

Editorial

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Matsyanyaya: Law of the Fish

'Matsyanyaya' - an ancient concept of the Hindu politics is becoming relevant in today's Manipur. 'Matsyanyaya' in English language means 'Law of the Fish'. It means the swallowing up of the smaller fish by larger fish.

If one takes a look in the present political trends of India the politics of *Matsyanyaya* seems to be a fair game. The Right wing political parties are now using it as a tool to reach their goal of making the country - 'a nation of one religion and one community'. If a critic look from the other end of the tunnel, then definitely the idea itself is a gross violation to the rights of the indigenous community adopted by the International community. If hard core Righties explain from their own perspective it is the only means to make the country a strong nation.

If one agree to the concept of the right wing political party leading the government in the country then it is a fair game. A common idea with a common religion is perhaps the only means to sort out the differences among the people. It was only at the time when India become a one nation, one religion that the country will be united and if united then the country will become one of the most powerful country in the world.

The dream of the right wing group to make India a one religion nation started way back in the early seventies.

In 1976, January 21, when a body called Meitei youth Organization demonstrated a protest against the burning of sacred Meitei manuscript books, popularly known as "Puya Mei Thaba", it was the RSS Chief of that time Deora who came down heavily against such demonstration. The Meitei youth Organization demonstrated the agitation by burning sacred book of Hindu in the similar way that Meitei Puyas were burnt by Shantidas Gosai at the same place in 1732 AD.

From early 1970s till today the diehard cadres of the right wing group started working to unite the nation into one in the ideology that religion is the only means to unite the nation. And after over 50 years of relentless work they now succeeded and they are in the verge of making the country a nation with one religion. What is more interesting is that the law of Fish is the tool for their success but with slight modification.

Well the purpose of this write up is to make aware the people on how important is 'Unity' for a group to reach their goal. Since the beginning all groups under the right wing idealist group remain united till today. The popularly known Sangh Parivaar is one of the most successful conglomerates of many organizations which still remain united.

Coming back to the state of Manipur, it is unfortunate that the erstwhile nation have never successful in the making of a common united forum - be it about the regional political parties, or be it the civil society organizations or be it the intellectuals who were groom up in different schools of thoughts, they had and is never united even though they all comes up for the same goal.

Even those rebel groups which are expected to be over 50 in numbers in the state of Manipur still do not have a common platform to struggle for the same cause. In the valley major rebel groups fighting for the restoration of the freedom of the erstwhile nation have failed time and again to unite themselves. The same is happening among the Legislatures of even the ruling political party. A recent example is the differences among them which kept the running of the government to a stumbling block.

We the Metieis, the Tankhuls, the Kukis and the Pangs were good in showing their essence of patriotism and commitment, however, we lack the sense of self respect to convert what we delivered into action for the good of the people.

When the members of the Right Wing groups sacrifices and remain united to fight for their cause, we the Manipuris cannot even sacrifice a little bit of our own self for the cause of the region. It is a matter of shame that we the Manipuri even failed to unite even by becoming the members of the right wing group. Imphal times didn't say this, but it is the recent political drama which had unfolded in public over the battle for power in the BJP led government in the state.

Let's not forget American revolutionary hero John Dickinson's war song of pre-Revolutionary "The Liberty Song", that was first published in the Boston Gazette in July 1768. Where Dickinson wrote: "Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall!"

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India imposes Kashmir lockdown, puts leaders 'under house arrest'

Courtesy Aljazeera
By: Rifat Fareed

Srinagar, India-administered Kashmir Parts of India-administered Kashmir have been placed under lockdown and local politicians reportedly arrested as tensions intensify in the disputed region following a massive deployment of troops by the Indian government. "As per the order there shall be no movement of public and all educational institutions shall also remain closed," a statement by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, which is currently under the central rule, said on Sunday night. The order said the indefinite security restrictions will be applicable in the main district of Srinagar.

Indian media reports said some pro-India leaders from the region, including former chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah, have been placed under house arrest.

The measures came after the Indian government moved 10,000 troops to the region last week, followed by an unprecedented order asking tourists and Hindu pilgrims to leave the Himalayan valleys.

Residents fear New Delhi is planning to engineer "demographic changes" in India's only Muslim-majority region by scrapping a law that prohibits outsiders from buying land in India-administered Kashmir.

