

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, November 2, 2015

The mental equation

Times are a changing as everything ought to. Stuffs that were not even dreamt about are becoming devices and gadgets for everyday use. The peace of development and inventions is increasing at a dizzying pace and in an unbelievably complex manner. Every single gene in the human body can be identified, isolated and manipulated. Electricity can be transmitted without any wires or cables. Cars that run for more than a thousand kilometers with only a gallon of fuel is no more a fantasy today. Space travel or space tourism is here. Humans with embedded microchips can now manipulate and control his environment, well almost, as of now. Research and development in every field, being aided by sophisticated computers and robots, have quickened their pace and shortened their observation periods, leading to quicker results. It would not be much off the mark to say that the world as we know today is undergoing a paradigm shift in the way we live our lives. Through these radical changes and developments, one thing has withstood the test of time, proving to be an unseen and unaccounted yet determining factor that could make or mar everything else the human mentality.

The workings of the human mind emotions and feelings that cannot be quantitatively ascertained or expressed as an exactable scientific expression or equation, has remained an enigma a mystery that has not been unraveled till date. Here in lies the genesis of every conflict and differences. Societies created laws and statutes based on the greater good of the citizens, and a system of checks and balances to arbitrate, enforce and amend them. It is a perfect set up on paper. Unfortunately, the better reality is so far removed from the system so envisaged. We, the ordinary citizens are arrested and harassed for raising our voice against what we feel is unjust and wrong even threatened and shot by those who purpose to serve our motherland, whatever form that might take. The powers that be proclaims to work according to the wishes of the people, while the voice is subdued with threats and intimidation, or worse still, let the voice die out and be forgotten with time. And who are we to turn to for help when the terrorists are the army and police who are drug traffickers who are extortionists who are the influential and powerful? For us mere mortals, complaints and appeals entail the inherent risk of losing limb and life. Is what we are experiencing a replica of the so called jungle law? I'd like to think that a jungle law would be a far better option each one would then have a place in the set up. But then again, we are born equal. A prime minister is as human as a sweeper or a carpenter or a scientist. Each one is doing their bit for the society. The president of India or the Chief Minister of Manipur needs a weaver to weave a piece of fabric which will be sewn into a cloth by a tailor and sold at the market form where it will be brought for his use. We need to accept and embrace one another as our equals. The powerful ones wouldn't have had a concrete mansion to hide within were it not for the masons and plumbers.

Assam Rifles Conducts "Eliminate Dengue" Program

INews
Imphal, Nov 2: 12 BIHAR of 9 Sector AR under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted a "Eliminate Dengue" program in Maibam Chingmang village near the Japanese War Memorial yesterday. Villagers of Maibam village approached the Nambol Post and expressed their concern regarding spread of Dengue in the area. The effort is part of a drive by the Army to increase awareness among the villagers regarding health, hygiene and sanitation. The causes of dengue, its symptoms and various preventive measures were explained to the villagers. Later mosquito repellent fogging was also carried out by the Army in Maibam Chingmang village. The endeavour has succeeded in making people realize the importance of having clean surroundings to avoid breeding of mosquitoes and related diseases. The initiative received a good response and was highly appreciated by the Pradhan of Maibam village and other prominent personalities of the village.

WHENEVER YOU SEE CONSTRUCTION AND MINING EQUIPMENTS, JUST THINK OF US
A SOLUTION FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT



Automobile Engineering Works-1
WORKSHOP
New Checkson Road, Purana Rajbari
Imphal East.
Manipur - 795 001

ALL KINDS OF SPARE PARTS AVAILABLE
AFTER SALES SERVICE TO YOUR SATISFACTION

Authorised dealer **BEML Limited**
(A Government of India Mini Ratna Company under Ministry of Defence)

Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times' can be sent to our e-mail: imphaltimes@gmail.com. For advertisement kindly contact: - 0385-2452159 (O)

What would Indira Gandhi ask Narendra Modi today?

