

# Editorial

Imphal Thursday, November 17, 2016

## Dying hopes

Much as we would like to think ourselves as ones who are abreast of the times, with a more than adequate awareness of our rights and responsibilities, yet the fact remains that the mentality of most of those who appointed themselves as saviors of the society- from enemies both real and imaginary, has been one of "I'm always right" and "my cause is the most important one". What the common people has not been able to comprehend yet is the "why" of it. Why are these self appointed guardians of the society turning their guns and bombs on the society who are their source of sustenance? Why are they still adamant on "serving" the common man, despite the overwhelming reluctance of the public to accept their "service"? why does a crime becomes less evil after an amicable settlement with the perpetrators? Why do they insist on "donations" with fixed amounts? Why are they not "interfering" with the known and notorious smugglers and black marketers in spite of the glaring evidences? Why are they harassing the weak and vulnerable public when their targets should be the corrupt and the unscrupulous elements taking undue advantage of the weak and helpless? Why are they so keen on changing the world when there are so many small hurdles we need to remove to make our society visibly better? Why are they conveniently looking the other way while various atrocities are being committed against the society everyday? It would not be an exaggeration to state that the society would be a much better place for their absence. The ulterior motives of these guardians of the society have been laid bare, yet the fear of physical harm, which is so real and possible, has the public to keep mum. It does take two hands to clap- the cheatings, forgeries, misappropriations and underhand dealings being carried out in Government Departments and offices are the excuse and the reason for their existence. Yet in their purported quest to cleanse the society of things evil and bad, it is the common man, clueless and defenceless, who are bearing the brunt of the anger and threats, getting caught in the crossfire, without the connection or the influence to secure a better bargain of their lives. Insecurity and the fear psychosis has been so deeply ingrained in the minds of the people, with a deep suspicion for everything and everyone even remotely out of the ordinary. The outcome of such a society can never be a positive one- as has been witnessed and felt by everybody. The Indian army has been using the excuse of the unrest and social disruptions to carry out their myriad nefarious activities, while various leaders in power are amassing wealth meant for the affected people. The deadly vortex of extortions, killings and threats has been growing stronger. The only real and plausible solution? - take away the sinner, and the saint disappears! How easier can things get?

## Moderate earthquake hits Delhi, Haryana

**PTI** **New Delhi, Nov 17:** A medium intensity earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter Scale shook the national capital and neighbouring Haryana in the wee hours on Thursday. According to the National Center for Seismology, a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences, the mild tremor hit Delhi at around 4.30 am and was epicentre near Delhi-Haryana border. The earthquake had a depth of 10 kilometres, it said. There was no immediate loss of life and property reported from anywhere in the city. Many people tweeted about the earthquake despite the tremor hitting early in the morning. An earthquake of 3.6 magnitude hit Punjab's Jalandhar district on Wednesday.

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## Philosophy in Public Life

India's struggle for freedom was animated by humanistic philosophy  
Gandhi invested the political struggle with quintessentially Indian ethos

By: Priyadarshi Dutta

The UNESCO instituted the World Philosophy Day in 2005 to be observed on the third Thursday of November. This year the day falls on November 17. What was the need for dedicating a day to a discipline believed to be divorced from reality? "Philosophical reflection is above all a call to humility, to take a step back and engage in a reasoned dialogue, to build together the solutions to challenges that are beyond our control", says Irina Bokova, the UNESCO's Director General. She adds "The greater the difficulties encountered the greater the need for philosophy to make sense of questions of peace and sustainable development". Philosophy, the UNESCO maintains, belongs to everyone, everywhere, who cares for it. Therefore the international body leads the World Philosophy Day but does not own it. Philosophy might be viewed in two different ways. At one plane, it is speculative rather than empirical. It believes in discovering the intangible order of things. It peaks into spirituality. It is for individual edification, satisfaction and understanding of things. But at another plane it is about engagement with human civilization. It is about moulding the future of civilization by discovery of some sublime principles. "My purpose is to exhibit philosophy as an integral part of social and political life: not as the isolated speculations of remarkable individuals", says Bertrand Russell in his classic *A History of Western Philosophy*.

