

Editorial

Friday, February 21, 2020

Committing crime against nature and the essence of patriotism

The new world today is facing serious threat as the essence of patriotism and theory of Nationalism now has been a tool, which is considered the only way to show one's community existence and also to showcase their pride. Most country now face problem of separatist movement and recently, Hong Kong witness a rise for their freedom from the hand of Chinese supremacy. India witness a crisis in Jammu and Kashmir in its effort of makes the country a one nation. There are also any countries who are working whole heartedly to strengthening their so call nation using all means. The International body - United Nation now seems to be a name shake organization which cannot intervene to any of the anti humanitarian crime committed by any country for their own benefit. When all seems right from each country perspective, an issue which might put the entire human race into deep trouble seem to be forgotten to discuss. It is about the burning of Amazon Forest in Brazil. The American President seem to back the Brazil president in the regard. For sure if the Amazon Forest is rooted from the globe, the entire planet is going face problem of non availability of Oxygen which is needed by every living being in the planet.

Well Every year, a certain day is dedicated and observed as "World Environment Day" throughout the world. The irony, however is that it would not be far from the truth to say that everybody is feeling the consequences of the damages man has inflicted on the environment right this very minute. But the uncomfortable truth is that unless we start doing something concrete to reverse- if possible, or contain the damage, the rise in temperature and the consequent disruptions in the natural climatic cycle will continue at an increased rate. That is not a very rosy picture, and yet precious little has been done on the ground to slow the ravages of man on our ecosystem. There is bound to be a conflict of interest between conservation of environment and development as has been witnessed countless times before, an inevitable crossing of paths arising out of necessity. But such conflicts need not result in disaster or damages though that has been the case so far. All it needs is proper understanding and earnest effort to bring about a cohesive system where nature and environment can be integrated into the developing world. It has now become a chick or "the in thing" to flaunt one's eco-friendly lifestyles. This says a lot for the changing mindset towards our environments- a welcome change for sure, compared to the wanton destruction of forests and natural greeneries a few years earlier to make way for concrete structures and artificial jungles of concrete and glass.

But the most emergent question everybody needs to be asking at the moment is: is dedicating a single day of the year to reaffirm our commitment and responsibilities towards our environment enough to make the necessary and desired changes? The answer couldn't be any clearer. This year, we have witnessed and experienced one of the worst floods in recent years, and the more relevant point that needs to be looked into is the frequency of the disaster. As of today, we have experienced flood situations at least four times in the state, the most recent one wreaking havoc at Senapati District, destroying, among others, an orphanage and leaving the kids with just the clothes on their backs.

The effects of the wrath of nature cannot be stressed enough. While it would not be possible or practical to expect the government to set things right and make plans to ensure that such calamities does not occur, there are areas where the government, both at the central and the state level, can look into and take up concrete steps to minimize the effects and contain the damage. Yet whatever has been done so far by way of any and every efforts towards addressing the issues, almost all of them turned out to be just another excuse by the contractors, engineers and others involved in the process to serve their own self-interests. The need of the hour, on the other hand, should be to implement a consistent plan to help nature and our environment to heal. This will undoubtedly prove easier said than done, but greater challenges have been successfully met and overcome with cooperation, dedication, a sense of purpose and resilience.

Meanwhile, making informed judgment by everyone of us, in the way we choose eco-friendly products and organic foods that does not contaminate the soil and water, to that of choosing things which are made locally instead of the ones that has been flown halfway around the world, as also inculcating a more evolved civic sense could make a much bigger and significant difference than we think possible.

