

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

Future of Four Million Bengalis in Assam

The second National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam has just been published. The names of 40,66,707 persons, most of them Bengalis but some Nepalis and others also, have not been recorded in the NRC. They have been given time until September to prove their citizenship. Those who will fail to make the mark even then will become Stateless people. Bangladesh will not accept a single one of them as its citizen. They will become Stateless. They will be denied the right to vote and denied of all the rights that a citizen is entitled to—from applying for a ration card to an Aadhar card. They will not be able to open bank accounts or take out insurance policies or seek jobs. There has been a body of public opinion in Assam which wants constitutional and legal provisions to make even the progeny of the Stateless people born in India to be Stateless. It is to be borne in mind that out of these 40.66 million people, 2.48 lakh have already been marked as "D" or Doubtful Voter in the electoral rolls. They have already lost their right to vote.

What will the Stateless people do? Their first instinct will be to migrate to other States, mostly to West Bengal. The first NRC in Assam was prepared in 1951. When preparations for the second NRC were being made, it was hoped that those whose names were registered in the first NRC, along with their progeny, will be automatically accepted as Indian citizens. But no. In order to exclude more people from the NRC, new conditions were put. The applicant will have to provide documentary evidence that previous three generations of the applicant, both on the father's side and on the mother's side, have been resident in Assam—a requirement even few Assamese will be able to fulfil.

The whole exercise is aimed at reducing the number of non-Assamese people, most of them Bengalis, in Assam. By making them Stateless it is believed that they will be compelled to leave the State. Where they go and what they do and how they survive is, apparently, nobody's business. The authorities in Delhi seem to be blissfully unaware of the social consequences of depriving so many people of their citizenship. There should be a nationwide protest against this gross violation of human rights. All opposition parties should exert their combined pressure on the Union Government to undo this injustice.

Jovial comrade who devoted life to a crusade

REFLEX ACTION

Shameem Faizee

While writing on the occasion of the 75th birth anniversary of Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour, famous Urdu satirist Mujtaba Hussain wondered how Dr. Gour had turned to be 75 and was much senior to him. He thought somebody must be joking as Dr. Gour himself never appeared to be so senior. That perfectly reflects the jovial nature of Dr. Gour. With him I had the opportunity to work and interact for over three decades while being a functionary of Ajoy Bhavan, the headquarters of the Communist Party of India in Delhi. I too never thought that his birth centenary will be celebrated during my life time.

The habit to complete any task in hurry and his jovial nature always gave an impression that the man can never be serious. But that was not true. He had a multi-dimensional personality and used to pay serious consideration to all the areas of activities and work in a very planned manner. He was basically a trade unionist, a party activist and a crusader for the cause of Urdu language. Though born in Hyderabad on July 21, 1918, Dr. Gour was very proud to call himself descendant of Kayastha family from Eastern Uttar Pradesh. He completed his education to be a medical practitioner (MBS) from Osmania University, but never joined the profession. Instead he became a full time political activist and whole time of the Communist Party of India. Raj Bahadur as a school student, had started taking interest in political and social activities.

He participated in various satyagraha and movements launched by various organizations, right from Arya Samaj to Praja Mandal, for social reforms, against atrocities of Nizam ruled state of Hyderabad and of course for the freedom of India from British yolk. At one stage he got involved in these activities that he wanted to give up his medical education. But his principal, Dr. Hardekar, dissuaded him telling, "By learning swimming does not mean that you must swim all through your life. Your knowledge of swimming might be of help to you in an odd situation only." The argument helped Dr. Gour to complete his medical education. As far as I know, this knowledge of "swimming" was never used, as that odd situation never arose. Even long periods of imprisonment and underground life did not force him to revise his decision to be a full time political activist.

Soon after completing his medical graduation, Dr. Gour jumped into workers movement and took a leading part in organizing the workers in different sectors, both organized and unorganized. Right from button manufacturers to bank employees, Dr. Gour was everywhere in the entire state of Hyderabad that, apart from Telangana, as also Marathi and

Kannada speaking areas. During student life, he was also active in the All India Students Federation (AISF) and attended its Nagpur (1939) and Patna (1941) conferences. His association with AISF made him a close associate of revolutionary poet Makhdoom Mohiuddin, who was 4-5 years seniors to him. When the state unit of the AITUC (called Hyderabad TU Council) was formed, Makhdoom was its president and Dr. Gour was elected its first general secretary. Despite participating in all party activities, including the armed struggle against feudal rule of Nizam, trade unions remained the first love for Dr. Gour.

