

Editorial

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Limitation of freedom sometime required

The digital landscape is expanding everyday and the people of the state, like any other having access to internet, is jumping on to the social networking bandwagon. True, these social networking sites serves as a platform for the members to keep in touch with each other and to update oneself on the happenings around the world as and when it happens. The digital connect has brought the world closer together, speaking from a psychological perspective.

The phenomena, however throws up many challenges and potential threats to the very societies it attempt to connect and serve. This is the time we all should make a collective conscious effort to maintain personal discipline and integrity while harnessing the wonderful and beneficial facilities provided by the digital communication service. But as with all things good and beneficial, there turns up a side with darker undertones- the side that threatens to undo and negate all the good and beneficial things offered by these social networking sites, not so much as an inherent defect, but as a result of a section of the members who are misusing and abusing the service.

One such instance is the rise in communal based comments and opinions regarding the agitations and the movement for implementation of the Inner line Permit System in the state. Various groups emerged on these social networking sites which were formed to post updates on a particular event, with opinions and comments from the members. Internet users witnessed a gradual shift in opinions from the regular to tones that risk of communal tension. The resulting heightening of tension is a clear manifestation of the diametrically opposite views taken and professed by the leaders of different communities and groups in the state.

The incident also highlighted the stark failure of those initiating the movement in controlling and steering the emotions and energies of the people into a constructive and democratic manner rather than turning on the hapless members of the public. The feeling of alienation as expressed by various groups and communities also shows the lack of coordination and understanding which led to the absence of support from these groups.

The present social development in the wake of bridging peace with armed rebel group, poses a serious threat to the smooth passage of the ongoing process initiated by Government of India.

We as a collective whole needs to tread with caution when it comes to anything concerning the fate of those in the state. The opinions, remarks and support of every community need to be communicated and retained. For such a culturally diverse and distinct state as Manipur, adopting an attitude of exclusivity or aloofness is the surest way of alienating oneness and creating discord amongst the many groups and communities cohabiting. The only way to overcome such superfluous differences is to increase communication, understanding and tolerance.

An introspection of our personal and social behavior will lead the way to proper etiquette and behavior which can maintain the integrity and sanctity of the wonderful and efficient social networking sites.

CORONAVIRUS: Hey Manipur, are we prepared?

By- Jimmy Pamei, Tamenglong

The Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) which made its appearance at the end of 2019 is now taking its toll at an alarming rate in China and spreading widely across the globe. Manipur, including the whole district at the valley and the hills, is no exception! No excuse. We are connected to Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram; and in our state, we are neighbour to Moreh, Myanmar, Thailand and other Asian countries that can pass on the virus at any moment. And studying the map of the world we are just some thousands of kilometers away from Wuhan, Hubei province of China where the deadly disease is said to have originated. It is likely to be 'very soon arriving' in this tiny part of the world. And this is very very serious! Is all the District Administration and the Medical Department doing beyond the Advisories

given out by the Health Department of Manipur? Are we prepared with a 'Quarantine Hall' in case a district has even a single case of Coronavirus? Are we making efforts to screen persons arriving or returning from metro cities, or other places of India and the world to our districts?

We cannot afford to be mere a sitting duck. It is high time we do something about it. We simply cannot be complacent or wait for the appearance of the first case of Covid-19 to swing into action. Let us press a pause button to other issues of development, even education and focus ourselves on the protection of our lives. Coronavirus is a threatening matter now that could wipe out the whole population along with our precious cultural heritage. Each District of Manipur can be a giant model to other districts if we take a small step today!

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Are provisions of CAA, 2019 discriminatory and communal?

By Saroj Bala

Ever since the notification of Citizenship Amendment Act 2019, after being debated and passed in both houses of Parliament, the people of India are in turmoil; with many protesting against the legislation and many others agitating in support of the CAA and NPR. English media has been heavily biased in favour of anti-CAA protesters. In this article, I propose to give a very objective analysis and interpretation of CAA, including all its pros and cons.

The right to citizenship of India is governed by the Part II of the Constitution of India (Articles 5 to 11). According to Article 5, all the people that were resident in India at the commencement of the Constitution were citizens of India. The conferment of citizenship on persons who migrated from Pakistan after partition was regulated under The Citizenship Act, 1955, which provided citizenship by Birth, by Descent, by Registration and by Naturalization. This Act has been amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Acts of 1986, 1992, 2003, 2005, 2015, and 2019. The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 has no applicability on the citizens of India but has only provided an easier path to citizenship for minorities persecuted for their religious belief, i.e. Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from the neighboring Muslim-majority countries of Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, who entered India before December 2014 and thus have been living as refugees for more than 5 years.