This year is the 140<sup>th</sup> year of *American Declaration of Independence* (1776). The Declaration disavowed the divine right of kings, which George III, the then monarch of Britain clung to. It brought common people into the foreground of history. It is an argument in favour of democracy and equal rights for all citizens. Bereft of this uplifting philosophy, America's war of independence might have reduced itself to crude military campaign against the British. The document, drafted by Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), abounds in original political philosophy. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness". Our own struggle for freedom was animated by humanistic philosophy. "This was no crude demand for the ending of foreign rule and the elevation of self chosen leaders absolute authority, such as we have seen in other emergent countries.

This was a genuine dialectic argument about the nature of freedom, the character of nationhood, the obligations of individuals to society", observed the late Oxford historian Hugh Tinker. The intellectual discourse that marked freedom movement guided India's course to become an inclusive democracy. India was the first nation to implement universal adult franchise in 1951-52. Some were even skeptical of its wisdom, in a nation with literacy rate of meager 16 percent. But it could not have been any other system, given our freedom movement was fought in the name of everyone, high and low, rich and poor, men and women. The universal adult franchise, like democracy itself, was thus the outcome of the philosophy of freedom struggle. It is a pity that India's ingenious schools of philosophy got caught in time warp. The Sankhya, Yoga, Nyay-Vaisesika, Purva Mimansa, Uttar Mimansa and Vedanta are considered six orthodox systems that upheld the Vedas. Buddhism and Jainism were considered heterodox systems. Though all of them were rich in content, they did not inspire any political evolution unlike what we see in the West. Therefore we see no political evolution in medieval India, which might have modernized India without British intervention. But in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in colonial India, Vedanta and Buddhism emanated as gospels of humanity and universalism. Swami Vivekananda spoke of the glories of Vedanta and Buddhism in

the West. They were projected as remedial answers to needs of the epoch. Yoga, originally a school of philosophy, is now fascinating the world. Instituting the "International Day of Yoga" (June 21) in 2015 should reinforce our attention to Indian holistic philosophy. Gandhi changed the rules of the game in politics. When he arrived on the scene a century ago, the national leaders were actually following western assumption of state, nationhood and political destiny. The more enthusiastic nationalists wanted to establish that Indians had a history of military and political superiority like the Europeans. Those who gave an alternative perspective based on Indian ideas like Rabindranath Tagore and Ananda K. Coomaraswamy were not men of masses. It was Gandhi who with his ideas of Satyagraha, Ashram, Charkha, Khadi, Daridra-Narayan Seva, Swachhata (Cleanliness), Ram Rajya, Hartal, Sarvodaya, Prarthana (Daily Prayer), Go-Raksha (Cow Protection) invested the political struggle with quintessentially Indian ethos. He created a different political idiom. While one might disagree with his policies, one could not deny the uniqueness of his approach. The debate whether philosophy is for self-elevation or service of mankind might remain. It could actually be both. It is only when we elevate ourselves can we create a better socio-political discourse. Philosophy can build a public discourse based on reason and empathy rather than force and strength. (Courtesy PIB)

## National & International News

### Court allows ED for Lalit Modi's transfer from UK

**PTI** **Mumbai, Nov 16:** A special PMLA court here today allowed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to send a Letter of Request (LR) to the British government for execution of a non-bailable warrant against former IPL commissioner Lalit Modi and his transfer to India for facing probe in a money laundering case. The ED, in its application filed on November 8, prayed the court for issuing LR for the execution of NBW against Modi. The agency sought necessary steps to be taken by the competent authorities in the UK for locating him.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court today allowed the prayer. "The LR order will now be sent to the External Affairs Ministry, which will forward it to the competent authority in England for further action," said special ED counsel Hiten Venegankar. The agency is probing the case against Lalit Modi in connection with a 2008 deal between World Sports Group (WSG) and Multi Screen Media (MSM) for television rights worth Rs 425 crore for the Indian Premier League. The Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI) had registered a case in Chennai in connection with the 2008 deal. This was followed by a case by the ED. So far, three LRs have been issued against Modi by the same court to authorities in Singapore, Mauritius and UAE. The court had issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against the high-profile former IPL boss, believed to be in the UK, on August 6 last year. In 2008, after BCCI awarded IPL media rights for 10 years to WSG for USD 918 million, the WSG entered into a deal with Multi Screen Media

to make latter's television channel Sony the official broadcaster of IPL. While BCCI alleged irregularities and breach of contract in this deal, ED started a probe in 2009 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to investigate allegations that payment of Rs 425 crore towards facilitation fee by MSM-Singapore to WSG Mauritius was made in illegal manner.

