

Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mob justice & social regression

In our trouble prone state of Manipur, the people had often witnessed punishments and harassments meted out to innocent family members for a crime committed by a single member of that family. The state had witnessed houses being burnt, vandalized and whole families ostracized for crimes committed by their family members or near and dear ones. It is still considered a form of sanctioned social justice by a group of dim-witted mob led and provoked by few criminal minded sadistic individuals.

Disturbingly, now the trend is getting even worse. People now started blaming an entire community for a crime committed by an individual belonging to that particular community. If a person is found killed or manhandled in an area of a specific community the whole community is blamed and harassed.

Three instances still haunt the state. The death of two youths at Mayang Imphal area some months back in mob action nearly shattered the harmony of the small valley region. Thanks to the civil society organisations, notably the Anjuman volunteers and the police department for handling the issue with extra care and diffusing the communal tension in time. Now the death of a 27 year old youth who was found hanging at Lilong area is again threatening to shatter the fragile communal harmony and understanding. The whole community of the area is being blamed for the death. As of now the absolute truth is yet to be ascertained but speculations doing the round have now provoked communal tension between the two communities yet again. On the other hand the death of another youth at Kasom Khullen area has created similar kind of situation. He was found murdered in an area where a specific community resides and therefore, going by the social trend, people belonging to the community of the murdered youth now felt that the other community should be blamed.

Point worth remembering is a quote from the writing of late Seram Mangi, former news editor of AIR Imphal. As shared through a post by his son Seram Neken on a social network site, the former editor had rightly questioned as to why a community should be blamed and crushed for a crime committed by a single individual belonging to the community. He also stated that if that is justice, then God would have killed all human beings for a wrong committed by a single human being.

It is a fact that India is a nation of multi ethnic communities so as Manipur, the erstwhile nation of South East Asia, now a state of India inhabited by over 33 distinct communities. For reasons best known to the government authorities some vital connection crucial for binding the people of every community as a cohesive single unit is sorely missing- a potent reason the people started taking due importance of their near and dear ones instead of considering themselves as the citizen of the same state or country.

Unlike India, United States of America which is home to many diverse communities from around the world such as a French, an African or an Indian etc. think that they are American first before coming to the community that they belong to. It is said that the constitution is what binds the people as Americans above everything. Communal enmity was an undeniable blot in the history for this country. Unfortunately, we the citizens of India are committing today the same blunder that happened 100 years ago in places like America.

India successfully places IRNSS-1G into orbit

Chennai, April 28: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday successfully put its seventh and last satellite of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) constellation, IRNSS-1G into the orbit.

The IRNSS-1G on board PSLV-C33, was successfully launched from first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota at 12.50 p.m. today.

The 51.5 hour countdown to the launch of PSLV-C33/IRNSS-1G mission began at 09:20 hr IST on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Just over 20 minutes into the flight, the rocket would put the 1,425-kg IRNSS-1G satellite into orbit at an altitude of 497.8 km.

The satellite with a design life span

of 12 years has two payloads for navigation and ranging.

Apart from the civilian usage, the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System comprising seven satellites will be used for defence purposes as well.

Till date, India has launched six regional navigational satellites (IRNSS-1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E and 1F) as part of a constellation of seven satellites to provide accurate position information service to users across the country and the region, extending up to an area of 1,500 km.

With this, India now joins the elite group of countries which have their own navigation system technology to cater to the mammoth navigational needs.

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Obituary

A tribute to PILHINGJANENG GANGTE

First Padmashree Awardee from Manipur in the field of Social Welfare -

By Leivon Jimmy Lamkang

Lhingjaneng Gangte, the first woman of Manipur to receive the prestigious award of Padmashree for her dedication in field of Social Welfare is no more with us. She left for her heavenly abode on April 27, 2016.

She is one of those who pioneered the social welfare movement in Manipur.

Born on 18th December, 1939 at Lajiang Village, Tamenglong district headquarters, Lhingjaneng is the sixth daughter of eight siblings, which included seven sisters and a brother. Her father Mr Jamkithang Silhou was the first circle officer among minority tribal.

She received her high school education at Tamphasana Girls' High School in 1955 and graduated from Dhanamanjuri College (DM college) in Bachelor of Arts in 1965. Lhingjaneng landed in the field of social service in very early stage.

After finishing her matriculation in 1956, she got the opportunity to be the Chief Welfare Organizer at a Social Welfare project at Churachandpur District for the first time (Social Welfare department was not in existence during the time) and started revolutionizing the benefits of the Social Welfare for women and children of Manipur.

Thereafter gradually, she began to make her presence known in the field of Social Work. During her 19 year-long period in the field of service, Lhingjaneng took charge of many key posts in her service period and other civil bodies including



1. 'in-Charge of Tribal Women Training Centre' (established at the Governor Bungalow campus),
2. President of the Manipur Council Child Welfare (1965- 1974),
3. Member of the Tribal Advisory Committee, Govt. of Manipur,
4. Member of the Education Advisory Board, Govt. of Manipur,
5. Member of the Planning Board, Govt. of Manipur.
6. Member of the Excise Committee, Govt. of Manipur.
7. Member of the Manipur State Social Welfare Board.
8. Chairman, Project Implementing Committee, Churachandpur.
9. Vice-President, Manipur State Social Welfare Board.
10. Chairman, Manipur State Social Welfare Board.
11. Member, Adimjati Shiksha Ashram, Manipur.
12. Member, State Kala Academy, Manipur.
13. Founder Member of the Board directors of the Women's Bank, Imphal, Manipur.