Concerns over Article 35A Earlier on Sunday, former state Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah chaired a meeting of political leaders from the region, who issued a statement, warning "against any tinkering with the special status of the region" as guaranteed under Article 35A of the Indian constitution. The statement said the region's political parties "remain united ... in their resolve to protect the autonomy and special status" of Kashmir.

Article 35A has been challenged by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its right-wing allies through a series of petitions in India's Supreme Court. Last month, a senior BJP leader hinted that the government was planning to form exclusive Hindu settlements in the region.

Syed Ali Geelani, a top separatist leader, also issued a statement on Sunday, calling on Kashmiris to use "unity and brotherhood" to fight



"India's aggression".

The latest spate of tensions began last week after India sent 10,000 more troops to what is already one of the most militarised regions in the world. Nearly 700,000 Indian soldiers are deployed in India-administered Kashmir, where civilian protesters and armed rebels either want freedom or merger with Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan claim the region of Kashmir in full and have fought two of their three wars over it. The Jammu and Kashmir state government's order effectively cancelled a major Hindu pilgrimage held in a Himalayan cave temple for 45 days every year.

Panic, fear among residents Saniya Nisar, 28, is anxious and uncertain about her wedding scheduled on August 17. Exhaustive preparations have been made. But her family has no idea what is in store in the next few days.

"Our lives are at stake," said Nisar. "We don't know what is going to happen. It is like a war is going to happen."

The recent measures citing "terror threats" sparked fear and panic among the residents in India-administered Kashmir, which witnesses near-daily clashes between the rebels and security forces.

On Sunday, long queues were seen outside petrol stations, food and medical stores, and ATMs in the main city of Srinagar as residents rushed to stock fast depleting supplies before the Muslim festival of Eid-ul-Azha which falls on August 12. Many residents told Al Jazeera that after the advisories were issued, they lost interest in the festivity and were instead working on stockpiling essential rations and fuel.

Some of the government orders issued in the past week included directions to the doctors to remain

prepared, to non-local students to leave for home, and district administrators to remain on standby. **'Uncertain future'**

Even as the Kashmir valley witnesses frequent spells of unrest, the latest tension has left many worried about an "uncertain future". Nisar Ahmad said he lost his last job with a Srinagar-based pharmaceutical company, which shut its business following the widespread unrest in 2016.

A father of two children, Ahmad feared he will again become jobless if the current situation deteriorates. Abdul Rasheed, a houseboat owner at the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar, looked visibly distressed on Saturday while dozens of trucks with armed forces passed the road.

The boats, which take tourists on a joyride, were empty, while houseboats that were booked for

Lake and more than 3,000 boatmen depend on tourism for their livelihoods.

"What is the government going to do for us?" he asked.

Cross-border skirmishes

Meanwhile, along the Line of Control (LoC), a heavily militarised de facto border that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, there was a fresh surge in hostilities between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

The Indian army on Sunday said a "number of attempts by Pakistan to disturb peace in the valley" were witnessed in the last 36 hours, but Pakistan denied it.

"A BAT [Pakistan's Border Action Team] attempt was made on one of the forward posts in Keran sector and foiled by alert troops resulting in the neutralizing of 5-7 Pakistani terrorists," Indian army spokesperson Rajesh Kalia said in a statement. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted that the situation had the potential to "blow up into a regional crisis".

"The only road to peace and security in South Asia runs through a peaceful and just settlement of Kashmir," he posted.

Khan discussed the situation in a meeting with military officials on Sunday, while his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi is expected to hold a similar meeting on Monday.

Residents along the LoC said the artillery shelling in recent days has



months had been vacated.

"We have a loan to pay. We are at the beginning of the [tourist] season and we are unsure of what to do," he said.

"Some tourists feel sad for us and do not want to leave, but we insist that they go because we do not know what India is planning here." Another boatman, Mushtaq Ahmad, said 1,200 houseboat owners in Dal

given them sleepless nights as they feared "another war".

"When it gets dark, we fear the situation will get worse. The nights are horrible," said Dilshada Begum, 50, a resident of north Kashmir's Bolkote village.

Some 70,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the last three decades of armed conflict in India-administered Kashmir.

Why Scientists Are Confused About How Fast the Universe Is Expanding

By : Sakhee Bhure
Courtesy The Wire

When you dive into it, scientific research isn't as much a quest for the right answer as it is for one theory that can explain existing observations. As instruments and techniques improve in sensitivity and accuracy, new observations challenge our pre-existing models and allow us to find better, more accurate explanations.

