

Why is it not in the same report on the average American newspaper is like trying to pick Bach's St. Matthew's Passion on a ukulele?
Baghichan's Observation

A timely judicial intervention

The Calcutta High Court has issued an ad interim injunction till next Tuesday on the West Bengal Government's decision to pay Rs. 10,000 to 20,000 thousand Puja Committees in the State. The ostensible purpose of the donation was to create public awareness about "Safe Drive Save Life" by the Puja Committees in cooperation with the police. The total expenditure would have come to Rs. 28 crore. The High Court has sought to know from the State Government why it was donating this money to the Puja Committees at a time when it admits to be cash-strapped. The High Court has raised several pertinent questions. Does the State have a guideline on making such donations? Is there any in-built system to prevent misuse of public money? Are such donations given to festivals of other communities as well? Will Puja Committees other than these twenty-eight thousand also get such donations? If not, can such donations be made to only some select Puja Committees?

Giving monetary help to select clubs is a policy this Government has been pursuing for some years. Quite naturally, it has come in for criticism by the opposition parties who see in it a not-so-hidden purpose of keeping sections of youngsters under the political influence of the ruling party. There is reason to believe that the Puja Committees which have been selected are run by supporters of the ruling party. Therefore the State Government should make public the identity of the beneficiary committees. Spending public money in the interest of a political party under any garb is impermissible. It has been proved time and again that such 'donations' (others may call it 'bribe') do not help any political party in the long run.

Earlier, in order to win over the electoral support of the minorities, the State Government had announced a monthly allowance for Imams and Muezzins of Masjid. There was a public hue and cry over this. Questions were raised as to why priests should not be given such an allowance. Eventually the government was struck down by the High Court. The TMC should have learnt a lesson from this and refrained from repeating the same mistake. But it did not. The only way to win over the support of the religious community is to give education among them and create job opportunities for them. There is no shortcut method to get their love and loyalty.

Er. JI Koilraj assumes charge of IEI State Centre



PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /- The Annual General Meeting 2018-19 of the Institution of Engineers (India), Andaman & Nicobar State Centre was held on Saturday, which was attended by the Corporate Members (FIE, MIE & AMIE). The Honorary Secretary, Er. Johnson Abraham, MIE presented the Audited Accounts & Annual Report for 2017-18 which was received by the Corporate Members. After this the point regarding appointment of auditors was discussed & remuneration fixed for the FY 2018-19. The Election of Corporate Member (Engineering Division-wise) for 2018-20 ANSC Committee was taken up and completed in a smooth manner. Apart from the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Immediate Past Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Engineering Division Board-wise member, co-officio members make up the IEI ANSC Committee. The Chairman & Honorary Secretary of a retiring Committee Er. D. Sathyamoorthy, FIE & Er. Johnson Abraham, MIE received the charges to the Chairman-elect & Honorary Secretary-elect, Er. John Immanuel Koilraj, FIE & Er. Arun Srivastava, MIE respectively and they assumed office for the term 2018-2020 with immediate effect. Earlier, the Chairman of the State Centre Er. D. Sathyamoorthy, completed in a smooth manner, gathering and initiated the AGM 2018-19.

Vice Admiral Bimal Verma
Brief profile of a top Navy Officer

From page-1
Vice Admiral Verma's noteworthy afloat appointments include commissioning crew of INS Virat, Signal Communication Officer of INS Ganga and Fleet Communication Officer of Western Fleet. He has also been the Commanding Officer of amphibious platforms such as INS Shardul and Magar, missile destroyer INS Ranjit and guided missile destroyer INS Mysore. Amongst his important ashore appointments, the Flag Officer has been the Principal Director Naval Operations at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy), Naval Attache in Tehran, Captain Local Work-up team (LWT) at Visakhapatnam, INTEG (Indian Naval Tactical Evolution Group) and has also served with the Signal Intelligence Organisation. On promotion to Flag rank, Vice Admiral Verma has held appointments as Flag Officer Doctrines & Concepts, Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra and Gujarat Naval Area, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Information Warfare & Operations) and Flag Officer 'Alternative Operational Base' project. On promotion to the rank of Vice Admiral on 01 November 12, the Flag Officer was appointed as the Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command. He has also coordinated the recently concluded International Fleet Review 2016. For his distinguished services, Vice Admiral Bimal Verma has been awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vice Admiral Bimal Verma is married to Mrs. Seema Verma and they have two daughters.

Bagavati Jagran Utsav at Rajasthan Mandir
PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /- On the auspicious occasion of Shardi Navaratri, Rajasthan Mandir here will organize the 32nd Bagavati Jagran Utsav in the premises of Rajasthan Mandir at Shadipur. The bhajan programme will start at 9 am on Oct 13 and will be performed by Jai Mata Di Jagran Mandal. Prasad will be distributed to devotees on the occasion.