Dr. Gour moved to the party headquarters as one of its functionaries in early eighties as the secretary of the Trade Union Department. By that time, he had also been elected to the national executive of the CPI. While in Delhi, apart from attending to the tasks of trade unions, particularly politicization of trade union cadres, he used to do other odd jobs too. For three years, he wrote a weekly column called Mera Column for Urdu weekly Hayat, of which this writer was editor. He also saw to it that the party patronized a theoretical magazine in Urdu. At his initiative, Urdu monthly Communist Jaiza was launched that included him as well as me and Hira Begum as members of the Editorial Board. It was more or less a replica of Party Life, a fortnightly in English. He had been in Delhi for almost a decade in early fifties also. He was elected to the first Rajya Sabha and re-elected for a full six-year term after the completion of the term of RS in four years. Though party wanted to re-nominate him for the third term, he refused. His parliamentary contribution requires a separate article. His relations with the then Vice President and Chairman of RS, Dr. S Radhakrishnan have many interesting and often humorous episodes that are part of parliamentary proceedings.

While in Delhi in his second stint, he divided equal time between party assignments and for the cause of Urdu language. He was almost an extremist while championing the cause of Urdu that was badly discriminated against since the country attained independence. He used to become quite emotional on the issue. He was elected All India president of Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu as well as nominated to be head (vice chairman) of the National

Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), an autonomous body under the HRD ministry. In these two capacities, he did everything possible to advance the cause of Urdu. His insistence on recognition of Urdu as an official language under Article 347 of the constitution in states where there is considerable Urdu speaking population was to detach the struggle from sentimental movements on imaginary demands like declaring Urdu the second official language of various states.

Despite being in jovial mood all the times, Dr. Gour used to be very serious on political and ideological issues. His writings on crucial issues reflect his seriousness and ideological commitment. Here I will conclude by just referring to his first booklet "Trikolour Shall Fly Over Hyderabad" that was published in September, 1947, pleading for accession of Hyderabad state to Indian Union. Incidentally, that was also the time when the party decided to launch armed struggle against the atrocities of Jagirdars and for occupation of land under the Nizam rule. He supported the party decision to launch armed struggle and attended the second party Congress at Kolkata. He was arrested and remained in jail even when he was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1952. Apart from giving glimpses of the oppression under feudal rule of Nizam, there are two formulations in the booklet that appear to be more relevant in these times when the country is facing a serious threat to our democratic set up and Constitution. While narrating the woes of the people under Nizam rule, Dr. Gour repeatedly pointed out that it is not just the liberation of Telugu people but also the struggle of the Marathi and Kannada people who should get their dream fulfilled of Samyukt Maharashtra and Samyukt Karnataka state. Marathwada and a part of present Karnataka were under Nizam rule. Dr. Gour conceptualized the formation of linguistic states in Independent Indian Union in this booklet.

There is another chapter on activities of Majlis Itehadul Musalman against freedom from Nizam's yoke and accession of Hyderabad state to Indian Union. It explains how the rightist forces use communal agenda for their dirty politics. It also explains how one brand of communalism supplements the other and ultimately destroys the very secular ethics of the society. A second reading of this chapter will help in understanding how Hindu and Muslim communalism work on the two sides of the same coin. Today RSS-BJP are out to polarize India on communal lines and a few Muslim outfits are becoming their tools. That includes Majlis Itehadul Musalman even today. (IPA Service)



Devotees celebrating annual festival of Mahankali Bonalu Rangam, in Secunderabad on Monday

Locking up immigrant children

FOCUS

Martha Mendoza And Larry Fenn

Detaining immigrant children has morphed into a surging industry in the United States that now reaps \$1 billion annually—atenfold increase over the past decade, an Associated Press analysis finds.

Health and Human Services grants for shelters, foster care, and other child welfare services for detained, unaccompanied, and separated children soared from \$71.5 million in 2007 to \$658 million in 2017. The agency is now reviewing a new round of proposals amid a growing effort by the White House to keep immigrant children in government custody. Currently, more than 11,800 children, from a few months-old to 17, are housed in nearly 90 facilities in 15 states—Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. They are being held while their parents await immigration proceedings or, if the children arrived unaccompanied, are reviewed for possible asylum themselves.