The Hubble constant - a number that denotes how fast the universe is expanding - is going through a similar phase of disagreement. Scientists who used different ways to measure the constant have calculated different values, which is not supposed to happen and suggests we're missing something. Indeed, many wonder if this might be occasion to revise our current understanding of the early universe, dark matter, particle physics, even the shape of the universe.

In 1927, an American astronomer named Vesto Slipher observed different frequencies of light, a.k.a. spectra, from 46 galaxies. He found that the spectra were all shifted towards the red end of the electromagnetic spectrum. The faster an object recedes from an observer, the more its spectrum appears red-shifted. Ergo, the galaxies were all moving away from Earth.

In 1929, Edwin Hubble calculated how fast each galaxy was moving away at a given distance. What he found was in line with the deduction of one of his peers in Belgium, Georges Lemaitre: that the farther away a galaxy was, the faster

it was moving away. This can be represented in a simple formula: $v = H_0 d$. H_0 is called the Hubble constant; the larger it was, the faster the universe would be expanding. However, the exact value of H_0 has been hard to pin down since.

It is relatively easy to measure how fast the galaxies are receding. The problem lies with measuring the distances to galaxies. Objects that are farther away appear dimmer, so if we know the intrinsic brightness of an object, we can compare that with the observed brightness and figure out how far away it is.

When Hubble calculated his eponymous constant, he obtained a value of 500 km per second per megaparsec (km/s/Mpc) - that is, objects 1 megaparsec away were moving away at 500 km/s. In his time, astronomers used a type of stars called Cepheid variables, discovered by Henrietta Swan Leavitt in 1912, as distance indicators. The brightness of these stars varied in periodic fashion, so astronomers could deduce their current brightness simply by measuring the time elapsed between two brightness peaks.

Later, another class of objects presented itself as distance indicators. These were the Type Ia supernovae - a kind of end-of-life star explosion that had the same brightness irrespective of which star had died this way. When astronomers used these objects to calculate H_0 , they

found it to be only 50-90 km/Mpc. Initially, the instruments used to make these measurements weren't very accurate, so people hoped the discrepancy would vanish with more sensitive instruments.

In 1998, other astronomers made a major discovery: that the universe's expansion was accelerating. This was attributed to dark energy, an intrinsic energy of the vacuum of space, about which we know very little, that was pushing the universe apart. In 2015, scientists used data from the Planck satellite, which studied the radiation left over from the Big Bang, together with a popular theory that accounts for the effects of dark energy on the universe to calculate H_0 to be 67.8 ± 0.9 km/s/Mpc.

This caused confusion: two precise techniques had two different values of a number that had to be the same throughout the universe.

In April 2016, an American astronomer named Adam Riess, one of the three scientists who had made the accelerating expansion discovery, and his team set out to try and resolve the issue. They studied Cepheid variables and Type Ia supernovae in nearby galaxies with great precision to calculate the value of H_0 in the local universe, and then compare that to data from the Planck satellite. Riess & co. obtained 73.85 ± 1.96 km/s/Mpc. In 2018, the Planck collaboration improved their calculations to

establish H_0 as 67.4 ± 0.5 km/s/Mpc. In March 2019, Riess's team further constrained the value to 74.3 ± 1.42 km/s/Mpc. In July 2019, yet another team studied gravitational lensing by quasars to obtain a value of 73.3 ± 1.7 - 1.8 km/s/Mpc.

It is as if we are not able to agree on how fast the universe is expanding.

Wendy Freedman, an astronomer at the University of Chicago, is known for her work on calculating the value of the Hubble constant. She used data from the July 2019 paper in a new attempt to stem the proliferation of H_0 values. Ironically, she and her team ended up with a new number: her paper, due to appear in the *Astrophysical Journal*, presents H_0 to be 69.8 ± 0.8 km/s/Mpc. These multiple distinct values are all very precise, and prompt us to consider modifying our current theories in cosmology and particle physics, among others, to explain them and offer potential sources of difference.

A robust scientific theory is one that successfully explains current observations and measurements as well as makes testable predictions. Scientific research is ultimately a process involving numerous checkpoints: each new discovery that disagrees with the current framework of our understanding of the world prompts us to modify it. So while the different values of the Hubble constant are frustrating, it is also an exciting time to be a cosmologist. Sakhee Bhure graduated with a BS in astronomy and astrophysics from the Florida Institute of Technology. She is interested in writing about science.