It is against this provision that many political parties like Congress and CPI, many leftist bastions i.e. universities like JNU, Jamia and AMU have become the epicenters of revolt against CAA 2019, calling it discriminatory. They have resorted to violent agitations, while the

government has responded with extreme caution and restraint. They have been demanding that all Muslims who are living in India, including those who have come as intruders/infiltrators, seeking economic opportunities from neighboring countries, should also be awarded citizenship. They have also been vocal in asking that India should neither have any account of its inhabitants nor of its citizens i.e. they are opposed to both NPR and NRC.

It is essential that the issue is examined in its historical perspective. Until 1945 both Hindus and Muslims were fighting against the British for the freedom of India from the British rule. However under the command of Jinnah, Muslim League floated the Two-nation theory in 1940 and demanded a separate state of Pakistan. Most of the Muslims supported this demand and refused to listen to liberals like Maulana Azad. After the failure of the Cabinet Mission, Jinnah raised the pitch for demand of a separate Islamic State and finally proclaimed 16th August 1946 as Direct Action Day. H. Shaheed Suhrawardy, Muslim League's Chief Minister of Bengal, openly incited the Muslims to resort to violence against the Hindus. The kind of violence which ensued thereafter still makes anyone shudder. Congress Leadership was initially very reluctant to accept the division of the country, but after watching the deep divide which had got created in the minds of majority of Muslims of united India, finally agreed to accept this division by accepting the 3rd June 1947 Mountbatten Plan. As per this Plan, a separate Dominion of Pakistan was carved out of India by including the Muslim majority areas of Punjab and Bengal and also including Sindh, Balochistan, and NWFP.

Unprecedented massive violence erupted thereafter. Five million Hindus and Sikhs out of a total of 5.9 millions (as per 1941 census) were either killed,

got converted to Islam, or migrated to India in 1947 itself. As a result according to 1951 census, population of Non-Muslim minorities got reduced to 3.44% in West Pakistan; it was 29% as per 1941 census in Muslim majority areas of undivided Punjab. Those left behind were mostly poor, under privileged and backward people who either did not have the means to migrate to India or misjudged the treatment which would be meted out to them by Muslim majority in West Pakistan. Non-Muslims left in East Pakistan (known as Bangladesh after 1971) were 23.20%. By 2011, the percentage of Non-Muslims (Mainly Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians) in Pakistan had got reduced to 1.8% and in Bangladesh it accounted for only 10.2% of population.

On the other hand, the total population of India in 1951 was about 36 Crores and in 2011 census it was 121 Crores. The population-share of Hindus and Sikhs in 1951 was 86% and those of Muslims 10% However, by 2011, the percentage of Hindus and Sikhs had got reduced to 81.5% and those of Muslims had increased to 14.5%. The reason is clear and unambiguous; Pakistan treated its minorities with cruelty and brutality whereas Hindus of India treated Muslim minorities equally with extra care and concern for their welfare added.

It is rather strange that the details of such horrendous carnage were and are mostly hidden from the people of India as the History as well as the English media scene in India was dominated generally by the Communists and they included most of those people of Muslim League who did not/could not shift to Pakistan at the time of partition in 1947. The tragedy is that even after the creation of Pakistan based on two Nation Theory, they still hung on to this two-nation theory probably hoping to carve another Pakistan out of present

territory of India. That is why the protesters in Jamia, AMU, and Shaheen Bagh shouted slogans demanding 'Jinnah-wali Azadi'.

In 2003, Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had expressed an unambiguous opinion in Parliament saying that if minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh continue to face prosecution and if they are forced to flee, it would be the moral duty of Govt. of India to give them Indian citizenship and provide decent living.

In 2003, 107th Report of Committee on Home Affairs, Citizenship Amendment Bill of 2003 was submitted to Parliament recommending that Indian Citizenship should be granted to Pakistani and Bangla Deshi refugees belonging to minority communities and not to the refugees belonging to majority community i.e. Muslims. This Committee consisted of Pranab Mukherjee, Kapil Sibal, Hans Raj Bhardwaj, Moti Lal Vora and Ambika Soni. Were they all communal at that time? No, not at all! They were only recognizing the historical reality and India's moral responsibility towards these persecuted religious minorities of those countries which were carved out of India as Islamic states.

Thus granting of citizenship under CAA, 2019 to persecuted Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians minorities who are living as refugees for more than 5 years in India is only discharge of a moral obligation and fulfillment of a promise made at the time of partition which was thrust on these poor backward people by the top leadership, which suddenly accepted the creation of Pakistan.

