

Editorial

Imphal Friday, January 27, 2017

Shake the stupor off

The verdict is out loud and clear- antisocial elements, anarchists and criminals in this state are not deterred and least bothered by all the brouhaha and empty talks of punishing the guilty. The present justice delivery system is so abysmally inadequate and utterly inefficient that people does not even think twice about committing a crime. The continuing economic blockade strangling the people of the state in the name of protesting the alleged communal decisions of the state government reiterates the bitter fact yet once again. There had been enough debates and discussions. How many more prolonged blockades, abductions, vandalisms, rapes and sexual assaults should we bear witness to or be a victim of, before we wake from this stupor and finally act out our bit? No law in the world can prevent any crime if they are not made known to be implemented. Putting the fear of the law and respect for justice in the hearts of the people is the only way to instill a sense of awareness of the repercussions of our own actions. Justice should not only be done, but it should be made known and appeared to have been delivered. Time to consider the humane side of the law is past. A criminal should be sentenced on the evidences and no consideration whatsoever should be permitted, especially for those who played the judge, jury and the executioner. Criminals and lawbreakers don't respect and regard anything a law abiding citizen holds sacred. The harshest of punishments should be imposed if we hope for any change in the rapidly deteriorating moral and social values in our present society. Exemplary actions taken up in time will curb and made potential criminals to reconsider the act they are about to commit. The consequences of any such unwanted and antisocial activity should be the most rigorous and unbearable penalty possible and allowed by law. Making new laws does not make any sense, as there is no dearth of it in our country and certainly in our state. Seeing that they are effectively applied is the key. The public should be more vigilant but should not resort to vigilantism. Harboring criminals and law breakers, even if they happen to be our near and dear ones, as reported so often, is only degrading the society which we ourselves are a part of- bringing us our own misery. Being true to ourselves and broadening our mentality to be able to see the larger picture will go a long way in bringing that much needed change which we are all crying out for. A mental revolution- one that radically changes the perceptions of a society and the relationships that should exist between its members should be the goal for every one of us. Crime begins in the mind. If we can keep one's mind from thinking about doing things that hurts the society, then it would be much easy to control and even remove crime, but then it would be wishful thinking. Nothing is as easy or simple in life. The next best option, the one we should resort to is to make one shiver at the consequences one must face when caught for a crime. We are the society. We have the right to enforce the mechanisms that protects us. Let us stand up and deliver our part. Let us not wait for any sign of deliverance- horses don't fly and hope doesn't float anymore. But we can, and we should act.

Mexico foreign minister: Paying for border wall not negotiable

Washington, Jan. 27: Mexico is willing to talk with the US in order to maintain good relations, but paying for President Donald Trump's border wall "is not negotiable," Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray has said. "There are things that are not negotiable, things that cannot and will not be negotiated. The fact that it is being said that Mexico should pay for the wall is something that is simply not negotiable," Videgaray said during a press conference at the Mexican embassy in Washington. Holding true to his campaign promise, Trump on Wednesday ordered US officials to begin to design and construct a wall along the 3,200-kilometer US-Mexico border. The White House has since then

floated the idea of a 20 percent tax on Mexican imports to cover the cost of the wall, but later backtracked and called it just one idea among many. Such a tax, Videgaray said Thursday, would only harm Americans. "Here in the United States avocados, washing machines, televisions, many things that North American families like to buy and that are expensive, would cost more," he said. "It would be the American consumer who would be paying," Videgaray added. The top diplomat was at the White House Thursday to help pave the way for a visit by Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto when his team received word of a Trump tweet suggesting that if Mexico were not willing to build the wall it should cancel the trip.

Why humanity remember Gandhi

By: Dr. D John Chelladurai

In the world of thorough compartmentalization dictated by industrialized division of labour in which humanity find itself having lost the sense of purpose and identity, Gandhi showed a holistic way that leads us into experiencing life in its fullness.

