

Editorial

Friday, February 14, 2020

Redefining mob violence

Intolerance, anger, sentiments often drives the human mind to commit serious offenses that are self-justified. A similar offense, when committed by a group of unorganized people denouncing any anti-social or inhuman activities of one or two persons without giving a chance for a fair trial, is often coined as 'Mob Justice'. But in reality, this is 'Mob Violence'.

Arson, assault, lynching, humiliation, destroying of properties, ostracizing and attacking the family members of the person committing anti-social or inhuman activities are the nature of activities committed by the group of unorganized people in the name of dispensing justice.

Mob violence in the name of dispensing justice is becoming very common in India. Countless incidents of mob violence in the name of delivering justice happened across the country and in the state of Manipur. What is interesting is that almost all the nature of violence or action by an unorganized group of people call 'mob' in the name of delivering justice across the country look alike.

Vandalizing of hospital or doctors' residence over the death of patient, humiliation by parading in public or tansuring of women either for committing adultery or indulging in anti-social activities like using drugs, selling alcohol, ostracizing and destroying of houses of alleged criminals, etc. are common form of mob violence happening in the state of Manipur. The growing phenomenon is worrisome as even accused produced in the courtroom are not spared.

But is the action of the mob justified? Forget about taking the law in hand, the kind of action turns out to be another heinous offense which impacts not only the wrongdoers but also to many innocent lives.

Many fathers, mothers, brothers, wives, and children become the victim of the mob action as they had to spend a painful life for the crime committed by their son, father, brother or husband. There were instances that minor children were punished by leaving them as an orphan after their parents were lynched to death for a crime they had committed. The fact is that those minor children know nothing about the kind of crime committed by their parents.

There were instances that an innocent had to undergo a painfully and humiliated life after he became a victim of mob violence. Judged and prosecuted by a mob, the person was punished in charge of murdering his own wife who was later found alive having a joyful life with another husband. What is more interesting is that the person was even jailed for the crime that he had never committed.

It may be mentioned that in August 2011, Laishram Chaoba of Tentha Marongband in Thoubal district reported missing of his wife at Thoubal police station. About three days later a dead body of a woman was found at Ithai Barrage. The family and relative of the missing women then charged Laishram Chaoba and his family of murdering their daughter and forcibly cremated in the courtyard of the accused. The accused husband pleaded the hurriedly formed JAC not to cremate the dead body as he protested the dead body as not of his wife. Laishram Chaoba and his father were charged with murdering the lady and later released on bail. After four years Laishram Chaoba found his wife living a new life with another partner at Nongdam Tangkhul Village in Ukhrul district. The case has been carpeted without undergoing any discussion on what would compensate the Laishram Chaoba and his Father.

Mistrust and lack of confidence in the judicial system are perhaps some of the reasons why the public indulges in mob violence. Or maybe, the people are less aware of the existing law.

More or less, Manipur society is slowly heading towards this culture as a direct consequence of the mistrust in the system, mistrust in the law and order, a dysfunctional society where everyone seeks justice, but no one is ready to take the ownership and responsibilities for their actions, where everyone is ready to blame others, but no one wants to listen about their own mistakes and shortcomings.

Saying so, the public cannot be entirely blamed for the upsurge in mob violence. Various crime associated factors like poverty, unemployment in the state are also leading to the upsurge of mob violence. This is perhaps because when people feel insecure because of the crime, and for that matter robbery, they will defend and protect themselves by resorting to violent acts of instant justice.

Moreover, in our society mob violence is considered a deviant behavior but not necessarily a crime.

Critics blamed the law enforcers and the justice delivery system of the country for the kind of fall out. There were times when people had completely lose faith in the law enforcers as well as the justice delivery system and that was one reason for the mob to throng into action instead of waiting for the law enforcers to act.

The rampant mob violence drew serious attention of the government of Manipur. On November 8, 2018, the government of Manipur passed The Manipur Protection from Mob Violence Ordinance 2018. There were several criticisms from various sectors including media houses over the accountability of the ordinance. However, many have been put behind the bar under the ordinance for indulging in mob violence.

Still then the government need more intention no make sure that justice is delivered to all citizens.

Name Changed

I, the undersigned, **Sita Devi** do hereby declare that I have renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of my old name **Himmaya Bhattarai** as I have assumed my new name **Sita Devi**.

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Mumbai woman stranded on "Diamond Princess" sends an SOS

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Feb 14

While 138 Indians (with two confirmed cases of Novel Corona Virus) are stranded on luxury cruise liner "Diamond Princess" quarantined in the port of Yokohama in Japan, a woman security officer from Mumbai, on board the ship, has sent an SOS to Union Government urging it to rescue stranded Indians immediately.

Sonali Thakur (24) working as a security officer, speaking to a TV channel here, through video caller, stated that the situation on board the ship was fast deteriorating and if it continued, the outcome would be worst. The infection is spreading and it will soon grapple others, she said.

