

RJ Nitin invites Gorkha wrath for 'a sad joke'

The Gorkhas wants *Ultra-Pulta* RJ Nitin tried in court for a derogatory joke he cracked on Prashant. The RJ has three days to provide an apology to avoid legal proceedings.

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Brave, the adjective which has always preceded the word Gorkha, many say, has been replaced by the word Bahadur. Although the words are synonymous, their connotations differ. Bahadur has come to mean a Nepali-speaking security guard. And all Gorkhas are hailed as Bahadurs or security guards.

But after a supposedly 'aware' media person tried to humour his listeners by a joke based on the fallacy, Gorkha communities in Delhi, Darjeeling and elsewhere, have demanded an apology.

The Gorkhas were elated after Prashant Tamang of Darjeeling won the Indian Idol title. But an unartistic joke cracked by the radio jockey of a popular FM channel in the Capital reduced Prashant to a mere Bahadur guarding Delhi's sweet shops.

His comment spread like wild fire in Darjeeling and Prashant's victory celebrations were reduced to protest rallies.

The protesters demanded the RJ's arrest within three days, failing which they said, the Gorkhas "would take appropriate measures". They have also submitted a memorandum with Information and Broadcasting Minister P.R. Dasmunsi and West Bengal Chief Minister Bengal Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on the issue.

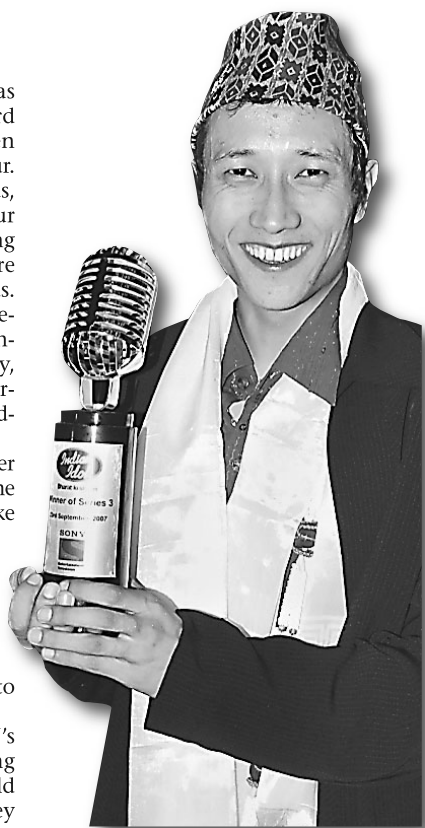
Nitin's infamous comment has sparked off a debate of identity of the Gorkhas in India.

ARE GORKHAS ONLY GUARDS?

Jyoti Thapa, design head, Business World said: "Gorkhas have been branded as *darban/bahadur*. I am not ashamed of it. But Gorkhas have also made major contributions for India. Our national anthem and other patriotic songs like "*Kadam kadam badhaye jaa*" and "*Sare jahaan se aachha*" were set to tune by a Gorkha, Ram Singh Thakur. Does anyone know or even acknowledge this?"

She adds, "The discontent and discrimination of Gorkhas is obvious. In Dharamshala, out of the 11 luminaries, 5 are Gorkhas. The Gorkha population is large but the state's demography fails to mention the existence of Gorkhas. But the Tibetans, who settled only in 1959, find a mention."

Munish Tamang, a senior DU lecturer and Bharatia Gorkha Parikashad secretary, said: "Nitin, who claims to know the pulse of the city, failed to transcend stereotypes. His comment shows how poorly educated he is. If he assumes that all Gorkhas are guards, I say his statistics are skewed. None of the guards in my residential area, Vasant Kunj, is a Gorkha. Furthermore, Prashant is not a guard, he is a constable with the Kolkata Police."



(Top) Prashant Tamang with the Indian Idol trophy. RJ Nitin in the studio and some scenes of protest in Darjeeling.



HATE MAIL

Rashmi Dewan, MetroNow reader wrote in saying, "Ultra Pulta Nitin at Red FM needs to be politically correct and understand his role as a member of the media in moulding people's opinion for the better and not for the worse. His comment has hurt the sentiments of Gorkhas in India and abroad. As Gorkhas, we are extremely proud of our heritage and our lineage. I am sure the thousands of brave Gorkhas who are guarding India's borders take his comments as a personal affront."

"As a very proud daughter of a Gorkhas Army officer who fought three wars for India so that Nitin could be "free" to air his drivel on the FM, I wish Nitin and his ilk grow up, and the I&B Ministry censure him."

Nitin's comments should be considered as totally anti-national and inciting unrest and creating a law and order situation."

JASPAL SLAMS NITIN

Jaspal Bhatti, who has been known

for his sense of humour, hammered Nitin's joke. "Jokes are meant to make people laugh, not create tension. It is unethical to target communities and people through jokes."

Professor Mahendra P. Lama, chairman of the School of International Studies, JNU has sought an explanation from the director of Red FM, Ashok Verma, on Nitin's controversial comment. Professor Lama has not received a reply from the director as yet. He says a legal recourse will be taken if a reasonable explanation is not issued.

"This is not the first time the RJ has made derogatory comments

targeting the Gorkha community. The first time he got away with it but time we want him to face music for branding our community as *Bahadurs*," said Ranjan Sharma, a Delhi-based lawyer.



MP, Krishna Tirath's car that was allegedly 'shot at' by a bullet.

MP's supporters blame 'rivals' for broken glass

METRONOW REPORTER

High drama unfolded at the official residence of Congress MP, Krishna Tirath in Karol Bagh on Wednesday night after news, that she was 'shot' at by unidentified assailants, spread.

Hundreds of supporters along with DPCC president J.P. Aggarwal gathered at her house shouting slogans in support of her. Even as mediapersons jostled for a byte from the MP, her supporters surrounded her and spoke at length about the good work she had done for her constituency and how her 'rivals' wanted to eliminate her for her popularity.

Meanwhile, a police team led by DCP, New Delhi, Anand Mohan inspected the glass which was shattered by a what was supposed to be a bullet fired at her. When MetroNow asked a senior police officer if the bullet was recovered, he replied that it was yet to be verified that whether it was a bullet.

Anand Mohan gave a more measured reply, "We are still conducting investigations. We have asked forensic experts to examine the car after which I would be in a better position to comment."

Meanwhile, Krishna Tirath said, "I was travelling to Buddha Nagar in my car. My husband Vijay was driving the car. I was sitting on the front seat. The windows were down. When we were moving towards Bagga Link from Hanuman Mandir, I was scared after I heard a loud sound. At first I thought some vehicle on the road had been damaged. Later, I saw that the rear glass of my car was shattered into pieces."

She added, "There was a Maruti van behind our car in which only one man was sitting but some motorcycles had passed by and they could have been the assailants." She said, "At first I didn't even want to lodge a police complaint but on second thoughts, I decided to lodge an FIR in this regard."

However, her allegations fell flat fell flat Thursday with ballistic experts submitting a report saying that the broken windowpanes of the vehicle did not have any characteristics of a gunshot. Categorically ruling out that bullets were fired at the vehicle, experts at the Central Forensics Sciences Laboratory said there was "nothing to suggest" such an incident as they could not find traces of gunpowder inside the vehicle.

METRONOW POLL

DELHI TALKING

Did you find Nitin's joke funny or should he apologise?



Nitin you didn't answer our repeated phone calls. If you have anything to say in response to this article, please feel free to call us at 011-43505438 or write to us.

SMS

Type MNVIEWS, leave space and send your opinion to 8888

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