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Police – the best script writers

By T Kannamala,

I have stopped watching movies a long time ago, because I had been exposed to more hilarious and convincing real life stories during my days as a crime reporter. So I was not surprised when I read two news reports today, Feb 20, 2020. First, the UP chief minister declared that the Anti-CAA protesters had suffered bullet injuries when some among themselves opened fire. Next the Kerala police have produced 350 fake bullets, after the CAG report said as many bullets and several rifles were found missing during the audit. Back to an old police story where one of my police contacts in Chennai Manali station had produced a more incredible feat, after the mega fire in the Madras Refineries Limited (MRL) in the early 1980s. During the fire, a large number of LPG filled cylinders flew over the protected area and landed in the vicinity. Police hauled them all to the station. In those days, if one had an LPG cylinder, the refill was supplied on demand. All VIPs with police

contacts wanted the Manali police to arrange their LPG connection, as the MRL came under its jurisdiction. But MRL never obliged. So the Manali police made the best use of the collection. Soon, all the cylinders without damage were dispatched to the VIPs in the station 'waiting list.' Meanwhile, the MRL gave a complaint that large number of cylinders were missing and requested the police to return the Cylinders recovered to check their fire and blast resistance capability. The security guys had seen the cylinders in the station yard a few days after the blast, and photographed them. As the situation was likely to turn in to a scandal, the police agreed to 'return' all the recovered cylinders. The station in charge assured that a further search would be organised in the neighbourhood for more cylinder recovery. The police did make inquiries and found that a factory in Gummudipoondi was supplying cylinders to the MRL. An order was placed to produce 25 LPG cylinders at minimum cost. Within a week, about 40 cylinders were handed over to MRL under proper record.

The MRL promptly sent a letter to the police which said 25 cylinders did not belong to them. They found out that they were made with lesser gauge metal, and insisted on for their cylinders. Police knew they were trapped. They went on the offensive. Based on the letter from the MRL, they wrote a report to the district police chief. Among other things, it mentioned that 'some truck operators made several trips carrying LPG loads from MRL using same trip sheets. Despite cases were registered against them, the practice continued. The letter from MRL says some of the cylinders recovered after the blasts were substandard. This is a cause of concern, and quality of cylinders must be periodically checked. There are reports that oil drums are punctured, and the contents allowed to flow into a drain with outlet to an uninhabited neighbourhood. The oil flowing on the top of the drain water is collected and sold by anti-social elements. A carelessly thrown lighted cigarette butt/match stick also can cause fires. So all these matters may be taken up with the

Union Government, and a thorough inquiry ordered by the CBI', letter to the police chief said. "Then what happened?" I asked my police contact. "We tore off the original of this report, and gave a copy to the MRL. Within minutes, a senior security person from the MRL rushed to the police station and requested that there was no need to follow up the blast case, and the entire matter might be treated as 'dropped'. We graciously accepted their request and said all was well that ended well. Eom/Feb.20, 2020

(T Kannamala is the Author : News Chase – a novel on the thrills, frills & perils of news reporting)

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Cardinal Gracias is back as CBCI President

IT News
Mumbai, Feb 21

Mumbai: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) has re-elected Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the Archbishop of Mumbai, as president of the CBCI for a second term in an election held on February 17. Archbishop Felix Machado, the Bishop of Vasai (near Mumbai) was elected as the CBCI Secretary-General. Gracias was elected on February 17, which was the fifth day of the CBCI's 34th plenary assembly, concluded at St John's Medical College in Bengaluru in Karnataka. Cardinal Gracias will now lead the Indian Catholic Church for the next two years. On the same day that Gracias was re-elected by the Indian bishops, the Council of Cardinal Advisers (C6) held its first meeting with a three-day session in Rome

from Feb. 17-19. Gracias turned 75 in December. In accord with canon law, he has already submitted his resignation to the Pope, but is expected to continue as Archbishop of Mumbai for the foreseeable future. The cardinal is also one of the members of the C-6, a group of six cardinals who advise Pope Francis on the governance of the universal Church and on the preparation of a new governing constitution for the Roman Curia. Gracias' re-election as head of the bishops' conference, despite his being past the normal retirement age for a bishop, comes just weeks after the announcement by Cardinal Reinhard Marx, another member of the C-6, that he will step down as head of his own bishops' conference, in part because of his age. On Feb. 11, Cardinal Marx said he would not seek re-election as head of the German bishops' conference.

