

Editorial

Imphal Thursday, April 20, 2017

Significance of SC judgment to extra-judicial killings in Manipur

Finally the victims of extra-judicial murder cases at various counter insurgency operation here in the state of Manipur in the last three decades is somehow relieved with the verdict of the Supreme Court announced yesterday.

In laymen interpretation, the verdict also showed that a war was on to the people of the state for over three decades. Army was deployed not to safeguard the people of the state from external aggression but rather to exterminate those who were against the Indian rule. This was what the highest court said indirectly by pointing out the prosecution of 1971 war criminals for committing atrocities to the people of neighbouring country Bangladesh.

By ordering a fresh probe in three cases of rape and murder which took place in 2003 by an independent team to find out the truth, indeed is a warning to the armed forces to let them reminded that the power entrusted to them is not for killing or torturing civilians and if committed such crime they cannot escape from the law of the land.

The SC verdict was announced after hearing a PIL filed by the Extra Judicial Execution Victims Families Association. The association is a registered body of wives and mothers of those persons whom they claim to have been extra-judicially executed by Police, Army and the Assam Rifles. In the petition, the court was pleaded to deliver justice for extra-judicial murder of 1528 cases by the armed forces.

Now what is important to note is that those armed security forces are surely going to be in trouble. And families of the victims of the extra judicial killing might have relieved as justice is finally delivered.

It is everybody's knowledge that such a mass alleged extra judicial killing are committed by the armed forces under certain legislation at which we the common people often called as "draconian laws", such as the AFSPA, POTA etc. etc. Without any such legislation there is no way that any armed forces can commit excess to any of its own citizen except in case of war with other country.

Before coming to the point on who make these legislations empowering the army to commit excess, it is worth remembering that - the good exist because there is a 'bad'. Forget about a multi ethnic country like ours, even in a small society like ours mindset of each individual are not same. Some a harsh and barbaric, some are peace lovers some are crazy about power and some are simply yes men.

It's human nature that the one who are empowered with excess powers will not be always humane when rendering his duty. And if there are legislations that empowered them to commit excess there is no guarantee that those who are empowered to commit excess particularly the armed forces will not commit excess beyond humanism.

Draconian laws like the Armed Forces Special Act which empower security forces to commit excess are frame and passed by either legislators or the Parliamentarian.

The SC verdict need to be appreciated by all but should at least find a way to warn the parliamentarian on why they make laws that will force them to commit some days. Because there is no one who does the good all the time accepts God.

India's initiative to save Mother Earth

By : Pandurang Hegde

United Nations celebrates a special day to celebrate Mother Earth on 22nd April. Launched in 1970 with 10000 thousand people, today it covers one billion people in 192 countries. The basic objective is to raise awareness about the obligation of human beings to protect Earth and share its resources with future generations. The theme for 2017 is to create "environment and climate literacy" to empower the knowledge base of common people towards the issue and inspiring them towards actions to defend the Mother Earth.

According to IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) India is most vulnerable to the impact of climate change adversely impacting the health, economic development and food security.

In order to address this challenge of climate change India has evolved a comprehensive plan 'India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC): Working towards Climate Justice'. This document addresses the issue holistically including the elements of adaptation, mitigation, finance, green technology and capacity building. While implementing these intended actions, it calls for the right of developing countries for an equitable carbon space to achieve sustainable development and eradication of poverty.

The formation of Rs 3500 million or US Dollar 56 million 'National Adaptation Fund' will initiate policies towards renewable energy

through multiple initiatives to achieve the target of reducing carbon emissions by 33 to 35 percent by 2030.

The main focus is to revisit the National Missions under National Action for Climate Change (NAPCC) with additional missions on wind, health, water and redesigning missions on sustainable agriculture. The adaptation strategy is directed towards sustainable use of land and water resources. The implementation of soil health cards across the country, watershed and use of water efficient irrigation programme will pave way towards risk proofing agriculture. The coverage of agricultural insurance of crops though climate change disasters is another initiative that comes to the rescue of farmers.

The mitigation strategies involves generation of clean and green energy by increasing renewable energy capacity from 35 GW (Giga Watt) to 175 GW by 2022. In addition to the National Solar Mission that targets fivefold increase in solar power to 1000 GW, it also aims to develop smart power grids to enhance the efficiency of power transmission and distribution across the country. To cap the wastage of energy consumption a nationwide campaign for energy conservation is launched to save 10 per cent energy consumption.

While these are macro level policies to address the issue of climate change, the government of India has initiated micro projects

that have direct benefits accruing to the poorest groups while contributing to saving energy. Under the ministry of Renewable Energy, UJALA scheme is launched in which 22.66 crore LED bulbs are distributed that will save Rs 11776 crores while reducing carbon emission up to 24 Metric tons per year.

Similarly under the ministry of Petroleum free LPG connections are given to women holding BPL cards. The Prime Ministers Ujjwala Yojana has already reached 2 crore households and it aims to reach the target of 5 crores house holds by 2019 with an outlay of Rs 8000 crores.

This has direct impact on rural women empowering them by providing easy access to clean energy source that improves their health and reducing the pressure on forest resources as well as reducing the carbon emissions.

The Swachh Bharat Mission is another strategy under which there are initiatives to create energy form the waste in urban areas. Similarly recycling and reuse of waste water is another initiative 23277 millions litre of water per day in 816 sewage treatment plants across the country.

Green India Mission is another initiative to reforest barren land with the annual target of increasing the forest quality and cover in 5 million hectares will sequester 100 million tons of carbon annually.