Prohibiting a prohibited act

REFLEX ACTION

B. Sivaraman

"Stop killing us!", screamed the banner at the exceptional protest at Jantar Mantar on 25 September 2018. The protest by Safai Karamchari Andolan (SKA) led by Bezvada Wilson was a unique event at many levels. It is a rare event where students from JNU, considered to be the most elitist bastion of the radical intelligentsia, were rubbing shoulders with safai karamcharis, considered to be the most down-trodden among the labour force.

An unusual event indeed in which the most informalised and marginalised sanitation workers, even written off by many conventional left labour organisers as incapable of politicisation and rallying into political protests, were finding themselves at the vortex of a national political protest. In this uncommon convergence of the Left and the civil society prominent national political leaders like Brindish Karat and Kavita Krishnan were sharing the platform of solidarity with civil society notables like civil liberties campaigner Usha Ramanathan and the RTI architect Nikhil Dey. The sanitation workers were fighting desperately to save their own lives as 1790 scavengers have been killed while cleaning sewers since the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavenger and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, came into effect. It was as much a fight against occupational hazards, as it was a fight for their own dignity. They held up a mirror before a supposedly modernising society to stir its conscience. That they managed to do it in a striking manner was visible from the wide media coverage the event got, which made headlines even internationally. The dignity of India as a civilising and modernising nation was at stake. Even the irrepresible leaders were repeatedly invoking Chandrayan to contrast it with sewer deaths.

This event, which brought the dirty underbelly of the otherwise sophisticated Lutynens' Delhi, also marked an exposure of consciousness—for social reforms against a persistent barbaric practice of human beings dipping into shit to unclog the sewers, inhaling hydrogen sulphide and other toxic fumes in the process and losing their lives. The otherwise sensitive left leaders would have returned from the demonstration wondering how to convince their own trade union bosses to address the issue on a larger plane.

Trapped in their own conventionalism, the left trade unions only succeeded in organising the civic workers working for municipalities, earlier directly and now through contractors. But a large mass of atomized and scattered informal workers cleaning latrines in individual households were left out by and large. The Left has remained clueless as to how to organise them in putting an end to manual scavenging.

SKA has successfully organised them as a class-group at the all-India level transcending their localised caste identities, primarily on the basis of their dignity. In this sense, they might offer some valuable lessons to the gargantuan-sized trade union behemoths of organised sector workers. More importantly it poses more of a moral challenge than an organisational one to the advanced detachments of well-paid and high-skilled workers on championing their cause. Though it was supposed to be a national protest on 25 September, there were no reports of workers coming out in solidarity at the factory gates or in their industrial areas. The problem is much larger than frequent sewer deaths. The Census 2011 recorded 7,94,390 dry latrines where humans clean human excreta. Besides these, there are 13,14,822 toilets in numerous small towns. And including other types of such toilets, there were a total of 26 lakh dry latrines in the country. As per the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 data of manual scavengers, there were 1,82,505 manual scavengers in the rural areas of the country.

The Union government passed the 'The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013'. The law enjoined the government to identify manual scavengers across the country through surveys. It also provided for rehabilitation. For the rehabilitation of manual scavengers, the government offers

one-time cash assistance of Rs. 40,000, skill development training up to two years with a stipend of Rs. 3,000 per month, and a concessional loan for self-employment projects up to Rs. 15 lakh with a capital subsidy up to Rs. 3.25 lakh. But, until October 2017, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has identified only 13,384 manual scavengers (4375 in urban and 9014 in rural) in 11 states of India. Of these, 12,640 received the one-time cash assistance (Rs. 40,000) from the government and 4,643 received vocational training. No wonder the enforcement was pathetic as the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, entrusted with the responsibility of rehabilitation, was operating with a budget of Rs. 5 crore! Prime Minister Modi's aggressive thrust on Swachh Bharat provided an excellent opportunity to the recalcitrant bureaucrats to act. The much-needed funds too would have come. But their failure is unpardonable.

In fact, earlier in 1993 itself there was an Act called Employment of Manual Scavengers (Prohibition) Act. A National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was also created in 1993 to monitor the effective implementation of the law. But only effective implementation record of the successive governments is to come up with another law in 2013 after 20 years! The latest law again bans the prohibited manual scavenging once again. "No person shall engage in or employ or permit to be engaged in or employed by any other person for manually carrying human excreta". The law says that no person shall construct or maintain a dry latrine. But the law miserably fails to ban engagement of labourers by municipal authorities to manually clean sewages and septic tanks. The practice continues despite availability of new technologies to de-clog and clean the sewers with machines. Hence, the deaths continue. The forces that converged on 25 September succeeded in creating an explosion of national awareness on this vexed issue.

