

# Editorial

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## Speaker in Politics: better think before leap

The then speaker of the Parliament Somnath Chatterjee remained neutral and did not go by the decision of his party. Nobody, including his party (CPI-M) dare not challenge his decision as he was only doing his duty.

Before the coming of the anti defection law, it was often the speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly that toppled the government. Late Wahengbam Nipamacha used the power of speaker to topple the then Rishang Keishing's government. The same technique was applied to topple him by the speaker of his time again. Failure to do so he kept continuing the attempt during Radhabindoo Kojiam's government. Later, Dhananjay ended his career as he was being used by some legislators as a tool to topple the government.

The same regalia of the yesteryear politics seem to repeat again. A news that goes viral in social networking site about the speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly intimidating the eight congress MLAs has reflected the integrity of the Speaker Yumnam Khemchand. Until recently, every watch dog who had been following the political development appreciated Yumnam Khemchand as he remained neutral by not siding with any group. His maturity and understanding of the status as he was mandated by the legislators unanimously was appreciated by most people including this newspaper.

Where there is smoke there is fire, saying so it is hard to believe that Speaker Yumnam Khemchand directly warned the 8 congress MLAs threatening disqualification if supported the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. But until the Speaker Yumnam Khemchand gives a clarification in this regard whether he had actually threatened the 8 congress MLAs or not, the report would be accepted as true. We have the stand that the defected MLAs should be disqualified according to the existing anti-defection law. However taking steps for disqualification according to law is one thing, and threatening to disqualify to extract benefit for something is another thing.

After all where there is smoke there is fire. If the saying is right and if the speaker crossed his limit, then democracy is nearing its end. Sanctity of the post of Speaker of the temple of the Temple of Democracy will be spoiled.

On the other hand everyone knows that there is no leader of the dissidents and it is everyone's understanding that every legislators want to hold power.

If what has been reported about Khemchand's new move remain true, he certainly may have wanted to replace N. Biren Singh. It was Bishwajit who got majority support of the BJP MLAs to lead the party but it was N. Biren Singh who was chosen to lead the party and it was also his political skill that formed the government. Now Bishwajit's effort to change the Chief Minister showed that he had the desire to become the Chief Minister. How could someone who had struggled so hard to become the Chief Minister would offer the post to someone else? The only possibility is that the MLAs shifted their loyalty. This also raises the question if some MLAs are hell bent to destabilize the present government by any means.

Disagreement amongst the dissidents over who will replace the N. Biren Singh or attempt to use the power of Speaker to destabilize the present government by some legislators now arises.

The continuing war by some power monger MLAs of BJP indicates that they seem to forget that the number of Ministers that could be allotted is only 12 including the Chief Minister. How could anybody be happy if they are not awarded the Ministerial berth? BJP has only 21 MLAs and it is impossible that without the support of the NPP, NPF, and other MLAs from other parties, the BJP government can continue.

Playing hard game with the 8 defected Congress MLAs will not be able to continue the BJP government. It will aggravate the already inbuilt instability of BJP led government.

The fate of Dhananjay, the then Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly might fall on Yumnam Khemchand, as the only option left to the central government is imposition of president rule by keeping the state assembly under animated suspension.

The crisis meeting in the BJP led government should not invite president rule in the state in their own interest.

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## CII hosts its 9th Manufacturing Innovation Conclave; Big data to drive innovation in the manufacturing sector, says Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India

By : Davs Kangjam  
Strategy and Communications

Big Data plays a significant role in manufacturing sector uncovering new insights to drive Innovation, enhancing productivity and efficiency gains: Prof Ashutosh Sharma

Manufacturing has huge potential to generate wealth, employment and can create a completely different culture: Dr Sudhir Mishra

The future of manufacturing sector looks bright and we see it growing significantly in next 10-15 years: Mr Sameer Gupta, Chairman, CII Northern Region

Big data plays a significant role in manufacturing sector uncovering new insights to drive innovation enhancing productivity and efficiency gains said Chief Guest Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. He added that data is the key to any successful implementation that comes out of the stable of artificial intelligence. He opined that there is a need to work towards translating good ideas around data generation, data flow, data preservation, building of data and bringing value to data.