The traditional Indian culture emphasised the need for

harmonious co existence between man and nature. With the concept of "Basudaiv Kutumbakam" all life forms on the Earth is considered as one family and reinforces the concept of interdependence. Before the advent of Mother Earth Day in the modern world, the Vedas and Upanishads considered Earth as our mother and human being as the children. Much before the arrival of climate change crises, our forefathers envisaged the concept of environmental sustainability and to become the trustees of Earth to be passed on to future generations. It will be appropriate to recall the statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the United Nations summit in which he said "We should forge a global public partnership to harness technology, innovation and finance to put affordable clean and renewable energy within the reach of all. Equally, we must look for changes in our lifestyles that would make us less dependent on energy and more sustainable in our consumption. It is equally critical to launch a global education programme that prepares our next generation to protect and conserve Mother Earth".

Thus it is only through creation of environment and climate treaty that will result in global action of changing the life styles that leads to reduction in the carbon emission that we can save Mother Earth.

Author is an independent journalist and columnist based in Karnataka. (Courtesy PIB Feature)

National and International News

Himachal CM Virbhadra Singh appears before ED in Delhi

PII New Delhi, April 20: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh today appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here in connection with a money laundering case registered against him and others. Singh arrived at the agency's office here in his official car, with a covered beacon, at about 12:00 noon. Sporting his trademark 'Himachali topi', the CM did not interact with media persons on the spot and was seen raising his fist in the air and heard reciting some lines of a patriotic poem: "Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai, dekhnai hai zar kitna baju e qaail mein hai."

The agency has summoned Singh in order to record his statement in this case and also to confront him with some documents it has seized and recovered in this case of disproportionate assets. The CM, last week, had also sent a communication to the agency stating his reasons for not being able to appear before it all this while and had sought a new date from it, after which the new summons were issued for today. The ED had yesterday refused to give any assurance in the Delhi High Court that it will not arrest Singh when he appears before it. The submission was made before

Justice R K Gauba by the ED during the hearing of Singh's plea for quashing of the money laundering proceedings against him. The ED summons have come close on the heels of filing of a charge sheet by the CBI against Singh, his wife and others for allegedly amassing assets worth around Rs 10 crore disproportionate to their known sources of income. The agency had summoned Singh earlier also, but then he had excused himself stating he had official commitments. The ED has already questioned his wife Pratibha and son Vikramaditya in connection with the case. It had filed a case under the anti-money laundering law against the Himachal Pradesh chief minister, his family members and others after taking cognisance of a complaint filed by the CBI in this regard in September 2015.

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3 ISIS suspects arrested, several detained in joint anti-terror operation by 6 state polices

Indian Today New Delhi, April 20: The Uttar Pradesh anti-terrorism squad (ATS) and Delhi Police special cell arrested three ISIS (Islamic State) suspects on charges of terror conspiracy and busted an inter-state terror module. The three men were arrested from Mumbai, Ludhiana and Bijnor. Searches were carried out in Mumbai (Maharashtra), Jalandhar (Punjab), Narkatiaganj (Bihar), Bijnor (Uttar Pradesh) and Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh). According to sources in the ATS, one of the accused, who was arrested from Mumbai in Mumbai, is an ISIS recruiter for Maharashtra. Several SIM cards were seized from the 26-year-old's house. In fresh development, the ATS has detained a suspect from Narkatiaganj in Bihar while two suspects from Mumbai have been detained. Besides Uttar Pradesh ATS and Delhi Police special cell, the crime investigation department of Andhra Pradesh Police, Maharashtra ATS, Bihar Police and Punjab Police were part of the operation. Further investigation is on and six people are being questioned by police.

According to information accessed so far, the three arrested men are suspected to be part of a terror module which was building a new organisation with orders from handlers based in Iraq. The group was planning to launch strikes and a massive recruitment drive was on when the module was busted. The anti-terror operation, which was on since the last five days, led to the arrests this morning. An ATS source said, "The gang was operating nationwide. Several agencies were on it. For the last 15 to 30 days, a close watch was kept on the gang and its members were tracked. On Wednesday night, the places were raided simultaneously." Nearly a month ago, police had busted an ISIS-inspired terror module and one of its suspected members, Saifullah, was killed in a 12-hour siege and anti-terror operation in Lucknow. The module was allegedly involved in the Ujjain train blast. According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe reports, the ISIS-inspired module had made a failed attempt to carry out an explosion at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in Lucknow on Dussehra last year.

Minister of Steel. It has also attached assets worth about Rs 14 crore in the case. The CBI charge sheet alleged that Singh had amassed assets worth around Rs 10 crore which were disproportionate by 192 per cent of his total income during his tenure as a Union minister. The final report was filed against nine persons for alleged offences punishable under section 109 (abetment) and 465 (punishment for forgery) of the IPC and relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, arrayed around 225 witnesses and 442 documents. Besides the 82-year-old Congress leader and his wife Pratibha Singh, the report also arraigned Chhuni Lal Chauhan, Joginder Singh Ghalta, Prem Raj, Vakamulla Chandrasekhar, Lavan Kumar Roach and Ram Prakash Bhatia as accused. It also named as accused LIC agent Anand Chauhan, who is currently in judicial custody. Chauhan was arrested by the ED on July 9 last year in this money laundering case.

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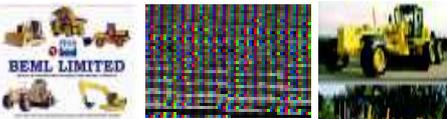
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