Hope they would also reflect on their respective limitations and come up with an imaginative plan to sustain the momentum until Indian society rids itself of this filthy muck of a practice and the workers condemned to engage in this are suitably rehabilitated. (IPX)

Assertive ANC set to become a formidable force: CINCAN

From page-1

However, a permanent base for fighter aircrafts is imperative to improve the effectiveness and strength of the Command and efforts are on to achieve this in a phased manner. In the first phase, the Air Force would only be sending temporary detachments here," he informed.

Elaborating about the first joint logistics node set up at the tri-services command to provide logistical support to all three defence services and to improve utilisation of resources, manpower and remove duplication, the Commander-in-Chief informed that Tri-services Detachment at Material Organisation will meet logistical needs of the armed forces and the Tri-services Advanced Detachment (TRISAD) will be based in mainland and responsible for sending troops and equipment to the nodes. "The entire logistical requirement of ANC for a three services will come under the Joint Logistics Com-

mand & Control Centre (JLCC&CC). Initially, I'll look at critical requirements such as storage, transport, warehouses and inventory management and eventually cover rest of the items. Material Organization will consist of logistical manpower of the three services and will make automated inventory for this, around 1500 common items have been identified so far," said Vice Admiral Bimal Verma.

Earlier, the Command Plans Officer highlighted some of the major achievements of the tri-services Command in the past one year. Following apprehension of 16 poachers this year, the Command carried out dedicated anti-poaching missions both by Air and Surface assets continuously for 40 days around Little Andaman Island from July 1 to August, 2018. To further bolster the overall security scenario, a temporary post has also been set up at Landfall

Island to check illegal migration from Myanmar. Surveillance on the western coast of the Islands, both by air and ships, has also been re-doubled. Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (DANN) and Exercise KAVACH validated the defence and operational logistics plan of the Command towards ensuring territorial integrity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, while MILAN, the biennial meeting of navies of Indian Ocean region held in March this year saw a diverse mix of professional exercises and seminars, social events and sporting fixtures.

Induction of FDN-2, commissioning of INCLU 53 and 54, BMPs and TA Battalion of Madras are among major inductions of the ANC. The Command Plans Officer also highlighted about Search and Rescue Operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Relief, Medical Evacuations, activities of Defence Wives Welfare

Association, Organ Donation and other social outreach campaigns undertaken by the Command in the last one year. In 1999, after the Kargil War, Andaman and Nicobar Islands received more attention. The Group of Ministers (GoM) report on Reforming the National Security System recommended the replacement of the FORAN, under the Indian Navy, with a Joint Andaman and Nicobar Command which will control the assets of the tri-services and the Coast Guard on the islands. The GoM had recommended that the Commander of this Joint Command would report to the proposed Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

The Andaman and Nicobar Command was in place by the end of September 2001 and Vice Admiral (later Admiral and CNS) Arun Prakash was the first Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN).

VBD Camp by IWC, ANACS at Law College



PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /- Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS) organised a voluntary Blood Donation camp at Andaman Law College, Next to Syndicate Bank on Sunday on the occasion of week-long National Voluntary Blood Donation Camp.

Altogether, 21 donors donated blood voluntarily. Dr. Govil Lal, President and Charter Secretary, Inner Wheel Club (IWC) of

G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair, emphasized that apart from being a noble cause, blood donation will also keep a person updated of his physical status. She also examined the donors for their eligibility to donate blood and briefed the donors on various aspect and importance of blood donation. Inner Wheel Club of Port Blair coordinated the camp and made arrangement for effective conduct of the camp. The technical team from Blood Bank, C. P. Pant Hospital, Port Blair and A&N AIDS Control society ensured that the donated blood units are screened for transmissible diseases. They also examined the donor for eligibility for blood donation and briefed the donors on various aspect and importance of blood donation.

Donor certificates were also distributed among the voluntary donors.

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	

ACROSS

- Floor covering
- Arab vessel
- Jetty
- Product
- Male deer
- Electrical unit
- Scold
- Flood
- Take as one's own
- Strip lock
- Fish eggs
- Book of the Bible
- Weak
- United

DOWN

- Quantities of paper
- Container for ashes
- Dislike intensely
- Joker
- Non-verse
- Commerce
- Face
- Minute particles
- Track
- Strip lock
- Vestige
- Stupidly
- Mild explosion
- Kitchen utensil

SUDOKU: 2336

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

Yesterday's Solution 2335

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 344

A	L	O	O	F	L	A	T	E
C	P	A	R	O	L	E		
C	O	V	E	N	W	E	E	K
E	A	N	G	L	E	T		
P	S	I	R	E	E	L		
T	E	N	T	R	E	I	R	E
G	R	A	C	T	O	R	A	
G	E	R	M	A	M	E	N	D
B	E	D	S	E	N	T	E	R

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