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Telangana

Vishal Tummala

On July 30, the Congress Working Committee passed a unanimous resolution, formally endorsing its decision to form the 29th state of India – Telangana.

While many blindly celebrate this novel separation, it is a widely held belief that this was an action merely of political significance, and one that wouldn't have any consequential bearing on the woes of the people of Telangana. The announcement itself, made by Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh, perpetuates certain administrative flaws of the Congress government. Firstly, the party's premise is founded on the notion that the creation of a separate state would allow successive governments to concentrate on the difficulties plaguing the region. While this could be true to a certain extent, evidence continues to suggest otherwise. The underdeveloped conditions prevailing in the states of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, with an elevated political instability in the latter display the inherent fallacies rooted in the belief. Furthermore, the exercise of schismatic practices confronting the interests of the people in such a pluralistic society is not within reason.

Secondly, the Congress party regarded this event as fulfilment of a promise, previously made in 2009. K. Chandrasekhar Rao, a proponent of the division, pledged to fast until such a declaration was made as reasonable as it may be perceived, that commitment was announced during circumstances that were proceeding towards constitutional insecurity. If the party is as sincere and genuine as they deem this proclamation to be, why then would it defer the process till such a time that bears close proximity to the Lok Sabha Elections of 2014? The party enjoyed its position of authority, and for all intents and purposes a period of peacefulness for four years after the assurance was made. The working committee claims to have consulted with a comprehensive range of parties and has consequentially arrived at this decree. However, all forms of societal and governmental activities have remained paralyzed in the existing state of Andhra Pradesh since the past week. The decision was taken so hastily that, clearly, it appears to assume the form of political desperation.

Thirdly and most importantly, it is understandable that deliberations for the division have been umpteen and are of historic value. However, it cannot be the singular factor contributing to the decision. Agreed that periodic movements demanding division, often spurred by individuals seeking political benefit have been witnessed since 1956, nonetheless, existing central governments addressed the issue by providing acceptable solutions to the problems experienced by the people, and not by succumbing to popular pressure. These actions reinforce the true purpose of a representative government – to take decisions that would serve the long-term interests of the country and its people. The Gentlemen's Agreement initiated during the Jawaharlal Nehru government and the 'six-point formula' established by the erstwhile Prime Minister, late Indira Gandhi, and various other measures implemented during Telangana's fifty seven years of unison lay substance to the aforementioned purpose.

Finally, the retention of the city of Hyderabad, capital of Andhra Pradesh, within the proposed state of Telangana has become an issue of great contention. The original declaration states that Hyderabad would function as a common capital for both states for a period of ten years, during which a new capital for the remnant state of Andhra Pradesh would be constructed. While such an action displays an utter negligence of the contributions by the people of the Coastal and Rayalaseema regions to the city and region. What is more unbecoming of the ruling party is its indecisive stand regarding the issue. Isolated ministers remain resolved and advocate a Union Territory status, thereby creating a state of aggravated tension in the region.

Undeniably, the Congress party would have generated a strong vote-bank in the region of Telangana, and many might consider this move as a beautifully convoluted and highly effective political strategy. While that might be accurate to an extent, I would term this action as an unethical and submissive gesture. There was once an age when the entire nation decried such divisive policies adopted by the British colonialists. It is tragic to witness our own representatives resorting to those very tactics.

Recently enough, the people of Gorkhaland re-manifested their desire to separate themselves from West Bengal. The members of the Bharatiya Samajwadi Party have expressed their inclination to split the state of Uttar Pradesh into four smaller states, and political parties in Maharashtra are demanding the formation of Vidharbha. Subjects of the western segment of Assam have made blatant indications to form a new state of Bodoland. Unquestionably, this initiative has stimulated separatist forces all over the country. As an opponent of separatism, and as a citizen of the country, I believe that this action needs to be deplored.

DEBATING

The School was represented by eight debaters at a training programme and competition hosted by the World Schools Debating Academy in Slovenia. Smriti Nair was ranked eighth out of all debaters at the competition. Congratulations!