He got this holistic perspective from the realization of Truth as God, which is eternal, an all encompassing reality. 'Being part of the whole', he acknowledged, 'I too am a part of the Truth'. In the epistemological sense it reflects the wisdom of Upanishad 'Aham Brahmasmi'. Functionally, his pursuit of Truth could be termed as an advaita (non-dualistic) practice. He saw a singular Truth in umpteen facets of life. *Ekam Sat vipra Bahudha vadanti*. For him, each of his efforts was some part of the truth or his endless quest for it. Even the means of his striving, nonviolence, according to him, was a form of Truth. Truth is God and Nonviolence the religion, he explained. Johan Galtung put it as 'the way is the goal'. This led him into a unique experience of an inclusive method, a comprehensive approach to life. He saw oneness in all and everything. That is how he could declare "I have no enemy" even while fighting against British imperialism. He then clarified, 'my fight is against the wrong and not the wrong doer who is my brother'.

This perspective of endearing oneness is evident in all his endeavors right from his early years.

Be it his colleagues in South Africa, men and women from wide range of

persuasions: Muslims, Parsis, Christians, Jews, north Indians and South Indians in equal measure; or his fellow satyagrahis as diverse as the mighty Pathans from the north-west frontier and the meekly peasants of Bihar; or is readiness to induct into his domestic fold Dalits and Leprosy Patients with equal elan, or his prayers that integrated the spirit of all religions, he led humans into a new social reality.

His non-dualistic vision helped him lay the conceptual foundation for a new nation. He interpreted 'Purna Swaraj' which originally meant as 'complete freedom from the bonds of the British' into a principle of liberation from all evils - of both what are within individual - value decay and lack of social sensibility, and between individuals - socio, economic political injustice and inequalities. His 18 constructive programs represent as many facets of liberation: freedom from alcoholism, communal enmity, poverty, sanitation problem, gender inequality so on.

Ideologically he harmonized Satya and Ahimsa as two sides of a coin; and functionally Satyagraha (struggle against the imperial power) and Constructive interventions (building a society of empowered masses) as two wings of a flight to freedom.

Civilization would however remember Gandhi for the all encompassing way of living he professed for the divided world. The guiding spirit is Truth. That enabled him to cultivate within him a triune dexterity called harmony between word, thought and deed; head heart

and hand; and between 'oneself, fellow beings and God.'

His non-dualistic (seeing one in all) methodology led him further into a process of social amalgamation, and helped him see potential for human betterment in the same traits that divided humanity into water tight compartments. For instance, he could see the productive craftsmanship of the shudras, the material acumen of the Bania, the righteous indignation of the Kshatriya and the sagely scholarship of Brahmin are adorable human qualities equally important to every modern human.

And thus, he was happy being a shudra when needed to cultivate his grains, spinning out his own clothes and building hutments in the ashram; he was a typical bania (vaishya) while bargaining for freedom and mobilizing resources for it; as a satyagrahi he showed the valor of a Kshatriya fighting against the antagonistic powers for the sake of humanity even at the risk of his own life. As a seeker after truth he spoke with the clarity of a Brahmin (scholar and teacher). Thus he brought down the walls that stood between the classes and sailed from one class to another seamlessly.

Similarly, he translated the four stages of life (Ashramas) into four noble virtues to be adopted, not one after another, but all the time together. While being a grahastha (ashram being his large joint family), he was a brahmacharya all along; without retreating into Jungle he attained liberation. While living in the thick of the society, he informed, he carries a potable 'cave' (society)

for spiritual contemplation every moment.

The same harmonizing perspective helped Gandhi braid the four yogic paths into one noble passage for holistic realization. His passion for Truth and Nonviolence that "transcended human reasoning" was the height of bhakti, equivalent to that of Mira, that fired him to be an invincible adherent of Truth. Be it his Khadi movement, Harijan campaign or striving for communal harmony, we see an unstoppable performer and his performance evinced the quality of a karma yogi. His conscious exploration into the inner recesses of Truth gave him the wisdom of a gyan yogi; empowered by the bhakti and gyan, his karma (action) invariably steered him to lead the masses out of man-made suffering. The making of the 'father of the nation' is certainly one of Raja Yoga.

Thus Gandhi in his advaita realization of Truth, saw life as a comprehensive experience, not to be realized in compartments, but all inclusively. The realization of oneness enabled him to see the worth of multifarious manifestations without deterring by their diversity, helped him sail between classes of society, phases of life and through diverse paths of life and ethical schools.

In the world of thorough compartmentalization dictated by industrialized division of labour in which humanity find itself having lost individual sense of purpose and identity, Gandhi shows in this manner, a holistic way to realize the fullness of life. Civilization would remember him for this forever.