14. Director, United Bank of India and member AICC.

Many societies or training centres for both women and children have been formed under her initiatives like the Balwadi, Mahila Mandal Society, Tribal Women Training Centre etc. Besides, she was also Founder Member of Churachandpur College and Chairman, Kangpokpi High School till its conversion.

At the same, she was also appointed as the Member of Territorial Council member, representing the Kuki people in 1962 and later the council was upgraded into Legislative Assembly after which she was Member of Legislative Assembly for two terms (1967-69).

Giving due cognizance to her dedication and contribution in Social Service, she was later conferred with the Padmashree Award in 1975 by the Government of India to commemorate the International Women's Year. She was also selected "Women of the Year 1997" by ABI, USA.

Receiving the Padmashree was not the end of her social service career. She was also members of State Commission for women for a three terms (2007 to 2010). Apart from Social Service, she has a great enthusiasm for Law. Lhingjaneng Gangte also did her Course in Law at the LMS Law College Manipur in 1966-9167. However she could not receive a degree in law due to her busy schedules.

But she has kept her keen interest for law alive till today. With the

motive to equip with the knowledge of law to the minority tribal especially women-folk, along side with her late husband TS Gangte, the then Director of Education (U), Manipur, established the Law College Churachandpur in 1984 which is still in existence today at Hill Town in Churachandpur district of Manipur. Since its inception the College is solely run by her family without any morale or financial support from the Government despite being recognized by New Delhi in the late 80s.

The Law College is home to only some working youths with enthusiasm for Law. The reason for this, she explains that minority tribal communities are economically retarded. Although they have been interested in Law, most of the youth cannot afford to enroll as regular students. Usually after earning their Bachelor Degree, they are job seekers and cannot give their full time.

As a Social Worker, she believes in communal harmony, that is, it is key for prosperous and developed society. According to her, any majority communities have a vital role in building the bonds between communities and developing other minority groups.

Giving clear perception of her interest and thoughts, Lhingjaneng has written three books sparing her busy time. The books are "Humour in Law", "Communal Harmony" and "Poetry of Women". She also served as the Chairman of Law College Churachandpur.

National and International News

Swamy's remarks expunged again, Rajya Sabha MP angers Cong

PTI New Delhi, April 28: Subramanian Swamy, who triggered protests from Congress on Wednesday over his attempts to drag Sonia Gandhi in the August Westland helicopter row, on Thursday again made some controversial remarks in Rajya Sabha which the Chair immediately expunged and warned him of action for unnecessary provocation. Expunging Swamy's reference to the Constitution of another country that triggered vociferous protests from Congress members. Deputy Chairman PJ Kurien also ordered media not to report the remarks. Trouble broke out after Chaudhary Munavver Saleem (SP) in a Zero Hour mention referred to Swamy being part of the movement in 1970s to protect the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). Swamy got up to clarify saying he had no objection to minority education institutions but the Constitution prohibits the State from financing them.

He was countered on this by the opposition to which he responded by dragging the name of another country, a reference that led to agitated Congress members rushing into the Well. Kurien said he was expunging the reference to the Constitution of another country but that did not satisfy the Congress members who continued to shout slogans against Swamy. The BJP MP, who was sworn in only on Monday, insisted that since his name has been taken by another member, he has a right to reply and again went on to refer to the country, drawing sharp rebuke from the Chair. "I will take action against you. Subramanian Swamy you are unnecessarily provoking. I will have to take action against you... you are provoking," Kurien said. Observing that what Swamy said would not go on record, he said "what has been expunged should not be reported by media." Congress members sought action

against Swamy with Jairam Ramesh saying he was "needing and provoking" by bringing in reference to another country. "This is deliberate." With Congress members continuing to protest, Kurien asked them to return to their seats and said it was a deliberate attempt to subvert the Zero Hour. Asked by the Chair what the problem was when the remarks have been expunged, Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said "the problem is the new gift of BJP. Problem is not on this side." He said Swamy is just two days old in the House and his remarks have already been expunged twice. "There are 365 days in a year, how many times are you going to expunge his words," he asked the Chair. Azad said Swamy does not know the difference between street language and parliamentary words. "He does not allow his hair to gray so he can learn and mature."

BJP attacks Chidambaram in Lok Sabha

PTI New Delhi: BJP on Tuesday sought to target former Finance Minister P Chidambaram by raising the Aircel Maxis case in the Lok Sabha and demanding immediate filing of an FIR by CBI so that the guilty could be brought to book soon in the "open and shut case". Raising the issue during zero hour, Nishikant Dubey said dramatic developments were taking place in the case after the Enforcement Directorate raids on firms linked to the scam. One of the raids has revealed that the grand-daughter of the former Finance Minister was the sole beneficiary in the will of four shareholders of a firm associated with the scam, making it an "open and shut case", he claimed. Without taking Chidambaram's name, Dubey alleged that his son enjoyed ownership of some of the suspect firms having assets abroad. He alleged that the UP rule reeked of corruption as he named some companies allegedly involved in the case. "CBI must file an FIR at the earliest so that the guilty could be brought to book", he said amid protests from Congress members including Mallikarjun Kharge and K C Venugopal. Jyotiraditya Scindia was heard protesting to the Speaker as to why "double standards" were being adopted as the party was not allowed to raise the VVIP chopper scam issue on which it had given notice for an adjournment motion, but this one was allowed. BJD's Bhartruhari Mahtab and Tathagata Satpathy demanded that the government respond in the matter.

In the last session, AIADMK and BJD members had disrupted Parliament seeking a CBI probe into the Aircel-Maxis deal which they linked to Chidambaram's son Karti.

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