MUN

The School was represented by twelve students at the **Sanskriti MUN** in New Delhi from July 18 to 20. Divyant Sapra was given a verbal commendation. Well Done!

EXCHANGE

We welcome exchange students Sachin Chandra and Freddie Rollson from **The Eton College, UK**, Marco Mund and Freddie Creed from **St. Edwards School, UK** and Calum Alexander Macneil from **Merchiston Castle School, UK**.

We wish them a fruitful stay in School!

NEW HEIGHTS

A mountaineering expedition was organized by the Adventure club to Dhumdar Kandi Pass in Garhwal Himalyas from June 1 to 11. Harsh Bansal, Zorawar Singh, Amartya Bhowmik, Param Deep Singh, Vallavi Shukla, Mr. Shrey Nagalia and Dr Shukla reached the summit. Mr Manu Mehrotra and Amaan Kazmi reached the summit camp and Harshvardhan Singh reached the first camp.

Well done!

WEMUN

24 students represented the school at the **Weland Model United Nations Conference** from July 30 to August. Vrindam Nagpal, Abhinav Kejriwal and Abhayraj Jain were adjudged as **Outstanding Delegates** in their respective committees. Ritesh Devnani and Kartikeya Jain received an **Honorary Mention**. Tanishq Agarwala was awarded **Best Position Paper** in his committee.

Well done all!



Around the world In 80 Words

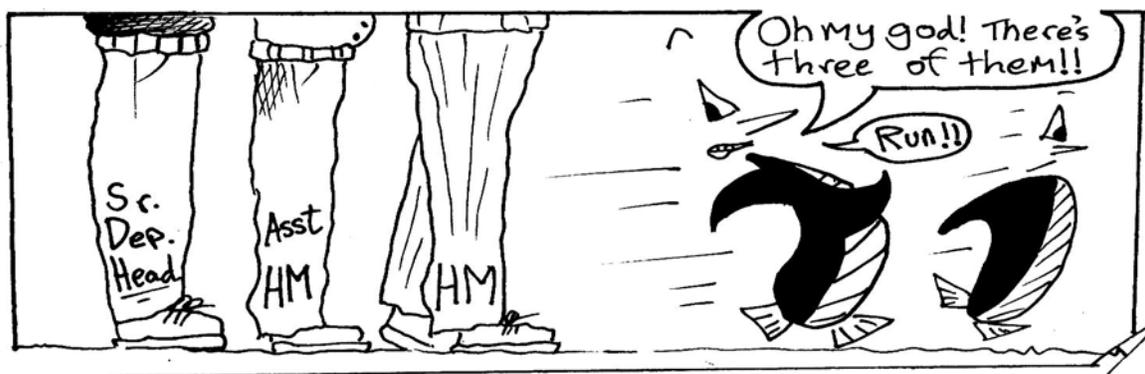
A major fire closed down the Nairobi airport this week causing flights to be rerouted. Elsewhere, President Obama has decided to initiate talks with the Russian Premier, Vladimir Putin, regarding Edward Snowden after expressing dissatisfaction with the way the issue was handled by the Russian authorities. In Syria, 62 rebels have been reported killed in an army ambush. Meanwhile, five Indian soldiers have been killed on the Indian side of the LOC after an attack by Pakistani terrorists and soldiers.

| Caption This |



The Doon School Weekly introduces the 'Caption This' feature. Send in your captions for this cartoon. The best entries will be featured in the forthcoming issue.

doontoon



Third Front

Pulkit Agarwal discusses the upcoming General Elections.

A perpetual topic of conversation in most households with regards to the General Elections of 2014 has been the Narendra Modi vs Rahul Gandhi debate. However, few realize that these elections might not be as bipolar as they expect them to be. Rather, a whole bunch of regional parties, which political pundits call the 'Third Front' might prove to be the pivot around which the future government in Delhi might revolve.

