

Editorial

Imphal, Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Strength of humility

Civility is being defined as the act of being polite and courteous. But it does not in any way mean to be observed only by the civilians- defined as a person not in the armed forces or the police. The increasingly visible attitude of the armed forces and the state police personnel would suggest otherwise, with reports of high-handed and arrogant misbehavior against the civilians becoming an everyday inconvenience. It would be taking things too far, however, to generalize and categorize the armed forces and other state and para-military forces as such in their totality. Having said that, it has become a de-facto prerogative of the well-heeled, the influential and the powerful (those with authorized weapons included, whether in uniform or otherwise) lot to impose their self-induced superiority on the common people, or even the not so common yet civilized citizens. Perhaps, the maddening race for power, influence and wealth has reduced the majority of us to mere servants of their wealth, their every waking hour consumed with the driving craze to amass more wealth, by means fair or foul. The emerging trend of self-styled Social Workers, majority of whom started out as unscrupulous contractors and businessmen with a penchant for minting money through dubious means, and who are displaying their newly acquired role of messiah of the downtrodden, with an eye on the next election could very well be the only rational conclusion of such a system. That such social workers becomes inaccessible to the very public who voted them to power is another matter altogether, an aftereffect of the submission to greed by the public which always leaves a bad aftertaste. The game of one-upmanship being increasingly played out in the public life have relegated courtesy to a thing of the past and reduced the importance of politeness and civility, to such a point that politeness is being equated with weakness. Such misconceptions often lead to clash of egos and foster bad blood. Perhaps, setting an example by the powerful and the influential on the matter will go a long way in bringing to the fore the importance and necessity of adopting good manners and civility, and yet it is getting increasingly rare to find someone with that rare combination of power and humility. Our society, impulsive and reactive as it is as a whole, failed to learn from the numerous unfortunate fallouts resulting from lack of manners and inconsiderations and are, therefore, condemned to repeat it. It is high time we get ourselves over the delusion of grandeur and superiority and take a long hard look at the crumbling social mores. Kindness and courtesy does elicit similar response, and our society will be the better for it. It is not our self-proclamations but our deeds that will judged. Being polite and humble takes lot more courage and personal integrity.

What would Indira Gandhi ask Narendra Modi today?

Contd. from yesterday
By: Ningombam Bupendra Meitei
On enough love for children and nation and states

Indira Gandhi, on enough love for children and nation and states, would ask, "There is no conflict between love of State or region and loyalty to the nation and that has been proved by India. I believe that love does not diminish, it only grows to enough love for all. Mr. Prime Minister Modi, do not you believe that the Prime Minister of India, like a mother loving not lesser for the smallest child but keep having more love for her entire children, must love all the states and Union Territories of India to such an extent that no state feels left out by the much love being shown to another state by the Prime Minister? If you believe so, then what makes you announce a special financial assistance of Rs 1,000 crore for the newly born baby of mother India Andhra Pradesh which is also granted Rs 1,500 crore overdraft by RBI (Reserve Bank of India) while you announce Rs 1.25 lakh crore special package for not the newly born baby but matured child of mother India Bihar in the same year 2015? Is your love dependent on the timing of the election in the states? Are you the Prime Minister of India while showering your love to all your children, who are the entire states and Union Territories of India, or a member of your party when you show your love to some children only? Do not you believe that love, instead of diminishing, grows more for all?"

["There is no conflict between love of State or region and loyalty to the nation. India has proved that the two go together just as a strong sense of national pride in no way mitigates from the larger love of humanity and concern for international problems. If I may inject a personal note: when my sons were very small, every morning on awakening they made a habit of climbing on to my bed and lying on either side of me. At

that hour they were concerned with two problems. One was that if a mother had more than two children, where would the others lie, and secondly, would there be less love for each succeeding child? My answer was that love did not diminish but kept on growing so that no matter how many children one had, there was always enough love to go around." (Literature nurtures understanding, from Indira Gandhi's speech at the function held to give away the Jnanpith Award to Shri Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya, New Delhi, December 13, 1980)]

On languages and the North East India

Indira Gandhi, on languages and the North East India, would ask, "Mr. Prime Minister Modi, do you believe in projecting the language spoken by the majority for a nationally and internationally higher platform at the expense of many other languages of India? Do you believe in promoting a particular language as the mother of other languages? Do you promote one particular language, more compared to other languages, to be aired and heard on national public media?"

Mr. Prime Minister Modi, I have worked very closely with my heart and soul connecting with the people of the North East India, whether they be from Assam or Manipur or Nagaland, and have not tried to make one state resents against another state. But, today in 2015, why have you made the three states of the North East India - Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh - to stand unitedly against your Naga Accord, signed not by you per se, of Nagaland? Why have you attempted to install the statue of Rani Gaidinliu of Manipur not in Manipur's Imphal but in Nagaland's Kohima, thereby creating confusion in Kohima and dishonour in Imphal? Why do you make one state fights against another state in our own country? Do not you think that the time has come not to fight amongst

ourselves?"

