

Editorial

Monday, January 8, 2018

Law enforcers action - Well and good

But need to trap the King pin

The continuous seizure of narcotic drugs in the last couple of days cannot be considered just another achievement of the law enforcing agency. No doubt the persons in uniform are doing their job and people across the state need to appreciate them. However, it is also the need of the hour to ponder on the rise of the drug smuggling in the state. There are also possibility that those arrested might have been only some few are unlucky toddlers, as many could have been escaped. When smuggling of narcotic substances is a threat to the entire society, the seizure of illegal gold smuggled from Myanmar side by security force also showed the rise of mafia in the region. Pass evidences and logic showed that Gold or drugs smugglers would have some connection in one way or other because both in the illegal business need huge investment and political backing. A common man with little money or who does not have political connection would never indulge in such business.

In the last couple of days, Assam Rifle troopers seized 20 gold biscuits worth around rupees 95 Lakhs from two persons at Imphal-Moreh road. From the way the toddlers carried the gold biscuits it can be understood from common sense that they are on the business for quite some times. It is unlikely that these two toddlers could have invested the huge amount for smuggling the gold inside the state. There is definitely someone who could do the investment part. This was not the first time that gold biscuits are being seized by security agency.

On October 1, 2017 authority of Customs seized 12 pieces of gold bars weighing around 19.954 Kg, worth around Rs. 6 crore were seized from Jiribam bound Tata Sumo vehicle at Yurembam area. Earlier on September 16, of the same year CISF personnel deployed at Imphal Tuliha Airport seized around 6 Kg of gold hidden at the anus of six persons. These gold were supposed to be smuggled out of the state and they were reportedly smuggled from Myanmar side, as per source from the law enforcing agency.

On August 17, 2017 Assam Rifles arrested one gold smuggler carrying 140 gold bars weighing approximately 23.230 kg and worth Rs 6.969 crores at vehicle check post at Imphal Moreh road.

In almost all the case the toddlers carrying the gold are different persons and background of some of this toddlers showed that they are carrying the gold for a mere tips.

Few years back, in February middle week of 2013, police seized drugs worth Rs 1.3 crore which was smuggled in the state. The case for this matter is still pending in the court with CBI investing over it. Some of the high profile individuals are facing trial for the case.

On January 6 this year, Psychotropic drugs (WY) worth Rs 3 crore in the international market was seized from by Manipur Police team hidden inside the sand in a truck which came from Moreh side.

On April 13, 2017, Narcotics and border affairs team of Manipur police seized 300 gm of narcotics drugs (Heroin no.4) worth about Rs 30 lakhs in the international market in Imphal.

On July first week of 2017 - Manipur police seized 150 gm of heroin worth around Rs 11 lakh in the local market from the possession of youth during a frisking and checking operation in Imphal East district.

When gold smuggling had little to do with the society of Manipur, drugs smuggling should be seriously deal as it will give tremendous effect in the society. And what should be kept in mind is that there is always a possibility of strong nexus between the gold smugglers and the drugs smugglers in the region.

The quantity of drugs smuggling in the state showed that there is an easy market for the substances in Imphal and other part of Manipur. It is a fact that these psychotropic substances are mostly used among the vulnerable youths. The changing trend of Manipur society has now kept these users very very far to reach as they become more hidden population.

So far well and good on the part of law enforcing agency. They have now arrested many toddlers. But the effort will be meaningless if the law enforcers fail to investigate properly over the matter so that the king pin behind the smuggling of illegal substances are not let free.

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National & International News

India sparks outcry over press freedom by naming reporter in probe on database breach

Reuters

New Delhi, Jan 8: The Indian government named a reporter in a police complaint after she wrote an article alleging a data breach in a federal identity database, drawing criticism from a journalist group that accused officials of trying to muzzle free speech.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which runs the world's largest biometric identity card scheme called "Aadhaar", started investigating a report last week by The Tribune newspaper which said access to the identity database of more than 1 billion citizens was being sold for just 500 rupees, or \$8, on social media.

UIDAI on Sunday said four people were named in its complaint to police

in New Delhi to investigate the incident, including the reporter, and also her newspaper, which is based in the north Indian city of Chandigarh.

The Editors Guild of India condemned UIDAI's action, saying it was designed to "browbeat a journalist."

"It is unfair, unjustified and a direct attack on the freedom of the press," the Guild said in a statement on Sunday.

The UIDAI said in a statement on Sunday that it respects freedom of press, adding that it was duty bound to name everyone involved in the incident, including the reporter.

"It does not mean that those who are named in the report are

necessarily guilty," the authority said.

The Tribune newspaper said it regretted the decision of the authorities.

India last year slipped three places to 136th in the World Press Freedom Index of 180 nations, compiled by Reporters Without Borders.

Journalists in India have increasingly become targets of online smear campaigns, with prosecutorial actions being used to gag journalists who are overly critical of the government, the group said.

The Tribune newspaper last week reported that it was able to buy login credentials to the government's Aadhaar database, allowing it to acquire information

such as the names, telephone numbers and home addresses of millions of people.