### Army denies Pakistan's claim of killing 11 Indian soldiers

**New Delhi, Nov. 17:** Army on Thursday denied Pakistan's claim of killing 11 Indian soldiers in cross border firing across the Line of Control (LoC). "No fatal casualties due to Pak firing on 14, 15 or 16 November. Pak Army Chief claim of killing Indian soldiers on 14 Nov false," Northern Command of Indian Army said in a tweet. Earlier on Wednesday, Pakistan Army Chief General Raheel Sharif had claimed that his troops killed at least 11 Indian jawans the day seven Pakistani soldiers were killed in firing by Indian troops across the Line of Control (LoC). He claimed that Pakistan has killed "40-44 Indian troops" in the current clashes but the Indian army was refusing to accept and own its casualties. General Raheel said India should "show courage" and own the deaths of its security personnel. "The Indian army should man up and accept their losses," he said. He said Pakistan army was professional force and was accepting its "casualties" while giving befitting response to "unprovoked" firing. The army chief, who is set to retire later this month, said a message has been conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that his "aggressive actions" will not bear any results.

### 8 Indian boxers get first-round byes at Youth World C'ships

**PTI** **New Delhi, Nov 17:** Eight of the 10 Indian boxers in fray got first-round byes when draws for the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships were unveiled in St. Petersburg, Russia. The 10-strong Indian team comprises, among others, three boys who have won silver medals at the Asian Youth Championships. They are Ankush Dahiya (60kg), Ashish (64kg) and Reyaj Puri (81kg). Of these three, Ashish is the only one not to have got a bye and will open his campaign against

Armenia's Toni Galstyan, while Srinivas (69kg) will take on Frenchman Milan Prat in his lung-opener tomorrow. The 16 to 18-year-olds would be competing in the biggest event of their nascent careers, up against a formidable field of 417 boxers from 75 countries. Among other Indians in the fray, Sachin (49kg) will open his campaign against the winner of the clash between Korean Seongchan Baek and Mexico's Gustavo Antonio Alvarez on Saturday. Reigning national champion Anwar (52kg) will face England's Akash

Tuqir, also on Saturday. Etash Khan (56kg) will be up against the winner of the bout between Cuban Alexei Romero Rodriguez and Egypt's Elsayed Ragab Oman on November 19. Ankush Dahiya (60kg) will be up against the winner of the clash between German Nick Bier and Scotland's Mark Reid on November 20. Aditya Maan (75kg) will face England's Ben Riss on the same day. Reyaj Puri (81kg) is pitted against Azerbaijan's Elkan Aliyev, while Naman Tanwar (91kg) will square off against Croatia's Marjan Brnic on November 21. Manjeet (+91kg) will await the winner of the clash between Greek Vagkan Nantizanian and Ukraine's Vachesla Havryliuk on November 22. The event, which gave India the likes of World Championships medalists Shiva Thapa and Vikas Krishan, will be held till November 24. While Vikas had won a gold, Shiva had clinched a silver in the 2010 edition of the tournament. However, in the 2014 Championships, India had managed just a bronze and would be looking to improve on that performance.

### 5 killed in Peru shopping centre fire

**Lima, Nov 17:** Officials say five people have died and seven people are missing as the result of a fire at a shopping mall next to the hotel that will host world leaders at this week's Asian-Pacific economic summit. Lima's police chief says investigators are trying to determine the cause of yesterday's blaze at a movie theatre where a screening for journalists of the film "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" was taking place. A large black mushroom cloud rose

above the seaside Larcomar shopping centre while people were struggling to breathe were helped into ambulances. Witnesses said they had to break down blocked emergency exits to escape. The shopping centre is across the street from the high-rise JW Marriott hotel where many of the foreign leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit will stay. US President Barack Obama is among the leaders scheduled to take part in the summit beginning tomorrow.