(Courtesy PIB Feature)

National & International News

NIA finds merit in Bihar police probe pointing to ISI-backed plot to sabotage rail tracks

New Delhi, Jan. 27: The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing three cases involving an attempt to blast tracks in East Champaran, the Indore-Patna Express derailment and last week's Koneru rail accident, has prima facie found to be correct the Bihar police's line of investigation pointing to an ISI-backed sabotage plot to cause train mishaps in India+ . The agency feels the ISI angle merits further probe.

Sources in NIA told TOI that the three accused arrested in Motihari, during their recent questioning by NIA sleuths, have repeated their claims of a sabotage angle in both the failed Ghorasahan track blasting attempt+ as well as the Kanpur derailment+ . "There are no contradictions whatsoever in what they had told the Bihar police earlier and now our own sleuths. They seem to be very sure of and consistent in their 'disclosures'. Also, technical evidence points to conversations between the arrested accused on the one hand and Nepalese handler Brij Kishore Giri, Dubai-based mastermind Shamsul Huda and Karachi-based suspected ISI agent Shafi Shaikh on the other, lending credence to the ISI involvement theory," said a home ministry officer.

Sources following the investigation told TOI that Umashankar Patel, one of the three accused arrested by Bihar police, had spoken to both Huda and Shaikh while they were together in Dubai in August, after being put in touch with them by Giri. "They discussed conspiracy to cause train accidents in India by planting IEDs on the tracks. The discussion was general in nature and did not raise any specific mention of the impending sabotage plans for Ghorasahan or Kanpur," said an officer. "That they were in direct touch with Huda as well as an alleged

Karachi-based kingpin having links with ISI, has led NIA to strongly suspect an ISI angle to the alleged sabotage involving passenger trains in India," the officer said.

With the probe into Ghorasahan sabotage attempt as well as the Kanpur train derailment now formally with NIA, its teams will be seeking custody of the accused, Patel, Motilal Paswan and Mukesh Yadav as well others arrested in Delhi, for exhaustive questioning as well as recreation of the events leading to the said incidents. This will involve taking the accused to the Kanpur

derailment site and establishing the sequence of events leading to planting of the alleged pressure cooker bomb, corroborating their journey details, establishing any money trail of payments for execution of the conspiracy and digging out technical evidence, including their mobile network details, to prove their presence at the derailment site before the incident.

Though an NIA team has already inspected the site of the latest train accident at Koneru in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, it is yet to submit its report on the findings. "We are not risking a

guess on a likely sabotage angle. Let us wait for the initial report," said a home ministry officer.

NIA, as part of its Ghorasahan as well as Kanpur derailment probe, will seek access to the accused arrested by the Nepal police, including handler Brij Kishore Giri, for questioning. The agency may need to initiate proceedings for their extradition to face interrogation and trial in India. "This might be a time-consuming process," said an officer. NIA also plans to seek custody of Shamsul Huda and Karachi-based ISI link Shafi Shaikh during the course of its investigation.

Russian Ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin dead At 67

New Delhi, Jan. 27: Russian Ambassador Alexander Kadakin, a fluent Hindi-speaking career diplomat considered a great friend of India, died on Thursday at a hospital in New Delhi after a brief illness. He was 67. Mr Kadakin, who was serving as Ambassador since 2009, was credited with playing a significant role in promotion of relations between India and Russia.

This was his second stint as the Ambassador, having served one between 1999 and 2004. Mr Kadakin, who began his diplomatic career as a Third Secretary at the Russian Embassy in India in 1972, was fluent in Hindi and loved this country.

"With deep regret and profound sorrow, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India informs that Alexander Kadakin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India, passed away on January 26 in one of New Delhi central

hospitals after a brief illness," said a statement issued by the Russian Embassy.

He held the position of the Head of the Russian diplomatic mission in New Delhi from November 2009, it noted.

"Starting from 1971, the entire diplomatic career of Alexander Kadakin was closely associated with promoting Russian-Indian relations," the statement added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while condoling the death, hailed Mr Kadakin and his contribution to the India-Russia ties. "Deeply saddened at the passing away of Ambassador Alexander



Kadakin. He was an admirable diplomat, a great friend of India & a fluent Hindi speaker who tirelessly contributed to stronger India-Russia ties," Mr Modi tweeted.

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