

TEAM BJP

There is a good chance that even an avid follower of national news may not be familiar with most names who constitute the Team Nitin Nabin, the BJP party. The new team just announced has nearly half members as women, are from grass-roots and represent various regions of India. It's something like Nitin Nabin, a grass root worker who had done a lot for the organization but never been in the gaze of media. This is how a political party with a vision for the nation should function. There should be no automatic promotion for the sons and daughters of the established leaders and of predictable faces. The team has been constituted at a crucial time when the ruling party is expected to deal with anti-incumbency in the next year's elections in several states and also in the run up to the next general elections. The team's representational character is evident with women getting almost 50 percent posts and youth in the leadership roles while retaining many veterans to make the Team Nitin Nabin a mixed bag.

Forget about merits of the BJP, a political party, there is a lesson for other entities. For Example, Congress, India's oldest political party which is depleting fast is being run on the single mission so that one particular person becomes the Prime Minister. The party has faced erosion in credibility and its base and yet there is no murmur. The regional parties are also a combination of the chauvinism and family run politics. In these times of empowerment of a common man hoc the parties run like family businesses hope to replace the BJP. Abusing and mocking Prime Minister will not help; it may prove counterproductive. The family-run political parties also operate in J&K be it the ruling party NC, the opposition PDP or other smaller factions. All these parties will perish if their leaders do not give up the dream of seeing top seat occupied by their progeny.

Jharkhand students demand justice

Kalyani Shankar

In recent years, Jharkhand has seen a rise in student activism driven by a growing awareness of social issues and the need for better representation. The student protests, which followed the rise of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) at the all-India level, marked a turning point in Jharkhand's socio-political narrative. Students recently organised protests after the unexpected rise of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP). These protests targeted issues in the education system, including the leak of question papers in NEET and other exams. The current political situation has encouraged young people to speak out about their frustrations and demands regarding the state's social and economic problems.

The student protests followed the rise of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and mark a significant moment in Jharkhand's social and political landscape. This student group is not just asking for better education and job opportunities; they want to be heard in the political conversation. They are fighting for a future where their voices matter, and their rights are respected.

Since July 25, protesters have gathered at a stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Many have been sleeping outside, and some have begun hunger strikes. Many have been sleeping outside, and some have initiated hunger strikes. Protesters are committed to continuing until all their demands are met. Their anger stems from a preliminary civil service exam held by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) in April. After the results were announced in July, candidates said leaked answer sheets on social media showed that some successful applicants answered fewer questions than expected. The CJP ended its five-week protest on July 25 with the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The CJP's achievements energised students, giving them a chance to voice their concerns about education, jobs, and social justice in Jharkhand—issues that the CJP highlighted. By pushing for transparency, accountability, and local involvement, the CJP resonated with students eager for



change.

During the protests, students expressed their frustration with the declining quality of education in Jharkhand's institutions. Many protested against overcrowded classrooms, a lack of resources, and insufficient faculty, demanding immediate reforms to create a better educational environment.

Amid economic uncertainty, students pointed out the high unemployment rate, especially among graduates. They urged the government to create job opportunities and asked the CJP to prioritise youth employment.

The protests attracted a diverse group of students from various colleges and universities across Jharkhand. They used social media to organise rallies, marches, and awareness campaigns. Students have actively participated in demonstrations for more than two weeks, advocating for comprehensive reforms to the government examination system in Jharkhand. This newly energised student body is not only demanding better educational and job opportunities but is also asserting its place in the state's political discourse. They are advocating for a future where their voices are heard, and their rights are respected.

The immediate cause of their anger is a preliminary civil service exam held by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) in April. After the results were an-

nounced in July, candidates alleged that leaked answer sheets shared on social media indicated that some successful applicants had answered significantly fewer questions than expected.

The success of the CJP catalysed student mobilisation in Jharkhand also, allowing them to express their concerns over critical issues of education, employment, and social justice in Jharkhand—issues that the CJP had notably addressed. By advocating for transparency, accountability, and grass-roots participation, the CJP resonated with students and young people eager for change.

During the protests, students voiced their dissatisfaction with the declining quality of education in institutions across Jharkhand. Many protested against overcrowded classrooms, a lack of resources, and insufficient faculty, demanding immediate reforms to ensure a better educational environment.

Amid economic uncertainty, students highlighted the alarming rate of unemployment, particularly among graduates. They called for government intervention to create job opportunities and urged the CJP to prioritise youth employment in its agenda. Students demanded greater representation and involvement in the political process, expressing that the voices of the youth were often marginalised in decision-making. They advocated for platforms that encourage

youth participation and ensure their concerns are addressed.