I appeal to the conscience of all the Muslims of India to search their conscience and ask if any Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh could ever resort to the protests in the manner in which they have resorted to in India in Jamia, AMU and Shaheen Bagh etc. (Author is former Member of CBDT)

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM; for REAL TIME GEO-LOCATION

By- Nongmaithem Herojit Singh

As a human being surviving on the mother earth, all should have a specific geographic location. Nowadays with the advancing technology, not only the humans, all motile living creatures can be geo tagged for monitoring their real time moments. These are possible through the SATNAV system of which the most popular and advanced is the **Global Positioning System (GPS)**.

A **satellite navigation or satnav** system is a system that uses satellites to provide autonomous geo-spatial positioning. It allows small electronic receivers to determine their location (longitude, latitude, and altitude/elevation) with high precision (within a few centimetres to metres). The

system can be used for providing position, navigation or for tracking the position of something fitted with a receiver (satellite tracking). The signals also allow the electronic receiver to calculate the current local time to high precision, which allows time synchronisation. These uses are collectively known as Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT). These systems operate independently of any telephonic or internet reception.

A satellite navigation system with global coverage may be termed a **global navigation satellite system (GNSS)**. The United States' **Global Positioning System (GPS)** and Russia's **Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS)** are fully operational GNSSs, with China's **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System**

(BDS) and the European Union's **Galileo** scheduled to be fully operational by 2020. India has the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), also known as **Navigation with Indian Constellation (NAVIC)**, an autonomous regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services, with plans to expand to a global version in long term.

The **Global Positioning System (GPS)**, originally NAVSTAR GPS, is a satellite-based radio navigation system owned by the United States government and operated by the United States Space Force. It is one of the global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) that provides geo-location and time information to a GPS receiver anywhere on or near the Earth where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites.

The uses of the GPS are primarily developed for military purposes during the 1960's by the Americans. However, the utilities are now opened to the civilians as well though the interfaces are restricted. The uses can be grouped into civilian and military purposes. Many civilian applications use one or more of GPS's three basic components: **absolute location, relative movement, and time transfer**. Some of the civilian uses include: Astronomy for positional, Automated vehicle for applying location and routes for cars and trucks to function without a human driver, Cartography, Cellular telephony for clock synchronization, Radio occultation for weather and atmospheric science applications. Geofencing in vehicle tracking systems, person tracking systems and pet tracking systems use GPS to locate devices that are

attached to or carried by a person, vehicle, or pet. Telematics where GPS technology integrated with computers and mobile communications technology in automotive navigation systems are also becoming popular. The military uses include: Navigation, Target tracking, Missile and Projectile guidance, Search and Rescue and real time patrol movement monitoring.

In our society, public consider that GPS are used only by few scientists, students and military personals. However this is a misnomer, which one should realise. The present day smart phones, automated vehicles, (artificial intelligence) AI operated robotics all have GPS interface which record, save and memorise even the tiniest movements. Sharing a personal experience, the Google Company memorise all the personal moments. It even classify all the moments, whether on flight, vehicle, on foot. So to unquote, each one of us using the smart phones, automated vehicles are being constantly spied by Google. This is applicable even for the chief minister, military chief, or the insurgent party. Its high time that our government should frame a legal procedure to monitor these encroachment to one's personal space. Otherwise, these data may at any time be landed to unwanted social elements. Once that happens everybody might lose social and political integrity. While in the present context, please do be careful using these smart phones and automated vehicles. Be safe for a better future.

****The writer Nongmaithem Herojit Singh is a Sr. Geologist, Geological Survey of India SU: M & N, Imphal Office, Lamphel, Imphal Manipur, 795004.

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Over two lakh Muslim pilgrims.....

Starting in 1954, the government for decades offered subsidies amounting to billions of rupees to poor Muslims wanting to perform Haj. In 2016, the sum was about \$75m, down from about \$100m in 2013. Muslim pilgrims were given the subsidy through concessionary airline fares. However in 2018 the government announced the end of a decades-long policy of giving subsidy to thousands of Muslims heading to the holy city of Mecca to perform the annual Haj pilgrimage. The decision followed a 2012 ruling by the Supreme Court, which directed the government to gradually reduce the subsidy and abolish it by 2022.

Haj and Umrah are religious pilgrimages to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Islamic religious doctrine dictates that every able-bodied adult Muslim

who can afford to do so is obligated to make Hajj at least once in his or her lifetime. Haj takes place from the 8th through the 12th day of the last month of the Islamic year (Dhul Hijah). The timing of Hajj (based on the lunar Islamic calendar) varies with respect to the Gregorian calendar, occurring about 11 days earlier each successive year (for example, it was held August 19-24 in 2018 and in 2019, August 9-14). This year it will be between July-August. Muslims may perform Umrah, the "minor pilgrimage," any time of the year; unlike Hajj, Umrah is not compulsory. Every year, the Air India has been organising special 200 flights from seven destinations across the country to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. Despite ongoing process of disinvestment in Air India, this facility will be continue, Naqvi said.