Contd. from yesterday

On rationalism, Parliament and good behaviour

Indira Gandhi, on rationalism, Parliament and good behaviour, would ask, "When we, as a nation, speak of my father (Jawaharlal Nehru), we should bear in mind that he never claimed to have all answers to all questions. Similarly, I also cannot choose to accept that you, being the Prime Minister, have all answers to all questions of our nation. I know if anything happens in India, including even either a puppy or a dog or a cat is not well anywhere in India or of any Indian anywhere outside India, any question by any Indian related to India and its people, enemies, friends, animals, resources, or anything, can be thrown on you because you, and you only, are the Prime Minister of India today. Even though my father never claimed to have all answers to all questions, but he did show that we could acquire the strength to meet our problems not through rhetoric but through rational thinking and the building up of people's institutions and conventions of good behaviour, and it is in this context that there is a necessity for you who is the Prime Minister today to protect the rational thinking, people's institutions like Parliament, and indeed the conventions of good behaviour in all the places and particularly on the floor of the House inside the Parliament.

Mr. Prime Minister Modi, do not you think that you should protect the rationalists who argue for rational thinking in India and the world? Why do not you act against those who preach and act that by eliminating rationalists, rationalism or any rational thinking can be eliminated from India? How do you expect to solve our problems through your silence and inaction on intolerant actions against rationalists in India? Why do you, with such a huge majority in the Lok Sabha after decades, fond of using your executive power for ordinances instead of further building up the significance of both the Houses of the Parliament

in our parliamentary democracy? Do not you, being elected by the people, believe in the Parliament which is the people's institution and if you believe so, then why do you depend so much on ordinances every six months? I know you, also being a citizen of India, have every right to remain silent and not to be disturbed, but do not you think that the public perception of your stoic silence, which is the preferred silence of the Prime Minister today, inside the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha sometime when the Opposition really demands you to speak, give rise to the fact that the Prime Minister today is not only arrogant but also intolerant about the criticism and demands of the Opposition? If you, Mr. Prime Minister, were to follow the similar, not the same, intolerance against the Opposition in the Parliament for fighting the other intolerance, for which you have remained so quietly tolerant, outside the Parliament in the nation, then today's India would have been different but you conveniently choose to be intolerant towards the Opposition only. Must not it be considered as your political tactic, and if so, then when will you ever rise up from your party membership to that of the Prime Minister of India, and if not, meaning "if it is not your political tactic", then when will you ever act against the intolerance which is the result of your deliberate stoic silence in India today?"

"When we speak of Jawaharlal Nehru, we should bear in mind that he never claimed to have all answers to all questions. But he did show that we could acquire the strength to meet problems through rational thinking and the building up of people's institutions and conventions of good behaviour." (**Government and the Opposition, from Indira Gandhi's replies to questions by the Malayalam daily 'Mathrubhumi', Trivandrum, November 18, 1980**)

On RSS and intolerance
Indira Gandhi, on communalism and intolerance, would ask, "Do you, Mr. Prime Minister Modi,

think that I should only remain tolerant to witness that intolerance has aggressively been engulfing our society today? In 1980 Lok Sabha election, my party alone got 353 seats while our alliance parties together with my party won 374 seats, and I became the Prime Minister of India. In 1981, in my speech during a debate on a 'no confidence' motion in the Lok Sabha, I, as the Prime Minister, stated on the floor of the House that communalists are like white ants who eat up the wood or the grain from within, and the RSS were not alone as there were communalists in all religions, and we, as a nation, should worry against such fanatics and other extremist groups equally. Today, in 2015, you are the Prime Minister with your party's 282 seats and your alliance's 336 seats. But, today when you are the Prime Minister of India, you, on your own, willfully attended RSS meeting and stated that you felt proud of being a volunteer of RSS and you became the Prime Minister of India due to the lessons taught by RSS. Mr. Prime Minister Modi, are you accusing me by your actions justifying the contribution of RSS that I, as the Prime Minister in 1981, was wrong in stating in the Lok Sabha that the organization that has taught you to be the Prime Minister was a communalist that fed the fires of fanaticism in India? Mr. Prime Minister Modi, are you trying to show to the world that the people of India, as you are the Prime Minister today, have accepted that what was a communalist in 1981 has become a school which has produced the Prime Minister of India in 2014? Are you saying that my statement in the Lok Sabha in 1981 being proved wrong today by you in 2015? Is it that the statement on communalists like RSS made strongly by the Prime Minister of India, with a majority in the Lok Sabha much larger than yours in 2014, in 1981 in the Lok Sabha has become totally unacceptable today by the actions and public statements of the Prime Minister of India today in 2015? Do you further believe strongly that such

actions of yours, justifying your reverence to RSS, as the Prime Minister of India are approved by the entire population of the country?"