The protests attracted a diverse group of students from various colleges and universities across Jharkhand. Utilising social media as an effective tool for organisation, they co-ordinated rallies, marches, and awareness campaigns. This visibility was crucial in amplifying their demands and bringing their issues to the forefront of public discourse. SupportingNon-Profit Advocacy Campaigns

As Jharkhand student agitation enters Day 20, job aspirants demand a CBI probe and the total cancellation of JPSC and JSSC recruitment exams. Protesting students, including Devendra Mahto and Manoj Yadav, have threatened to demonstrate before the Chief Minister's residence after August 15th. An FIR has been registered against 100 named individuals and 500 unidentified protesters.

Meanwhile, ABVP, the student wing, has said it would stage demonstrations at over 1,200 universities and in every district across the country.

Expanding the scope of the protests. The ABVP will resort to a phase-wise agitation across the country if a CBI probe into the job exam irregularities is not held. While the CJP movement is called Gen Z protest, the Jharkhand movement has a significant presence of an older generation of aspirants—millennials and others. It is not only youthful impatience. It is accumulated frustration. At Jantar Mantar, students were protesting against a BJP-led government at the Centre. The movement became increasingly confrontational and the police response became an important part of the story.

In Jharkhand, the political equation is different and a non-BJP government is facing the students. A new twist is (CJP) has joined the ongoing student agitation in Jharkhand, with a party delegation reaching the protest site in Ranchi.

They declared "complete solidarity" with Jharkhand students. With the government holding talks but protesters refusing to call off their demonstrations, the coming days are likely to determine whether negotiations can break the deadlock.

WHY SCIENCE ALONE CANNOT KEEP US HEALTHY

Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Nikunjji

Recently, many Indian metro cities witnessed a worst outbreak of dengue, chikungunya and malaria with death toll rising to hundred's even as the number of cases of the vector-borne disease had crossed a thousand numbers in most of these cities. These figures have once again posed a serious question for our society: why is it so that despite the advancement in science and technology, there is an upsurge in diseases everywhere? Who is to be blamed for this?

There are various factors responsible for it. Firstly, let us have a look at the physical environment, which has degraded over the decades. Today, the quality of natural elements like air, water, soil - and everything around us has been deteriorating, which can be attributed largely to unchecked man-made activities that exploit nature for development. Similarly, the quality of raw materials, the five elements that constitute our bodies, is also becoming poorer. Our bones, spine, teeth, delicate organs like eyes, heart, kidney, liver and others are impacted right at the time of their formation.

Synthetic fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides that sustain the crop produc-



tion seep into our food, as a result of which our resistance power against diseases has lowered and we contract various infections than before for physical reasons alone. Secondly, we need to examine the psyche of the 21st-century modern man who faces high levels of worry, fear, anxiety at work as well as at home due to lack of values like tolerance, respect, patience

and value-based co-existence.

Today, negativity of all kinds has increased and ethical and moral values have taken a nosedive. As a result, the moral stamina of the society has been affected. Lastly, the third reason, which is the root cause, for the present scenario, is the huge accumulated stock of past negative karma that is the biggest link between disease,

environment & lifestyle.

We live in an impure world because of the devastation we have inflicted on our external nature, which in turn has deteriorated under the influence of the vicious internal nature of human beings. We receive pain and suffering from people and situations in return for having created negative energy in the form of negative thoughts, words or actions in the past.

This process is a continuous vicious circle and despite the knowledge of the right and the wrong, humans are unable to change the course of their present action. This is where meditation comes to our rescue, as it helps us to connect to the Supreme Source and helps us to burn our past sins.

It helps us to use HIS unlimited powers to absolve the burden of past negative actions so that we may regain and sustain our physical, mental, social and spiritual health. SchedulingVirtual Doctor Consultations

In other words, regaining health and peace is a process possible only through spiritual elevation of human beings. So, let us get rid of our sick mentality to move into the age of enlightenment where our thoughts will be constantly loving, pure and harmonious.

Time to break the Agniveer deadlock

Ashok K Mehta

Just as Indian Army Chief, Gen Dhiraj Seth makes his first foreign trip; to Nepal on 16 Aug, a flicker of hope is seen of Nepal Domiciled Gorkhas (NDG) being allowed to be recruited in the Indian Gorkha Brigade after a gap of nearly six years (including two COVID years) following Nepal suspending recruitment in the Agnipath scheme introduced in June 2022, Kathmandu claiming it was infringement of the 1947 Tripartite Treaty for recruitment of NDG into Indian and British Armies. Since then, only Indian Domiciled Gorkhas (IDG) and hill troops from Garhwal and Kumaon have filled up the 60 per cent annual quota of approximately 1400 soldiers from Nepal.

Neither India nor Nepal has sought to break the strategic silence over recruitment, Kathmandu viewing introduction of Agniveer as political and diplomatic breach. Further, Nepal considers the four-year service and 25 per cent retention terms of engagement as a security risk - release into the marketplace of combat-trained youth as new supply chain for insur-

gency-wracked Nepal following 10 years of Maoist civil war. Other dangers and disadvantages were also painted about Agniveer, seen as a bolt from the blue.