An interesting fact to consider would be that over the last three polls, the percentage of votes cast in favour of the national parties; the Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janta Party has steadily declined, and is expected to fall below 50 percent in the upcoming elections. The reason why I consider this to be a potentially detrimental development is that it will lead to the formation of a central government that is held together by rather unstable coalitions. We have already witnessed the menace of such coalitions in the form of the UPA-2 where parties are willing to withdraw support as arbitrarily as they are willing to extend it.

The moment the seats tally is released at the end of next year's polls, the Mamata-Maya-Mulayam-Jaya-Nitish factor will begin to take its toll. Over the past decade it has been seen that the Congress has managed to stay in power longer and keep its alliances together. However, keeping in mind the recent economic decline and rampant corruption, the mood of the country might just lead to some political friends slinking away and leaving the Congress high and dry. On the other hand, the BJP has not done itself any favour by projecting Narendra Modi as its Prime Ministerial candidate because this has already led to the break down of some long standing alliances. Hence, the picture that seems to be emerging is that in case the regional parties succeed in scoring vital political points and managing the numbers correctly, we could have the Third Front emerge as the country's ruling front for the first time in its political history.

Most forecasts predict that close to three hundred Lok Sabha seats are going to be in the bags of these parties. In case these parties can put aside their differences and figure out a way of working together, we could have a central government that does not include either of the two national parties! But then, I wonder what the situation would be like if five different party leaders fought over 7, Race Course Road! As ludicrous as the idea might seem, I think it would be wise to consider such a possibility in the wake of so many recent political and economic developments. Neither do people want the tragic figure of Manmohan Singh returning for a third term, nor do they like the possibility of a divisive leader such as Modi leading the pack. Hopefully the picture is going to get clearer over the next eight months. However, the one factor that keeps grabbing my attention is the appointment of Mr. Pranab Mukherjee as the President of the Union last year. Considering that it is the President who practices his discretion in calling upon the single largest party in the nation to form the alliance, and also considering the fact that the numbers in the Parliament are going to be precarious for the Congress, could this actually be yet another shrewd political move on the part of the Congress? We'll have to wait and see.

The Week Gone By

Utkarsh Jha

I could not write a Week Gone By without talking about the disaster that struck Uttarakhand while we were away on vacations. The lines from the Bastille's eponymous song Pompeii, '*And the walls kept tumbling down/ In the city that we love/ Great clouds roll over the hills/ Bringing darkness from above*' serve as a succinct summary of the tragic events that unfolded in Uttarakhand over the summer. Though, I concede that a pop band may not be the most suitable candidate to draw lessons from, Bastille's song strikes an eerie chord with the devastation caused by the recent floods in Uttarakhand. However, probably the most significant lines are 'Oh where do we begin? The rubble or our sins?' These lines hold true in the case of the floods as they bring up an extremely relevant question- Should we clean up the cosmetic elements, that is the rubble, or should we focus on cleaning our sins, that is, our greed to construct more dams, more houses and more roads that might have contributed to the destruction? The *Weekly* believes that the School or members of the School community should not only try and clean the hills but also tackle the greed. Also, the buzz of DSMUN is in the air. Of course, some SCs caught the scent of the conference in the previous term itself and have dedicated their holidays to running getting in shape. Indeed, a wise move given the stiff competition. Additionally, I have come to learn that certain chairpersons and delegates have already planned and coordinated their rather grand and elaborate entrances into committee. However, I have a feeling that with a slightly weak leg in certain cases, such fashionable entrances may face a roadblock.

In comparison to the SCs, who are all geared up for DSMUN, there seems to be a lull in S form. However, I do believe that this is just the lull before the storm. Very soon, as per traditions, the *Weekly* is going to be inundated with requests to publish Roving Eyes and other such articles about the exploits of the S Formers. It is indeed a race to prevent the *Weekly* from turning into the next Daily Mail.

Others in School are busy getting themselves involved in the plethora of other activities. With soccer, swimming, music and dance all around the corner, we sure have a lot to look forward too.



Weekly Selects

The best articles, this week, from around the world

The Confessions of Innocent Men

The Atlantic

How Much is a Life Worth

National Journal

The Ghost-Rapes of Bolivia

Vice

Why We Keep Playing The Lottery

Nautilus

Has Carl June Found a Key to Fighting Cancer

Philadelphia Magazine

Road To Redemption

The Weekly interviewed Mr. Jay Mazumdaar, who gave a talk on the Uttarakhand flood disaster.