"They think that we are the only people who should be tolerant and should listen to all kinds of abuse, character assassination and so on. They can't listen to even one word. I have no hesitation in saying that communalism and casteism are worse than almost any other threat we have. Both are two sides of the same coin and the most reprehensible of all anti-national elements. We can easily meet external threats. But communalists, as I have said many times, are like white ants who eat up the wood or the grain from within. And the RSS is not alone in this. It has good company or bad company, in communalists of other hues and denominations. I don't say there are communalists in only one religion. They are there in all religions. And anybody who is fanatical in that way feeds the fires of fanaticism in other extremist groups. Therefore, we have to worry against them all equally." (**Facing the future with confidence, from Indira Gandhi's speech during debate on a 'no confidence' motion, Lok Sabha, September 17, 1981**)

Indira Gandhi would further ask, "Why do not you, Mr. Prime Minister Modi, act against political elements who preach and practise violence on ideological grounds? Why do not you ensure that the nation is not for those parties and organizations that preach communal hatred?"

"The danger is from parties and organizations which unashamedly preach communal hatred, depicting whole groups of people as inferior, untrustworthy and anti-national. We also have political elements who preach and practise violence on ideological grounds." (**University course in Non-violence and Peace, from Indira Gandhi's replies to questions by Dr. Anima Bose, August 26, 1981**)

(To be contd.)

National & International News

Nehru's words really pinched our hearts: Rijiju

Agencies
New Delhi: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Sunday triggered a storm after he reportedly described India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru as a cold-hearted person for his stand on Assam during the Chinese aggression in 1962. Rijiju said that people of Arunachal Pradesh, then part of Assam, would never forget what Nehru had said at that time in Parliament.

"Participating in a debate in Parliament over the Chinese aggression, the then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru had said: 'In those barren land and mountains of Ladakh and Arunachal, not even a blade of grass grows, why Parliament is wasting time,' said Rijiju, adding that it is a reality that China took over the entire western part of Arunachal Pradesh, which was a part of Assam in 1962. "The Chinese had reached Assam in the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh, and the then prime minister Nehru had stated, 'my heart goes out to people of Assam', which amounted to surrendering of our territories to the Chinese." ANI

quoted Rijiju as saying. The Chinese went back on their own and declared a unilateral ceasefire, claimed Rijiju, adding: "This is a part of the history and we must come to term that if anything wrong has happened in history, we should accept it." "Our next generation has the right to know about the correct historical stories and incidents," he said. He said that he was not creating anything from his own figment of imagination, and he was only

stating the facts, adding that the Congress, too, should not be intolerant about accepting something which is a fact. "Arunachal people are the most patriotic. They remained solidly behind the nation despite so many Indian soldiers had lost their lives during the 1962 war. We continue to do that and I am proud of that," said Rijiju, a Member of Parliament from the Arunachal West constituency. "If a former prime minister has made some kind of unsavoury,

demoralising remarks, what is wrong in accepting that? My point is that history can't be changed. At same time, factual, historical and all kind of incidents must be brought before the nation. Our next generation has the right to know about the correct historical stories and incidents," he said. "It is a fact that Jawaharlal Nehru, for whom I have greatest respect, had caused great heartburn to the people of Arunachal Pradesh," Rijiju said.

PM Modi says Congress can't lecture about tolerance, reminds it of 1984 riots

TNN
New Delhi, Nov. 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday criticized the Congress for its campaign against rising intolerance in the country, reminding it that its own hands were far from clean. "Do you remember what happened in Delhi on November 2, 1984? Sikhs were killed. There were serious charges against Congress leaders," PM Modi said at a rally in Purnea in Bihar, referring to the 1984 riots against Sikhs, in the

aftermath of the then PM Indira Gandhi's assassination. "It's ironic that the Congress is now talking about tolerance" he said. Congress president Sonia Gandhi and vice-president Rahul Gandhi are expected to meet President Pranab Mukherjee this week to bring his attention towards growing intolerance in the country. The two top leaders along with senior leaders and MPs are expected to tell the President about their growing concern over the issue (of intolerance) and urge him



to advise the government to act firmly, sources said. They are also expected to march to Rashtrapati Bhavan, sources said.