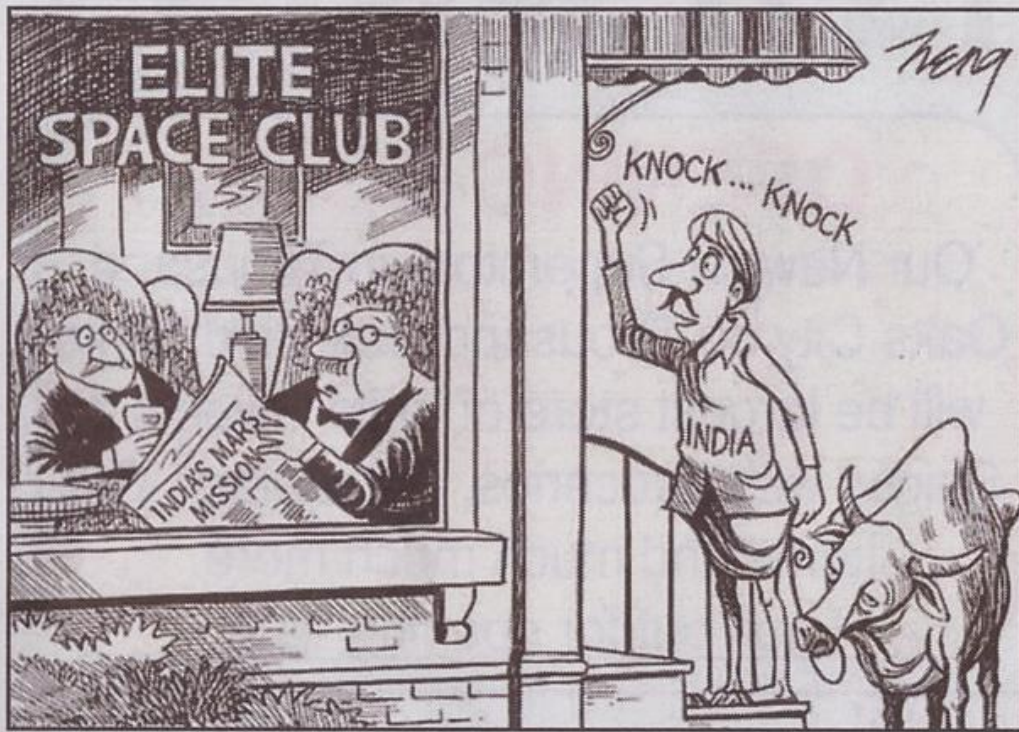


New York Times Apologizes Over India's Mars Mission Cartoon



The infamous cartoon was not well received by Indian readers.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The New York Times has apologized after publishing a cartoon on India's Mars Mission following readers'

complaints that it mocked India.

The cartoon showed a farmer with a cow knocking at the door of a room marked Elite Space Club

where two men are reading a newspaper on India's feat, BBC reported.

The cartoon was carried Sep 28 with an article titled India's Budget Mission to Mars.

After a "large number of readers" complained about the cartoon, Andrew Rosenthal, editorial page editor of the New York Times, wrote in a Facebook post: "The intent of the cartoonist, Heng Kim Song, was to highlight how space exploration is no longer the exclusive domain of rich, Western countries."

"Mr Heng, who is based in Singapore, uses images and text - often in a provocative way - to make observations about international affairs. We apologize to readers who were offended by the choice of images in this cartoon."

Rosenthal said Heng "was in no way trying to impugn India, its government or its citizens".

YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for publishing the offending cartoon from the New York Times for which it was forced to apologize, regarding the Mars Mission. I feel that Indians should act instead of reacting.

How do we act?

1. Those Indians who are subscribing to NY Times should stop it.
2. India was the richest country in the world from the time of the birth of Jesus Christ until Victoria became the queen. We all know how and why. Again it can become the richest country in the world if we all work for it. Every Indian should donate more. Consider donating 10% of your income. To whom should you donate? Call the head master of your old school. Build a class room in your old school. Install water purifiers in your old school. Build rest rooms in your old school. Start scholarships in the name of your parents in your old school.
3. Work with Prime Minister Modi. Clean up India and lots of diseases will disappear. Reduce population growth. Otherwise whatever we do will not work well.
4. All the Indians should unite and no one can break a strong India. Indians are like red blood cells. Red cells are negatively charged and they repel one another. They should be like platelets. When called upon they clump together and become one mass and function. Because of lack of unity among Indians a whole country was lost to an ordinary business entity called the East India Company!
5. India should progress in all fields including space technology. In lighter vein India should consider the following. Handpick some politicians and put them in a space craft and send them to the sun. Of course the landing can be planned at night in December when it would be cool!

Dr. Raj Prasad, Long Beach, CA, Grandhe.org