

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

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THINK IT OVER. . .

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won't.

—STERNE.

Kutch melodrama

THE Jana Sangh, the Samyukta Socialist Party, the Praja Socialist Party and the Gujarat unit of the Swatantra Party would be well advised to end their satyagraha in Kutch. Their continued defiance of the ban imposed by the Union Government on entry into the Rann will help nobody, and the agitation might even peter out if it is not called off soon. The Government was justified in imposing the ban. In proceeding to implement the Kutch Tribunal's award, the Government is honouring an international commitment endorsed by Parliament. Instead of defying the ban, the sponsors of the satyagraha should in fact welcome it because it offers them a way out of a difficult situation..

It was clear for some time before the satyagraha was due to begin that the organisers were having second thoughts on the wisdom of their move. The leaders of the Jana Sangh had called upon the Gujarat Government and the army authorities to provide the volunteers transport, water, and other facilities for their journey through the arid wastes of the Rann. When they decided to launch their movement, it was naturally assumed that they had foreseen the difficulties involved. They should have known that a march on foot through a trackless desert would call for endurance and discipline of a high order. The satyagraha—ostensibly directed against the 'surrender' of Indian territory to Pakistan, is in reality a challenge to the Government. The Jana Sangh leaders are not so naïve as not to realise that no Government can provide facilities to law-breakers, however valorous or timid. They and their colleagues of the SSP, the PSP and the Swatantra Party naturally could not give up their programme in a hurry without loss of face, but

the satyagraha was bound to prove only a gesture.

A decision that was meant to embarrass the Government has caused more embarrassment to the organisers themselves. If the satyagraha is persisted in, the parties sponsoring it are bound to lose more than they gain. This is true especially of the SSP and the PSP. The Kerala unit of the SSP has broken away from the all-India organisation on the issue of the Kutch satyagraha, and in defiance of the national executive's directive it has refused to withdraw from the United Front Government. The Bihar unit of the party has preferred caution to theatrical action. It has postponed joining the Government headed by Mr. Paswan pending the conclusion of the satyagraha, but it has done so under pressure and evidently against its own better judgment. The spirit of revolt is spreading in the party. Whether Mr. Joshi's threats of disciplinary action against erring units can prevent the party's progressive disintegration is anybody's guess. As for the PSP, it is in disarray everywhere.

The Swatantra Party, at the all-India level, is opposed to any agitation against the Kutch award. It is the State unit in Gujarat which urged participation in the satyagraha. As the chief opposition party in Gujarat, the temptation to complicate matters for the Congress in the State probably proved too strong to resist. Comfortably ensconced in Delhi, the national executive resolved its dilemma by permitting members of the party in Gujarat to join the satyagraha in their individual capacity. The Central leadership of the party will be happy if the satyagraha is called off. In fact, since the parties concerned have already registered their protest by courting arrest, they should think seriously of ending the cheap melodrama as quickly as they can.



Women apply 'tilak' to Mr. Hem Barua, MP, before he embarked on the Kutch satyagraha on Sunday.

Move for S.E. Asian Cultural institute

NEW DELHI, April 22 (PTT)

The Union Ministry of Education in consultation with the External Affairs Ministry is understood to be examining a proposal to set up a South-East Asian Cultural Institute.

Mr. Bamar Guha, M.P., who had some time ago toured South-East Asia, had suggested in Parliament the setting up of an Institute to promote study and research in the culture of South-East Asia to help foster closer relations between the countries of that region and India.

Congress labour wing to merge in INTUC

C. Subramaniam, President of the T.N.C.C., clarified on Monday that the Tamilnad Congress Labour Wing would be merging with the INTUC and there was no basis for the report published earlier in a section of the Press that the INTUC would merge with the Congress Party.

Lecturer held for forgery

Express News Service

MADURAI, April 22

K. V. Ganapathi of Kalpalai was arrested in his village by the Crime Inspector of Ramanad District on April 15, on a charge of cheating and forgery.

A failed M.A. of Kerala University, he is alleged to have forged an M.A. degree certificate of Kerala University and worked as a lecturer for about two years in Sivaganga College.

It is alleged he had also worked in a similar capacity in four other colleges earlier.

Ganapathi was remanded to 15 days jail custody by the Tirupattur magistrate.

Tamilnadu bill draft ready

NEW DELHI, April 22 (PTT)

The Union Government has prepared a draft Constitution Amendment Bill to change the name of Madras State to Tamilnad.

The State Legislature had passed a resolution requesting the Centre to make such an amendment.

Madras Labour and Law Minister S. Madhavan told pressmen here today that the draft bill had already been received by the State Government and the latter had sent its views thereon to the Centre. He hoped the bill would be introduced in Parliament at an early date.

Benefit dance show for college

Express News Service

VILLUPURAM, April 22

A dance performance in aid of the proposed Arts College here by Kumari Jothilakshmi and party fetched Rs. 2 lakhs. The South Arcot District Welfare Committee has already collected Rs. 2.5 lakhs from the people towards funds for the college.

Mr. J. S. Bango, Collector of South Arcot, said in his welcome address that the public would come forward to make good the shortfall of Rs. 50,000 needed to get the college started. He said the college, which would start working next year, would function temporarily in the Municipal High School buildings till the college buildings were constructed.

Mr. Govindaswamy, Minister of Agriculture, appealed for funds for a stadium in Cuddalore.

Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, cine artiste, announced a donation of Rs. 10,000 for the college and conferred the title of "Kala Arasi" on the dancer.

ENSORSHIP PROBE

cumstance is being taken advantage of by unscrupulous producers who do not hesitate to profit by debasing the content of films in order to make an appeal to the illiterate masses," he said. The question, therefore, was whether some kind of censorship should be applied by the Government and what form the censorship should take, Mr. Khosla added.

The committee has decided to prepare a questionnaire for circulation to interested parties, draw up a list of witnesses to be examined and also to invite memoranda from such persons as writers,

bers of the committee to send their suggestions and it was also agreed that the information regarding the rules and laws of censorship obtaining in other countries would be collected. A member suggested that certain controversial films should also be viewed by the committee.

The meeting was attended by Messrs. Lok Nath Misra, M.P., Bhargava, P., Venkatasubbiah, all Members of Parliament, N. A. Abbas, H. K. Narayan, Tapan Sinha, A. V. Metyappan and member-secretary, H. C. Khosla. The committee has decided to hold its next meeting on May 27 when