Doon School Weekly (DSW): What brought you to become an environmental journalist?

Jay Mazumdaar (JMD): I do not think of myself as an environmentalist as there wasn't a lot of interest in environmental journalism in those days. It was a very non-glamorous and unattractive profession. Thankfully, the first major story I wrote was on tigers and this was a glamorous issue because tigers make news. If it was about the extinction of some buffalo or elephant then no doubt it wouldn't take so much notice. Initially, I wrote from sports to fashion to fruits, but then I realized that there was a huge scope in the field of environmental journalism. Environmental journalism was mainly a kind of tourism journalism. Journalists used to go and come back and write mostly long stories. Hard reporting in an environment was mostly unexplored, so I took the opportunity and in the last eight to ten years I am happy to see that the interest has really grown

DSW: We have heard a lot about your projects. Could you tell us what these projects are about and did you help the government as well?

JMD: No, I didn't help as such, but the thing is that when I point out something that is wrong or misunderstood, then sometimes others join in and there is some pressure created on the government. So after I wrote the story on Sariska, the Prime Minister's office and the Supreme Court stepped in and eventually the law was amended. When they decided to send tigers back to the parks, initially they were sending any random tiger to Sariska. When they picked up tigers from Panna there was never a chance of these tigers being related because there are a lot of forests in Madhya Pradesh. Ranthambore, however, is the only national park in Rajasthan. So when they picked up tigers from there they were usually siblings; brothers and sisters for mating. When I did that story it was really difficult to prove that they were siblings and initially the story was denied by the government. In the laboratory test it was proven that they were brothers and sisters. After this the policy was changed.

DSW: What are your views on the reintroduction of the cheetah to Gujarat?

JMD: It is an unnecessary decision and is an emotional issue for most people. There were reasons for their extinction and if we try to bring the cheetah back without fixing the reason of their extinction in the first place, then these problems are bound to

arise again. I believe this experiment is likely to fail and my concern is that the government is spending a lot of taxpayer's money.

MATHEMAGICIAN

The Weekly interviewed Dr Sandip Banerjee, who gave a talk on Differential Equations

Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you tell us something about your educational and professional background?

Dr. Sandip Banerjee (SDB): I did my graduation from The University of Calcutta, after which I joined St Xavier's College. My aim was to be a lecturer. Ultimately, I did become a lecturer of that college and taught there for ten years. However, by that time my PhD was over, so I started looking for another job. I got my post doctorate from the University of Helsinki, Finland. Upon my return to India I worked at BITS Pilani for six months. I am currently teaching at IIT Roorkee.

DSW: How has your experience at IIT Roorkee been so far?

SDB: IIT Roorkee has a long history, earlier it was known as The Roorkee College of Civil Engineering, later it became the University of Roorkee, and currently it is known as IIT Roorkee. The problem that I faced when I first went there was that people lacked the typical university culture that most universities instill. Earlier the IITs were very rigid in terms of their rules. However, it has changed since then.

DSW: Recently the IIT system of entrance has changed; do you think it is going to benefit students preparing for IIT?

SDB: Personally I feel it's good in the sense that earlier students used to prepare solely at the coaching centers. The system was such that the board exam was already taken care of but if you concentrate on the board exams then it is expected that you will learn the theory part also. I've seen students who are smart but don't know what is not coming in the exam. So, they can solve tough questions but not basic ones. I feel it will benefit the students.

DSW: The number of IIT's has increased along with the number of seats, but the quality of some of the newer IITs has not been up to the mark resulting in a few students leaving IIT to join other colleges. How do you think this problem can be solved?

SDB: One of the biggest mistakes the government has made is opening new IITs without good preparation. The infrastructure quality has declined. The location and quality of the new IITs is poor. A student in these IITs has to drive 30 to 40 kilometers just to attend his classes. Personally I feel the government has made a bad decision.

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