Setting the context of the conclave with his opening remark during the inaugural session Mr Kishore Jayaraman, Conclave Chairman and President, India & South Asia Rolls-Royce said, "The unfolding Fourth Industrial Revolution will fundamentally alter the way people will live and work across the world. India will be no exception. India's manufacturing sector is on a positive growth trajectory, helped by encouraging regulatory policies and enablers, increased private sector

participation and global attention. Apart from building long-term competitiveness on the global stage, India stands to gain significantly from adopting Industry 4.0."

Speaking at the conclave, Guest of Honour Dr Sudhir Mishra, CEO & Managing Director, BrahMos Aerospace said that manufacturing has huge potential to generate wealth, employment and can create a completely different culture. He added that manufacturing can help transform India to a developed country like Japan and Germany, where find a predominantly manufacturing culture. He further mentioned that we have to create infrastructure, generate demand and gear for collaborative approach to build the nation.

Mr Sameer Gupta, Chairman, CII (Northern Region) & Chairman & MD, Jaktson Group in his Inaugural address said that future of manufacturing sector looks bright and can be seen significantly growing in next 10-15 years. He also said that India has lots of potential and opportunity, we just need to unleash it. He added that global economy along with the steps taken by government will positively impact the performance in manufacturing sector. He opined that we need to focus on key issues across the manufacturing sector to facilitate growth, enhance competitiveness and generate business opportunities for both local and foreign investors.

The usage of new concept technologies like IoT and apps are actually taking over the market place and it is important to look at such

technologies that are converging said by Mr Pankaj Dubey, Conclave Co-Chair and CEO & Director, Eicher Polaris Pvt. Ltd and Country Head & Managing Director Polaris India Pvt Ltd. He added that the Internet of Things (IoT) adds a new dimension with connected assets and sensors capable of measuring, recording and transmitting performance in real time. He further added that data analytics can help them capture, cleanse and analyze machine data to reveal insights that can help them improve performance.

Addressing at the inaugural Session Mr Dilip Sawhney, Managing Director, Rockwell Automation India said that adoption of contemporary technologies is an imperative for the Indian manufacturing sector to realize the vision of USD 1 Trillion manufacturing economy in the near future and to enhance our global competitiveness. He further said building a Connected Enterprise is essential to realizing this vision through the convergence of IT and OT to access and capitalize on operational, business and transactional data for improved enterprise, plant and supply chain performance.

Mr Rajeev Singh, Partner, Deloitte India, Knowledge Partner of the Conclave said that increased momentum is required across the manufacturing industry in India towards adopting innovative technologies to solve complex problems. He also said that today manufacturers are converging digital and physical worlds in which sophisticated hardware combined with innovative software, sensors,

and massive amounts of data and analytics is expected to produce smarter products, more efficient processes, and more closely connected customers, suppliers and manufacturers. He added that in Industry 4.0, manufacturing systems and the objects they create are not just connected but also drawing information from the physical world into the digital realm.

The Conclave witnessed the presence of speakers from companies like Panasonic, PTC, Universal Robots, IBM, Infosys etc and was well attended by over 150 participants from various manufacturing companies.

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## In Jharkhand, Modi Is Replicating What He Did in Gujarat in 2002



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Courtesy The Wire

The prime minister said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that he was saddened by the recent mob lynching, but "we do not have the right to insult the whole of Jharkhand". When the killing of Tabrez Ansari is discussed, it is not with the intention to insult Jharkhand - for Ansari was also a son of the state. Jharkhand was, in fact, diminished when it lost him to a mob which insulted, brutalised and lynched him.

Since 2016, the state has seen a spate of mob lynchings. According to an editorial published in the *Indian Express* on June 27, at least 18 people have been targeted and killed by a mob since then - that is a large number for a small state. Needless to say, most of the victims were Muslims. To not recognise that the state has a problem does not actually help Jharkhand.

It is also a state where Hindus don't get alarmed by the use of their revered God Ram while targeting Muslims. The images of a battered Ansari being forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' should shame Hindus and make them angry about the politics which is brutalising the Hindu masses.

One must look back to 2002 to understand what the prime minister is doing today. When the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat drew condemnation from across the globe, the then chief minister claimed that the state was being vilified. Instead of standing by the families

and kin of the killed and injured and thousands of displaced Muslims, he chose to lead a campaign against insulting Gujarat. In his Gujarat Gaurav Yatra, instead of condemning the killings, he led the Hindus into a state of denial over the anti-Muslim violence. In his speeches, he wanted his audience to believe and say that it was a canard being spread by the enemies of Gujarat.