In May, the agency issued requests for bids for five projects that could total more than \$50 million for beds, foster and therapeutic care, and "secure care," which means employing guards. More contracts are expected to come up for bids in October. The agency's current facilities include locations for what the Trump administration

calls "tender age" children, typically under 5. Three shelters in Texas have been designated for toddlers and infants. Others—including in tents in Tornillo, Texas, and a tent-and-building temporary shelter in Homestead, Florida—are housing older teens. Over the past decade, by far the largest recipients of taxpayer money have been Southwest Key and Baptist Child & Family Services. AP's analysis shows. From 2008 to date, Southwest Key has received \$1.39 billion in grant funding to operate shelters; Baptist Child & Family Services has received \$942 million.

A Texas-based organization called International Educational Services also was a big recipient, landing more than \$72 million in the last fiscal year before folding amid a series of complaints about the conditions in its shelters. The recipients of the money run the gamut, including nonprofits, religious organizations, and profit entities. The organizations originally concentrated on housing and detaining at-risk youth, but shifted their focus to immigrants when tens of thousands of Central American children started arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border in recent years.

They are essentially government contractors for the Health and Human Services Department—the federal agency that administers the

program keeping immigrant children in custody. Organizations like Southwest Key insist that the children are well cared for and that the vast sums of money they receive are necessary to house, transport, educate, and provide medical care for thousands of children while complying with government regulations and court orders. The recent uproar surrounding separated families at the border has placed the locations at the center of the controversy. A former Walmart store in Texas is now a Southwest Key facility that is believed to be the biggest child immigrant facility in the country, and First Lady Melania Trump visited another Southwest Key location in Phoenix.

"You can't put a child in a prison. You cannot. It's immoral," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a New York Democrat who has been visiting shelters. Gillibrand said the shelters will continue to expand because no system is in place to reunite families separated at the border. "These are real concerns that the administration has not thought through at all," she said.

In April, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a "zero tolerance policy" directing authorities to arrest, jail, and prosecute anyone illegally crossing the border, including people seeking asylum and without previous offenses. As a result, more than 2,500 children were turned over to HHS. In a recently released report, the State Department decried the general principle of holding children in shelters, saying it makes them inherently vulnerable.

"Removal of a child from the family should only be considered as a temporary last resort," the report said. "Studies have found that both private and government-run residential institutions for children, or places such as orphanages and psychiatric wards that do not offer a family-based setting, cannot replicate the emotional companionship and attention found in family environments that are prerequisites to healthy cognitive development."

Some in the Trump administration describe the new policy as a "deterrent" to future would-be immigrants and asylum

seekers fleeing violence and abject poverty in Central America, Mexico, and beyond. But Steven Wagner, acting assistant secretary for the Administration for Children and Families—an HHS division—said the policy has exposed broader issues over how the government can manage such a vast system. "It was never intended to be a foster care system with more than 10,000 children in custody at an immediate cost to the federal taxpayer of over \$1 billion dollars per year," Wagner said in a statement. The longer a child is in government custody, the potential for emotional and physical damage grows, said Dr. Colleen Kraft, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The foundational relationship between a parent and child, what sets the stage for that child's brain development, for their learning, for their child health, for their adult health," Kraft said. "And you could have the nicest facility with the nicest equipment and toys and games, but if you don't have that parent, if you don't have that caring adult that can buffer the stress that these kids feel, then you're taking away the basic science of what we know helps pediatric."

A judge in California has ordered authorities to reunite separated families within 30 days, and the government has completed more than 50 of the reunions of children by now. (IPA Service)

Conventional Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

ACROSS
1 Like letter
5 Melody
8 Favourite
12 Pleasing quality
14 Sleeveless garment
16 Trunk
18 Embellish
20 Niggardly
21 Take unjustly
23 Liable
24 Seasaw
27 Consumed
29 Delight

DOWN
1 Step
3 Dist woman
4 Eastern ruler
6 Fixed allowance
9 Dressed
10 Feline
13 Contend for a prize
14 Bottle for the table
15 Showed silliness
17 Wise man
19 Distress
22 Actual
25 Bastion
26 Cereal

SUDOKU:2270

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

Yesterday's Solution 2269

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 278

T	O	T	E	M	M	A	R	S
E	A	M	A	Z	E	D	U	
L	A	T	I	N	L	O	N	E
L	A	T	E	N	O	R		
E	G	G	N	E	S	T		
R	O	A	S	T	D	O	E	
L	O	O	M	D	O	E		
M	O	O	R	A	V	O	I	D
P	I	E	R	S	T	E	I	N

DISCLAIMER
The views in the articles published here are absolutely the views of the author and The Echo of India does not stand liable for them.