Sonali was placed in isolation on Monday, a week after the ship docked at Yokohama on February 3. "We are scared that the infection is spreading so fast that we could also become one of them. We don't want to. The situation on the cruise ship has worsened, compounded by the delay in getting results on coronavirus tests being performed on passengers."

"We want the Indian government to take us back to India and isolate us there. Or at least send some more medical staffers across to help these people with the tests. We want to go home," she said.

Sonali said that she has already informed her friends and family in Mumbai about her situation. "They are really worried about me and want me to get back home. They are praying day and night for me, and that's all they can do from their side. I just want to tell my parents to stay strong, stay positive. Your girl is going to be back soon."

In all 3711 people, including 2,666



passengers and 1,045 crew members have been quarantined in the port of Yokohama. They include 138 Indians. The ship masters have said that the quarantine will end by 19 February, 2020, unless there are any unforeseen developments. The ship remains anchored after a passenger from Hongkong was found infected, when the ship arrived at Daikoku Pier Cruise Terminal in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, Japan.

Ten new confirmed cases were reported on Thursday, thus taking the total number of confirmed cases on board the ship to 175, at least 10 of those are crew members. Although authorities had said that they would release some passengers to shore to finish their two-week quarantine, no one is allowed to disembark, Thakur said. The cruise line has tested over 490 of the more than 3,700 passengers and crew on the ship so far. Japanese Health Ministry has said that more tests will follow in the coming days. However passengers feel that the quarantine should end.

Existing visas, including eVisa, issued to mainland China nationals before 5 February by India have been invalidated. Passengers who have been in mainland China after 15 January are not allowed to enter with any visa into India. The state-owned carrier Air India has suspended

flights to Shanghai and reduced service to Hong Kong. InterGlobe Aviation Ltd-led IndiGo has also suspended its services to Chengdu and Hong Kong.

In the meanwhile US based "Moody's Investors Service" in its report has stated that banks will take maximum hit if Coronavirus crisis prolongs. The people will travel less and economic growth and employment conditions will weaken in these economies in general and those dependent on foreign travellers in particular.

"Whilst travel to and from mainland China accounts for less than 4% of total Asia-Pacific passengers, the financial impact on airports is larger than suggested by passenger numbers, as they typically generate substantially higher revenue from international passengers than from domestic ones," the report stated.

"If the outbreak of the coronavirus intensifies and the disruptions stemming from it are not contained in the next few months, it will hurt the asset quality and profitability of banks in the Asia-Pacific region. Banks will face credit losses from exposures to weaker companies. Factory closures in China will disrupt supply chains, particularly in electronics and automotive sectors, which are already impacted by it."

Free Medical camp held at Thanga

IT News
Imphal, Feb 14

As a part of "Anemia Free Manipur Campaign" started by the Bharat Vikas Parishad, Manipur at Thanga village and Karang Island, H. Balkrishna Singh, Director (IPR), Manipur in association with the members of Bharat Vikas Parishad, Manipur, BVP, Thanga Branch and M/s Eastern Motors, Chingmeirong organised a one day free medical camp for screening and detection of anemia among mother and children of Thanga Part-I yesterday at Chairenlakpa Community Hall, Thanga Chingkhla Leikai.

A team of doctors and medical staff of State Health Department, RIMS Hospital and volunteers of Good Karma Foundation conducted the free medical camp where about 200 women and children took part. During the camp, medical kits, dietary supplements and medicines were distributed free of cost.

Diamond radio celebrates World Radio Day

IT News
Imphal, Feb 14

As observed in the part of the world, Diamond Radio, a community radio service having its operative station at Khongjom in Thoubal district celebrated the World Radio Day on Thursday.

The role of the community radio in educating the public has been highlighted by speakers present on the occasion. Programme executive of Diamond Radio James Heikrujan elaborated the central idea of the launching the community radio service that they are running.

Food Is Where the Heart Is!

By Anshuman Bhargava

The cuisines of Madhya Pradesh are as varied as the cultural diversity of the state. People from far and wide celebrate the food of MP and do not tire of repeatedly coming back here just to taste its food. Several dishes and preparations are typically entrenched in the local folklore and many are not found anywhere else in the world.

Since Madhya Pradesh has long been a cultural melting pot, with the marriage of rich indigenous traditions and exotic culinary imports, its food also has grown into an eclectic mix of myriad flavors, borrowed dexterously from the best of different cultural tastes. Being a large state also has its benefits for the food lover because every region of the state has a special treat to offer that almost defines the cultural idiom of the region.

The tastes change every few hundred miles. If 'Dal-Baati' is the marquee item of the western region, as soon as we enter the eastern region, we are offered 'mawa ki jalebi' to gorge upon. The list is endless. The street food culture of the cities of MP like Indore and Bhopal thrive on many of these specialties that people savor with dedication and pride. The food culture of MP is indelibly linked with its history, its royalty, its religious alignments, its unique traditions of the tribes and its geographical and climatic conditioning.