Those killed, maimed and forced out of their habitats were also sons and daughters of Gujarat. But there was not a word of empathy for them from the then chief minister of the state. Instead, he added to their agony when he got relief shelters dismantled, making Muslims rootless once again - that too at a time when it was raining heavily. Even then, it was not the whole of Gujarat which was involved in the violence against the Muslims of the state. The victims were also Gujaratis. The violence was planned and executed by an organised, majoritarian political force.

A benchmark of insensitivity towards the Muslims was set in 2002 by the political leadership of Gujarat. It seeped into the masses. By making Hindus believe that they alone were the bearers of the identity of Gujarat, he tried to make them own the majoritarian politics that he practiced. The then chief minister of Gujarat, now the prime minister, is attempting the same thing in Jharkhand.

Ansari's killing was an act of violence, but this violence is more sinister than other acts. When your identity becomes the cause of the violence against you, it affects not only the one being targeted but all those sharing that identity. No wonder, hate crimes are put in a different category across the globe. One must understand what the prime

minister was trying to do when he mentioned the violence of Kerala and Bengal, and called upon the opposition not to differentiate between 'my violence' and 'your violence'. His party and the affiliates of the RSS have been portraying these two as states where Hindus are under attack. So, through a clever speech, the prime minister was making two categories and pleading with the opposition that they should also condemn the violence of their people and not merely target his people.

When the prime minister pontificates about non-partisanship, we should remember that it was his party and his ministers who facilitated and decorated the accused from cases Dabri to Ramgarh. These acts have created an atmosphere of impunity and also communicated to the law and order machinery that it is a special, official kind of violence in which the victims are to be made the accused first. Why should one be surprised or shocked that the Jharkhand police didn't provide medical assistance to the dying Ansari, and instead threw him in jail, thus ensuring his death? Or, why criminal cases are filed against the attacked Akhlaq or Pehlu Khan or Alimuddin before the attackers?

In normal circumstances, one would expect the top political leader to express indignation over the use of 'Jai Shri Ram' by the attackers. By the time the prime minister chose to speak out, other parts of the country, from Assam to Bengal to Delhi had also seen the use of 'Jai Shri Ram' to humiliate Muslims.

From where did the crowds get this weapon of 'Jai Shri Ram'? Who fashioned it and used it against political opponents? Recall the scene of the Lok Sabha where Muslim MPs were verbally assaulted by the same slogan. It was an act of violence - that too hate-violence. Why raise 'Jai Shri Ram' when a Muslim MP is going to take an oath? Further back, remember the election

meetings of the prime minister himself. He repeatedly made the audience raise the slogan of 'Jai Shri Ram' as if it was a political act of asserting their identity. He was creating a warning community. He did it with 'Vande Mataram' as well. This slogan has nothing to do with religion. It is a hate slogan - to dominate and subjugate minorities. Can my Muslim journalist friend forget that in 1990 he was stopped at the Gandhi Setu on his way to Patna by the members of the Bajrang Dal and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'? It was when the chariot of Lal Krishna Advani was to enter Patna. The air of Patna was trembling with slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' and cars and bikes were allowed only after the riders chanted it. The present prime minister was then accompanying Advani.

Sudipta Kaviraj, while discussing the use of 'Vande Mataram', wrote: "All societies, Durkheim argued, must have a language in which they value themselves, since one of the central devices for maintenance of societies is this mechanism for collective self-reverence."

Is 'Jai Shri Ram' - with 'Vande Mataram' - part of a language used by a section of the Indian society which assures it of its value? Why then force the others to chant it? Valuing or revering yourself by violating the dignity of others is an expression of insecurity. Who created this insecurity in the Hindus? You don't have to dig deep into the archives. Images of a political leader with clenched fists and raised hands exhorting his audience to chant 'Vande Mataram' and 'Jai Shri Ram' would surface on the screen of your computer. It was the same man who challenged the chief minister of Bengal to arrest him for raising this slogan. The same person who pleaded for a non-partisan condemnation of violence in the parliament yesterday. Apoorvanand teaches at Delhi University.