

.....An evening chronicle.....

Yesterday I was at OU campus. Is there anywhere in the world where an educational institute becomes a concentration camp? I don't know... But now, it is happening here in Telangana. Yes-now the whole OU campus appears like a concentration camp. All the roads and pathways to the Arts College were closed. Even the split compound wall in front of Manikeswari Nagar--from where we used to sneak in---is guarded by military. Barbed wire sprouted everywhere, not just at and around OU campus but all across Hyderabad's main centers. Occasional sign boards on the roadside request on-goers, with a warning tone though, to take a "diversion". The undertone of the sign board is as oppressive as of those creaking iron gate sounds at the campus entrance.

The past year, after December 9th, has been nothing but a diversion. The diversion is nothing but a debacle of democracy. Yes-very disturbing paradox is visible, as I proceed my way to my beloved Osmania campus. The NCC road that lead towards "Shivam" swells day & night with parading cars, wedding chariots of advantaged citizens of "A.P"; women in silk saris follow their husbands humbly; young adults with their 'backpacks' chat as usual at the Coffee Day corner, unaware that they stamped out Irani chai & charminar biscuit discussions.

The irony, inevitable as it is, EFLU[English and Foreign languages university] hostages "Bhadralok" behind its iron bars, just opposite to the students quarters of Osmania. All onlookers go behind the iron bars of EFLU, to see the justice "mania" of Osmania. They exclaim 'oh' almost as entertainment as they witness a bullet flying to catch the voice 'jai telangana' or the shrill sound of the firing run to race with the flight of student wings. Standing on the roof of the student dormitory, gather the sons of soil cultures mocking death. The police station faces against their zeal, and lower its head with the burden of pride of being power protector.

The rest of the city acts as if nothing is happening. Only an ambulance interrupts the peace of the eating crowd with her siren, announces in advance "democracy is dying". An alarming siren indeed; that many of our "leaders" here in Hyderabad have allowed this to happen is the greatest tragedy. .... "But not to worry, it is only a diversion" tell the total deserted streets of Hyderabad today.

The closed shutters of those locked business centers staying still in line as if they are obeying students will for the democratic Telangana. Trees, in Land Scape gardens caressing each other with their branches, like the blind console each other and whispering "we are all with you" We are with you, the peaceful warriors of Telangana...in order to walk along with you, We maintain the spirit of the fire.

In solidarity,

Vimala.K

[An evening chronicle]

Hyderabad.