No other state has so many condiments to spice up its curry. Welcome to the Malwa-Nimar cultural zone that makes up for most of MP's western, southwestern region, comprising the districts of Khandwa, Jabhua, Ratlam, Mandsaur, Dhar, Bhopal, Barwani,

Harda, Ujjain, Shajapur and Indore. Here, the specialty of the Jabhua region is Dal-Pania or Paniya as it is locally called. It is a delicious concoction of pulses and lentils fried in ghee or oil with spices and served with golden brown fried corn cakes and chutney.

Apart from these, dishes widely available in the Malwa region include the Poha-Jalebi... a mix of flattened rice, spiced up with the required condiments like fried groundnuts, green chilies, sev, etc. with hot juicy Jelebis (the Indian funnel cake), MawaBati, Dal Bati (Hardened fried cakes of pulses called bati served with hot curry of pulses and lentils) and Dal ki Kachauri (fried cakes of ground pulses with spices served with chutney or chilies).

No one who visits the state can miss the Dal Bati and Poha-Jalebi for sure, just as one cannot miss Mumbai's Bhel and Gujarat's Dhokla. The quintessential Gulab Jamun is also a widely popular dish in the Malwa-Nimar region. The Gulab Jamun is also famous in the eastern part of the state known as the Mahakoshal region comprising the districts of Jabalpur, Balaghat, Sironi, Katni, Dindori, and Mandla.

Here apart from this sweet, the Mawa ki Jalebi is a famous cuisine. As the name suggests, whole dried/reduced milk is used as the main ingredient in Mawa Jalebi. It is kneaded and the dough is prepared with the dried milk paste and maida along with milk before being fried in a tangled pattern - the Jalebi.

The taste is awesome, to say the least and something that cannot be described in words if we want to do justice to it. The Damoh, Chhattarpur, Panna, and Sagar regions comprise Bundelkhand region in the northeastern part of the state. Here too the delicacies have their flavour

and character and deserve a separate mention.

Here the Chironji ki Barfi is a famous dish. Chironji or charoli, grown mostly in the forests of the tribal belts of the state, is an expensive dry fruit with limited supply, which adds to its preciousness. The fruit is used for preparing sweets in pure desi ghee (clarified butter) to add to the flavor.

It is said that one Jamuna Prasad Choudhary invented the sweet made of Chironji and his descendants still run the shop at Sagar, which is considered as a landmark sweetmeat shop for this specific variety. An expensive sweet sold in kilos, Chironji Barfi is so delicious that it is exported to many countries of Europe and the US. Gakkad Bhatta, a kind of Bati, i.e. fried and hardened cake made of pulses in ghee, is also special in the Bundelkhand region and it is often savoured with Baigan Bharta or thick spicy daal.

Then comes Vindhya Pradesh, which is the far east of MP covering border areas of Chhattisgarh like Sidhi, Shahdol, Anuppur, Rewa, and Satna. Here the specialty is the sweet Kalakand, made of high-quality Mawa and milk. Dudh-Khurchan is another of the sweet dish usually taken as a dessert. Thick creamy layers open and dissolve in the mouth one after another. Milk is boiled for hours in slow fire and mixed with sugar and cardamom powder to whip up a menacingly rich flavour.

Khurchan means, scraping from the bottom of the pan and since the milk is almost burnt at the bottom, the dregs are scraped and mixed with the serving, which adds to the thickness and the flavour. The Gwalior-Chambal region needs a separate mention for its unique gourmet spread. The geographical area

expands from Gwalior, the largest city of northern MP, to Bind, Morena, Datia, Shivpuri, Sheopur, and Guna among major districts.

Here Teel ki Gajak is a household name and every sweetmeat/confectionary shop will essentially have this on offer. Gajak (also gachak) is said to have originated in Morena itself. It is a dry sweet made of sesame seeds (til) or peanuts and jaggery. The til is cooked in the raw sugar syrup and set in thin layers to give the form of a hard, sweet and flavoury cake usually in rectangle or square shapes.

Kunde Ke Pede is also synonymous with the region. It is a sweet made by boiling the right mix of milk and khova with sugar before being given the Peda (soft, thick, circular cake) form. Often Kesar and/or cardamom in powder/scent form and/or nuts are added to the mix for creating the special flavour.

Apart from these, the Dal Bati Churma is also has its special style in the Bind-Morena region. Churma is a coarsely ground wheat cooked with ghee and sugar that accompanies the Dal Bati and lends it a different taste. Food is not just satiation of the taste buds but it is also an emotion, deeply attached to our memories and beliefs. Food is not an external necessity but also an emotional fulfillment that strengthens culture and unites people with a common thread of happiness. The people of Madhya Pradesh fondly hold on to their typical gastronomic identities wherever they go and spread and celebrate them with elan and verve. Perhaps that's what keeps these culinary traditions alive and kicking, spreading the name and excellence of Madhya Pradesh far and wide.

(The author is State Editor of Madhya Pradesh Editions of The Hitavada)