He said he wants to spend more time in his Archdiocese of Munich-Freising and to allow "a younger generation" to lead the Church in Germany. Marx is 66 years old. Speaking to IT, Fr. Nigel Barrett, spokesperson for Cardinal Gracias, said that the decision to re-elect Cardinal Gracias was taken at the Bangalore plenary, which is "like a general body meeting of all the bishops. Normally, someone is not elected as the CBCI president for more than two terms. The duties of the President include coordinating with all the bishops of India. Gracias was born in Mumbai on 24 December 1944, to Jervis and Aduzinda Gracias (a native of Orlim, Goa). He recognises himself as a Goan Catholic. He completed his school studies at St. Michael's School in Mahim in Central Mumbai and joined college at the Jesuit St Xavier's College, Mumbai. After a year, he entered the Seminary St.

Pius Xin Mumbai, where he studied philosophy and theology. He was ordained to the priesthood by Valerian Gracias (no relation) on 20 December 1970. From 1971 to 1976, he served as Chancellor and secretary to Bishop Joseph Rodericks, of Jamshedpur (Jharkhand). Gracias (born 24 December 1944) is an Indian Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. He was appointed Latin rite Archbishop of Mumbai, by Pope Benedict XVI on 14 October 2006 and was raised to the cardinalate in 2007. In 2008, he became Vice-President of the CBCI and in 2010, he was elected its President. He is also the President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. On 13 April 2013, he was appointed to the Council of Cardinals, informally C-6, set up by Pope Francis to help with governing the Catholic Church and reforming its central administration.

Workshop on "Role of NGOs/Civil Societies in Nature Conservation" held

IT News
Imphal, Feb 21

A One day Workshop for Civil Societies on "Role of NGOs/Civil Societies in Nature Conservation" Organised by Nature Learning Centre, Forest Department Manipur under the aegis of National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Govt of India was held today at Hotel Imphal Classic, North AOC. The inaugural function was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Kereihouvi Angami IFS as Chief Guest, Addl. PCCF & Project Investigator NLC Manipur Anurag Bajpai IFS as President, Member Secretary of



Manipur Biodiversity Board (MBB) D.J.N. Anand IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Dr. Lokho Puni IFS and Director of Manipur Zoological Garden Gaithaolu Thamei IFS as Guest of

Honours. Speaking at the event, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Kereihouvi Angami said that it is the duty of the people to protect and conserve nature and wildlife. It

is high time to conserve the resources which are provided by nature instead of recklessly laying waste to everything, he added. In the Technical Session, The Resource Persons of this workshop spoke on the topics "Significant of Good Forest Cover in Preserving Water Resources, Conserving Wildlife and Ensuring Food Security" and "Role of NGOs/Civil Societies in Preventing Use of Plastics and Prevention of environmental degradation" as the resource persons. As part of the workshop, NGOs/Civil Societies Visited to Nature Learning Centre, Mantripukhuri. Officials of the Forest Department & Nature Learning Centre also attended the programme.

45 Days Training Programme

45 days Training Programme Organised by the United Child and Development Association (UCWDA) Swavalamban Koushal Unnayan under the theme of Moisquito Net Making was held on February 24, 2020 at Khumbong Awang Leikai Community Hall. Under the Financial Assistant of SIDBI.

Sd/-
President
United Child and Women Developmentwnt Association
(UCWDA)

Lost

I, the undersigned Kshetrimayum Rajbabu Singh aged about 60 years and father of Chhjravas Singh of Kakching Turel Wangma Manare Pereng, PO. Kakching, PS Kakching, district Kakching Manipur do hereby declare that my son's identity card of Sainik Scholl Imphal was lost between Kakching and Sainik Scholl Pangei on 8/2/2020. And that my son's admission No, is 3709.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.
Sd/-
Kshetrimayum Rajbabu Singh

National News

North east News

Water storage tanks distributed Senapati District

Amid Card lost

I have lost my Original Amid card of class XI (sc.) bearing Roll no 30119 of 2018 issued by the council of higher secondary Education ,Manipur on the way between Irong Chesaba to Thoubal Bazar on date 2/12/2019. Finder are requested to handover the same to the undersigned

Sd/-
Chesam Sahinaz
Irong Chesaba Salam Macha

Sports News