

★ Editorial

Arithmetic doesn't work in politics; nothing is impossible

Nothing is impossible in the game of politics. And what is more interesting is that 'all is fair in love and war'.

It was the shrewd exercise of power by the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly to allow only 3 defected Congress MLAs from among the 7 whose cause for disqualification is pending with the speaker's tribunal.

It takes nearly 3 years for disqualification of MLA in the Speakers' Tribunal of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, however, as for the case of MLA Robindro, it does not take even 24 hours in taking up the case under the 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and later disqualifies him to bar him from casting vote for the Rajya Sabha Election.

The final round of the election tactics for the Rajya Sabha seat was crucial. Both Congress and the BJP played well. But in the final round, the ruling party which is in power seems to be in the upper hand. The arithmetic till yesterday doesn't work as politics is a different game.

Now as unexpected thing happens people are not surprised on who is winning this election. But one thing that matters is - Is there a law in the country?

FIR against TV anchor for using derogatory terms against Sufi saint



IT News Mumbai, June 19:

The Pydhonia police (south Mumbai) has registered an FIR against television news anchor Amish Devgan for hurting religious sentiments by referring to Sufi saint Moinuddin Chisti in derogatory terms during a programme.

On his show on 15 June, Devgan had used the term 'looting Chisti' ('Chisti the robber'), inviting furious reactions from the Muslim community throughout the country.

The FIR was registered, based on a complaint given by the Raza Academy on Wednesday. In a written complaint the Raza Academy general secretary Arif Razi demanded action Devgan. "The case has been registered and further action will be taken after the video of the show in question is analysed," Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Zone II) Rajiv Jain said. Raza Academy chief Muhammad Saeed Noori thanked the Mumbai Police for understanding the seriousness of the issue and immediately registering the FIR. He also urged the Mumbai Police Commissioner to arrest the "slanderer" for promoting hatred amongst communities and hurting the sentiments of millions of Muslims worldwide.

Another FIR was registered at Nirmal Nagar Police station at Bandra in North West Mumbai on Thursday, by Congress MLA Zeeshan Baba Siddique. The MLA also met Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh and demanded action against Devgan.

The police have booked Devgan for deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony under the Indian Penal Code.

Subsequently Devgan tendered an apology on Twitter, saying that he was actually referring to Mughal ruler "Alauddin Khilji" but instead ended up naming Chisti, also known as "Khwaja Gareeb Nawaz" (benefactor of the poor). He also said in his tweet that he has himself sought the saint's blessings in the past.

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The Kukis, Justice and the UN

By: L. Lunminlen Haokip

If there could be one reason, among others, that stood out in the backdrop of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles (1919), it would be the attempt to avoid a repeat of the World War One. If one were tasked to single out how a repeat of WW1 could have been avoided, maintaining world peace would be the answer.

About the same time the WW1 was fought in different fronts and magnitudes, the Kukis, too, were not spared from this man-made catastrophe either. The patience of peace-loving Kukis, who have been settling in different parts of North-East India and in modern-day Myanmar since time immemorial was put to litmus test then thanks to the British aggression and the then Kuki chiefs' never-say-die attitude when it comes to defending their ancestral land. "The Anglo-Kuki War was one of the most serious incidents in the history of Manipur and its relation with the Hill subjects," Robert Reid, the former Governor of Assam. The Anglo-Kuki War (1917-1919) can also be viewed as a showdown between modernised British warfare and the tribal combat the Kukis then resorted to. By the time this article goes for print, the Anglo-Kuki War has yet to receive the highly-deserved official recognition from the Government of Manipur.

The Treaty of Versailles (1919) failed big time.

For the second time in as many decades, the world once again decided to quench its warring

thirst - this time, with the detonation of two atomic bombs, in a more sophisticated manner, though - by entering into another world war arena. This self-destructive mode the world engaged itself in came to be known as World War Two.

It is said that there are no winners in war. However, the WW2 came to an end with The Allies having an upper hand in sculpting the new world order. The United Nations was founded in 1945 with China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States as permanent members of its Security Council (UNSC). These 5 countries are also called veto power countries. Needless to mention, to maintain international peace and security was one of the UN's aims.

Just when the dust in the WW2 battlefields would have not even settled down, geopolitical tension between the US and the Soviet Union saw the two veto power countries lock horns for decades until the fall of the USSR in 1991. This period of the Cold War was also significant for the clash it saw in propagation of democratic and communist principles.

Today, even after more than 70 years of the founding of the UN, maintaining world peace still seems a far cry. What is more ironic is the involvement of one of the UNSC member countries in almost every conflicts the world witnesses today. The US's conquest of Afghanistan and the un-ending interests it shows in some Middle East countries, as if he had not learnt a lesson from the Vietnam war, do not seem to go hand in hand with the very basis on which the UN was founded. Russia's

annexation of Crimea was highly un-called for. China's high-handedness on the people of Hong Kong and the 'carrot and stick' policy it exercises on the People of Tibet seem to defy the principle of international peace the UN advocates. Rather, a close monitoring of these manoeuvres seems to preach the religion of 'the might is always right'.