["The time has come not to fight amongst ourselves - one language against another, one caste against another, one religion against another, one region against another - but to shelve these differences and to work together as Indians because only that old spirit of nationalism, which in our age must be combined with international understanding and co-operation, can generate the momentum for progress." (Challenge before Higher Education, from Indira Gandhi's speech at the centenary celebrations of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, February 1, 1981)]

On Indianness and Christmas

Indira Gandhi, on Indianness and Christmas, would ask, "Mr. Prime Minister Modi, have you forgotten that India is respected outside because of its tradition of tolerance? Our religious festivals were observed by all people, but why have you made Christmas to be meant for Christians only? Do not you think that those who are not Christians also need a holiday on the Holy Day to celebrate the Holy Christmas? Why should the Prime Minister of India observe only some religious festivals and not all religious festivals of the country? Do not you accept that the enduring strength of India is her capacity to synthesize different cultural and religious traditions, different styles of living, different modes of expression. Exclusiveness of any kind is alien to the spirit of India. We must resist any kind of narrowness of thinking or of emotions which are very easy to provoke but more difficult to deal with once they are aroused. It is necessary to create harmony and tolerance which is the base of the very existence of our nationhood. No section should feel that it is being discriminated against, no section should feel that it is inferior in any way." (Promoting Indianness, from Indira Gandhi's inaugural address at the meeting of the National Integration Council, New Delhi, January 21, 1984)]

(To be contd.....)

Power Defaulters Nabbed

MSPDCL Bishnupur Division conducted illegal power connection drive at Bishnupur District on Nov. 2, 2015 and fine the following power defaulters:-

- 1) Laishram Bobo Singh of Thingungei Mayai Leikai, fine Rs. 4500/-
- 2) Laishram Chaobi Devi of Thingungei Awang Leikai, fine Rs 1000/-,
- 3) Lairenjam Iboyai Singh of Upokpi Maning Leikai, fine Rs. 1000/-

Deputy Manager (Commercial)
Bishnupur Division
(MSPDCL)

R.C. Lost

The registration paper for Maruti GYPSY white colour of Electricity Department bearing registration No. MN-01-W-1469 has been lost on the way between Lamphel to Chingmeirong. Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

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National & International News

Congress targets Paswan over price rise

ANI
New Delhi, Nov. 3: The Congress on Tuesday alleged that the reason behind price rise was the complete absence of Union Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Ram Vilas Paswan from his office.

"90,000 tonnes of pulses have been picked up from hoarders. Surprisingly, 50,000 tonnes of this was found in the BJP-led Maharashtra. What were Fadnavis ji, Modi ji and Arun Jaitley ji

doing?" asked Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala. "The truth is that the Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan ji whose responsibility it is to control prices has not entered his office even for a single day. That is why this is what is happening to the people of this country in this festival season of Diwali," he added.

Surjewala launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led NDA Government for their claims of

controlling prices.

"It is laughable. Arun Jaitley ji and Modi ji must be controlling pulse prices in outer space because in India they are still about Rs. 200 a kg, in India rajma and chana are still at about Rs. 160-180 a kg, cooking oil is at about Rs. 180 a litre, Wheat flour is still Rs. 28 a kg, and sugarcane about Rs. 30 a kg," he said.

"So are they controlling prices in outer space? Then they must come back to earth and come back to this country and start controlling

prices," he added.

An inter-ministerial group headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley recently reviewed the pulse price situation as rates peaked to Rs 187-190 a kilogram in retail markets across the country.

Jaitley said the government has decided to invoke the Rs. 500-crore price stabilisation fund that will be used to pay for transportation, handling, milling and processing - aimed at reducing the cost of imported pulses.

Two BJP leaders shot dead by unknown assailants in Gujarat

PTI
Bharuch, Nov. 3: Two local BJP leaders were shot dead at their office in Gujarat by unknown assailants on Monday evening, police said.

According to the police, two people walked into the office of Shirish Bangali, former president of the Bharuch district unit of BJP, and opened fire on him and Pragnesh Mistry, the district general secretary of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha.

Mistry was also a senate member of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University. "When Bangali and Mistry were present in the former's office inside a commercial complex on Sewashram Road, two unidentified persons came on their bike to the office at around 7pm.

They fired two to three rounds on Bangali and Mistry before fleeing on their bike," said Bharuch SP Shobha Bhutada.

Locals had called an ambulance and rushed the duo to a nearby hospital.

"While doctors pronounced Bangali as brought dead, Mistry died shortly after being admitted. Bangali was shot in his head while Mistry was shot near his stomach. We have started efforts to nab the culprits," said Bhutada. Meanwhile, Range DIG, Vadodara, AS Gehlot said, "We have formed three committees headed by the deputy superintendent of police and hope to nab the attackers soon. The case is being investigated from different angles."

According to locals, Bangali was

a prominent RSS as well as BJP face in Bharuch while Mistry was an emerging leader. Bangali was president of the Bharuch unit of

BJP between 2009 and 2012. Sources said Bangali had survived a murderous attack on him around 15 years back.

Ex-MLA Chabbra on Hunger-strike Passes Away

PTI
Jaipur, Nov. 3: Former Janata Dal MLA Gurcharan Chabbra, who was on a fast unto death demanding liquor ban and strengthening of Lokayukta in Rajasthan, today died at a hospital here.

Chabbra, 65, breathed his last at 4:30 AM. Additional Superintendent of SMS Hospital, Ajit Singh told PTI. He was in a coma for the past couple of days and put on ventilator support, Singh said.

In a statement here, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the anti-liquor crusader died due to the "insensitive" attitude of the Rajasthan government.

"Had Rajasthan Chief Minister tried to meet him and persuaded him to end fast, Chabbra might have been saved," Gehlot said. Rajasthan Medical and Health Minister, Rajendra Rathore visited the hospital and paid his condolences.