On 29 July, in an astonishing turn of events the Indian Ex Servicemen Development Committee of Lamjung, led by activist Sub Khem Jung Gurung, launched a massive movement demanding permission for joining Agniveer due to the abysmal jobs state in the country, where 2000 youth leave Kathmandu every day. A former politician, Gurung said: 'Young lads travel abroad to take up menial jobs when their centuries-old skill as Gorkha warriors is being unutilized in Agniveer'.

The movement has picked up traction all over Nepal, especially in the nursery of soldiering, Pokhara. Petitions have been forwarded to Prime Minister Balen Shah and Home Minister Sudan Gurung. On 6 August, Rashtriya Swatantra Party MP from Syangja- another warrior recruitment treasure house- Dr Dhananjay Regmi, son of a 5/9 Gorkha Rifles Indian ex-serviceman, raised the Agniveer issue for the first time in the new Parliament

backing Gurung's advocacy of Agniveer. These two events could catalyse the unarticulated urge to accept Agniveer - a sea change from the erstwhile womb-to-tomb engagement of service- because, Gurung said, "something is better than nothing".

The bulk of Gen Seth's 16 to 20 August programme is in Kathmandu, where he will be anointed honorary General of Nepal Army, a lifetime honour tracing its tradition to the legendary Field Marshal Sam Bahadur Manekshaw in 1972, who also introduced several welfare reforms including young Indian Gorkha officers getting to know their soldiers by trekking in remote areas of Nepal. Seth will meet PM Balen Shah, who is his own Defence Minister, before visiting Pokhara the Bhu Pu (ex-servicemen) citadel for a grand rally. Weather permitting, he will go to Mukti Nath temple where a former Army Chief, Gen Bipin Rawat, had presented bells for the temple. As no press meet is held for a visiting Chief, there is little chance of the Agniveer issue cropping up, though it could be raised during the rally in Pokhara. Seth's reply will take cue from what follows.

Recently, former CDS Gen Anil Chauhan of 11 Gorkha Regiment said that when Agniveer was implemented, NDG were considered as Indian citizens and it was not feasible to make an exception for them, alluding to their enlistment on separate terms of engagement, adding that the decision to allow Nepali citizens to enlist now rests with Kathmandu. Chauhan could have made a special case out of it by attaching strategic significance to the bonding and reminding Prime Minister Narendra Modi of what he had said in Nepal's Parliament in 2014: "India has fought no war where Nepali blood has not been shed". But the good Chauhan let it pass; a fait accompli. Like the voices now being heard from Nepal about maintaining the warrior legacy and centuries-old tradition of Gorkhas, no similar sentiment has been publicly expressed in India by hundreds of General-rank retired Gorkha officers, including a former Army Chief. That tells another story.

Meanwhile, last week, Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal told BBC Nepali service that 'Nepal was ready to discuss the Tripartite Treaty if it needed to be reviewed and if a formal proposal

was received from India'. Khanal has pushed the ball in Delhi's court when he knows neither side has tried to break the impasse for the last five years. Delhi's contention is that Tripartite Treaty has not been violated. Its two key features are Recruitment and Terms of Engagement bound by 'equal treatment'. These provisions of treaty are intact. But as India claims special and unique relations with Nepal, Delhi should have followed diplomatic nicety - at least informed Kathmandu about the bolt from the blue. The truth is: India's unilateral action is seen as unfair and Big Brotherly. In previous Nepali governments, the Communists commanded majority in parliament and have sought to curtail Nepali citizens joining foreign armies. In the new Parliament, they are in extreme minority. There is an economic angle too. Nepal earns nearly Rs 5000 crore annually from soldiering in Indian Army and pensioners enormous benefits in India and Nepal. If Nepal keeps the door to recruitment shut, the Nepal Gorkha connection will burn out in 20 years; only pensioners will be around for another 30 years.

In February 2025, Nepal's Supreme Court in a case over pensions of British Gurkhas pre-2009, had suggested that Nepal should negotiate new bilateral treaties with Britain and India, as Tripartite Treaty does not meet present conditions. Agniveer does not provide a level playing field for Nepal like substantial reservations for demobilized Agniveers in India in para-police, para-military and several other institutions. A smaller economy like Nepal cannot comfortably absorb the retired Agniveers. Party Chairman Rabi Lamichhane, Prime Minister Shah, Home Minister Gurung and other legislators have been made aware of the groundswell movement for joining Agniveer among the Nepali youth. Some immediate incentives from India for encouraging Nepal to greenlight Agniveer will revive a key strategic asset, make COAS Gen Seth's visit historic and testify special and unique relations.

The writer, a retired Major General, served as Commander, IPKF (South), Sri Lanka, and was a founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, now the Integrated Defence Staff; Views presented are personal.