The alleged breach is the latest in the Aadhaar programme which is facing increasing scrutiny over privacy concerns.

After the report was published, the UIDAI said the "case appears to be an instance of misuse."

The Aadhaar scheme was introduced in 2009 to streamline welfare payments and reduce wastage in public spending. Since then, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been keen to mandate the use of Aadhaar for everything from filing income taxes to the registration of mobile phone numbers and booking railway tickets.

No mysterious person behind killing of Mahatma Gandhi & he was killed by Godse: Amicus to SC

TNN

New Delhi, Jan. 8: Senior advocate Amrendra Sharan, who was asked by Supreme Court to examine all documents pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi assassination+ case to find out whether there was involvement of a 'mysterious' person who had fired fourth bullet which killed father of nation, told the court on Monday tells court that there is no evidence to prove that Mahatma was killed by person other than Nathuram Godse.

Sharan also said that there was no evidence to prove four bullet theory raised by a self-confessed Veer Savarkar devotee and founder of 'Abhinav Bharat' Pankaj Phadnis who insisted that four shots were fired at Mahatma Gandhi and it was the fourth bullet fired by a mysterious person that took his life.

Sharan, assisted by advocates Sanchit Guru and Samarth Khanna, filed the report after examining nearly 4,000 pages of trial court records and the Jeevan Lal Kapur Inquiry Commission report of 1969 in the assassination case and told the apex court that allegation raised regarding

involvement of some foreign intelligence agency in the assassination was baseless and not substantiated by any evidence.

Saran filed voluminous report in compliance of apex court's direction asking him to go through all the documents pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi assassination and assist the court in deciding whether fresh probe is required to be done in the case. The court had passed the order on a plea of Phadnis seeking re-investigation of the case and alleged that Gandhi was not killed by bullet fired by Godse.

"Investigation into the murder of the Gandhi represents the biggest cover up in the history of India. The blame on Marathi people in general and Veer Savarkar in particular for being the cause of the death of Mahatma has no basis in law and facts. On the other hand there is a compelling need to uncover the larger conspiracy behind the murder by constituting a new Commission of Inquiry to look into the issue," he said in his petition.

Demanding a fresh probe into Mahatma Gandhi's assassination,

he claims that "most newspapers throughout the world" reported that four bullets were fired at Gandhiji and that the "fourth bullet has remained a mystery all along".

Refuting the contentions raised by petitioner, Sharan in his report said, "The bullets which pierced Mahatma Gandhi's body, the pistol from which it was fired, the assailant who fired the said

bullets, the conspiracy which led to the assassination and the ideology which led to the said assassination have all been duly identified. No substantive material has come to light to throw any doubt on any of the above requiring either a re-investigation of the Mahatma Gandhi murder case or, to constitute a fresh fact finding commission with respect to the same".

TN governor addresses assembly, DMK boycotts

PTI

Chennai, Jan 8: Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit today made his maiden address to the state assembly even as the main opposition DMK along with its allies walked out of the House boycotting his speech.

Soon after he arrived, Purohit greeted all members of the House with a 'Vanakkam' and began his address.

Even as he began his speech, Leader of the Opposition MK Stalin was on his feet trying to raise some issues. The governor paused for a moment and told Stalin 'please ukkarunga' (please take your seat) in Tamil but to no avail.

Stalin was supported by his party MLAs, who raised slogans demanding that their leader be allowed to speak.

A little later, the DMK Working President led his party members and staged a walkout. Congress members and the lone IUMML legislator also followed suit. The Governor then continued his address.

Amid noisy scenes, sidelined AIADMK leader TTV Dinakaran, who made his debut in the assembly after having won the December 21 RK Nagar bypoll by a thumping margin of 40,000 votes against E Madhusudhanan of AIADMK, was seated calmly.

Former Shiv Sena corporator hacked to death in Mumbai

NDTV

Mumbai, Jan. 8: A former Shiv Sena corporator was hacked to death by unknown attackers in Mumbai last night, a police officer said today. Ashok Sawant, 62, was attacked with choppers outside his home around 11 pm on Sunday. He had just returned after meeting a friend, the police said.

Two men were allegedly waiting for

Mr Sawant to return. When he was just outside his home, they allegedly attacked him and escaped.

Mr Sawant, a father of three - a son and two daughters - was a two-term corporator from Samata Nagar in suburban Kandivli.

The corporator had entered the cable television business a few years ago and had allegedly received extortion calls.

Sydney records hottest day in almost 80 years

AP

Sydney, Jan. 8: Dangerous heat is roasting parts of Australia with temperatures that haven't been seen in decades. The temperature in Sydney hit an almost 80-year-high of 47.3 degrees Celsius (117 Fahrenheit) on Sunday - a sharp contrast to the bitter cold that has gripped much of the United States. The temperature was just shy of the city's all-time high of 47.8 C (118F), set in 1939. New South

Wales Police Deputy Commissioner Catherine Burn said the state's heat wave plan had been activated to respond to "severe to extreme heat conditions." Thousands were left without power, and total fire bans were put in place as officials warned of a severe danger. Residents were urged to drink extra water and limit their time outdoors because of air pollution resulting from the hot weather.

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