the killings of the RSS workers in Kerala. While the deaths in Kerala, as in West Bengal in the 1960s, are part of a vicious cycle of inter-party violence in which both sides suffer, Gauri Lankesh's assassination, like those of Narendra Dhabolkar, Govind Pansare and MM Kalburgi, are targeted killings carried out

FOCUS

Amulya Ganguli

either by party cadres or contract killers against ideological opponents. What the assassin's motives are, the nature underline is a fascistic rejection of dissenting voices. The singling out of critics for elimination is not only meant to silence one person, but also to send a message to all dissenters that unless they hold their tongue, or put away their pens or laptops, they may not survive. It is obvious that such carefully planned tactics of intimidation and murder which are intended to drive fear into the hearts of those who oppose a given ideological line cannot be the handiwork of isolated individuals, whether deranged or acting in concert with a few others. As the deaths of Dhabolkar and others over several years show, there is an organization which is behind the killings, which is not short of funds and indoctrinated

members willing to take the risk of detection and legal punishment. At the same time, as none of the killers has yet been caught, it would appear that they enjoy the protection of an effective support system which, in turn, must have been built up over years and is capable of providing secure hideouts where the killers can stay till the storm blows over. There is little doubt that these assassins are different from, say, the garukshaks who are also ideologically motivated but act at random, often in full view of cameras. The Supreme Court's orders, therefore, for stern action against them are likely to yield results. Besides, they do not seem to enjoy the overt support of his saffron establishment. As such, they are more vulnerable at present than before. But the killers of those who are perceived as "anti-Hindu" belong to a different category. As the

tweets in their favour show, they operate in a favourable ecosystem where they feel that they are on the right path. Such psychotic groups have existed for a long time. Before the advent of the social media, they used to send "hate mail" to the anti-Hindus, usually in handwritten postcards or letters in envelopes. It was customary for them not only to advise their targeted opponents to go to Pakistan, but also make vulgar allusions to their female relatives.

An intense anti-Muslim sentiment is the distinguishing feature of these foul-mouthed groups. Any interaction with less sophisticated followers of the BJP will reveal their deep animus towards the minorities. Unlike in the days of the hate mail, they are not only abusive, but also flaunt a distorted version of ancient and modern Indian history which depicts the Muslims in the darkest of hues. As is known, these elements have always been there. The only difference between the earlier decades and the present is that they have been emboldened beyond measure by the BJP's ascent to power. (IPA)