While the world was about to succumb to the unprecedented onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic, the Kukis were taken aback as the news of the burning down of Chassad Kuki Village in Kamjong District, Manipur came out of the blue. This broad daylight act of cowardice and arson in burning down of more than 170 houses was carried out by neighbouring Tangkhul-inhabited Sampui village on 16 March 2020. Old habits do die hard. The NSCM (IM)-backed Tangkhuls certainly haven't parted ways with the demonic pulsation that had led to their killing of over a thousand innocent Kukis in the 1990s. Again, at the time of printing this article, justice hasn't knocked on the doors of the victims.

As the COVID-19 continues to spread like wildfire, the latest challenge the UN has to face would be US president Donald Trump's tirade with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The WHO is a specialised agency of the UN with emphasis primarily on international public health and the US alone has provided roughly 15% of the WHO's total funding over its current 2-year budget period. In May, Donald

Trump had warned of terminating the US' relationship with the WHO as he accuses the latter of being 'China-centric'. That written, Mr. Trump will be faced with some legal hurdles in order to fully withdraw the US funding for the WHO.

At this pace and trend, Mr. Trump resorting to steps that can put the legacy of the UN at peril and jeopardising its future at the same time is never off the cards; more so, with the US presidential election coming up shortly and America on the brink of a potential civil war. As much as the undercurrent in Mr. Trump's feud with the WHO snowballing into long-lasting implications with the UN can be too early to rule out, it can as much be unwise to write-off the possibility of the UN undergoing an overhaul in a post-COVID-19 world. Even in 2017, Mr. Trump did not hesitate to withdraw the US's participation in the 2015 Paris Agreement. As much as the Kukis have become weary of the step-motherly treatment meted out to them generation after generation, the Kukis would as much envisage to welcome a revamped UN structure that sees, in general, an end to the UN's rhetoric of ostracising countries outside of the UNSC membership in maintaining international peace and harmony and harbinger a change that sees an abrupt end to the Kukis' long wait for justice in particular. The Kukis, particularly in Manipur, have long realised that their cry for justice will continue to fall on the deaf ears of the Govt. of Manipur.

(The writer is a freelance writer from Churachandpur)

Annular Eclipse of the Sunday, June 21, 2020, Sunday- 31 Jyaishtha, 1942 Saka Era- (Annular phase is visible in India)

- PIB Feature

An annular solar eclipse will occur on 21 June, 2020 (31 Jyaishtha, 1942 Saka Era). From India annular phase will be visible in the morning from some places within a narrow corridor of northern part of the country (parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttarakhand) and will be seen as partial solar eclipse from the rest part of the country.

A solar eclipse occurs on a new moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun and when all the three objects are aligned. An annular solar eclipse will occur

Kolkata, 62 percent in Mumbai, 37 percent in Bangalore, 34 percent in Chennai, 28 percent in Port Blair etc.

Considering the Earth as a whole the partial phase of the eclipse will begin at 9 h 16 m IST. The annular phase will begin at 10 h 19 m IST. The annular phase will end at 14 h 02 m IST. The partial phase will end at 15h 04 m IST.

The annular path passes through Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, northern parts of India and China. The Moon's penumbral shadow produces a partial eclipse, visible in the region covering Africa (except W. and S. parts) S. E. Europe, Asia (except N. and E. Russia) and northern parts of Australia.

A solar eclipse occurs on a new moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun and when all the three objects are aligned. An annular solar eclipse will occur

when the angular diameter of the Moon falls short of that of the Sun so that it cannot cover up the latter completely. As a result a ring of the Sun's disk remains visible around the Moon.

Eclipsed Sun should not be viewed with the naked eye, even for a very short time. It will cause permanent damage of the eyes leading to blindness even when the moon

covers most portion of the Sun. Safe technique to observe the solar eclipse is either by using proper filter like aluminized Mylar, black polymer, welding glass of shade number 14 or by making projection of Sun's image on a white board by telescope.

A table relating to local circumstances of some places in India is appended separately for ready reference.

THE ANNULAR ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, 21 JUNE, 2020

Table with 11 columns: Places, Partial Eclipse Begins (IST), Annular phase Begins (IST), Greatest Eclipse (IST), Magnitude, Maximum Obscuration, Annular phase Ends (IST), Partial Eclipse Ends (IST), Duration of Eclipse. Lists various Indian cities and their corresponding eclipse details.

PHASES OF ECLIPSE VISIBLE FROM CERTAIN PLACES OF INDIA

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Table with 11 columns: Places, Partial Eclipse Begins (IST), Annular phase Begins (IST), Greatest Eclipse (IST), Magnitude, Maximum Obscuration, Annular phase Ends (IST), Partial Eclipse Ends (IST), Duration of Eclipse. Lists various Indian cities and their corresponding eclipse details.

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'- - -' indicates annular phase of eclipse is not visible corresponding to the places where only partial eclipse occurs \* Places where annular phase of eclipse occurs.

ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE, 21 JUNE, 2020

LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO SOME OF THE PLACES FROM WHERE ANNULAR PHASE IS VISIBLE

Table with 11 columns: Places, Annular phase Begins (IST), Annular phase Ends (IST), Maximum Obscuration, Annular phase Ends (IST), Duration of Annularity. Lists specific locations and their annular phase details.

'- - -' indicates annular phase of eclipse is not visible corresponding to the places where only partial eclipse occurs \* Places where annular phase of eclipse occurs