



No one succeeds without effort... Those who succeed owe their success to perseverance.

-Ramana Maharshi



MOB LYNCHING UNACCEPTABLE

We are living in twenty first century but our behavior resembles the stone ages where there was no concern for the humanity. The mob lynching and mob violence is alien to our culture and democracy and it should not happen as it bring bad name to the whole system. Mob violence and mob lynching is thus unacceptable as it reflects savage behavior and so has no place in the modern day society. Mob lynching is unfortunately taking place in different places of the independent India and it is condemnable and should not take place. Ours is a democratic country rather it is the biggest democracy of the world and the mob lynching should not take place at all. Mob lynching brings bad name to our democracy and because of the mob lynching our democracy has degenerated in mobocracy were there is free for all and there is no fear of the law and order machinery. It is most unfortunate that the people belonging to lower sections of the society are the victims of mob violence. Thus the people of the Dalit community are susceptible to mob lynching and it is very unfortunate and should not happen. The behavior of the brute in man is manifested in the shameful and uncivilized mob lynching.

The mob lynching of the minorities and Dalits is a blot on the face of free India and such mob lynching and mob violence is unacceptable and it has no place in our society.

We often hear the sordid stories of the mob lynching of the people belonging to the minorities and the Dalits and we hang our heads in shame over such mob lynching.

It only shows brutal behavior in man and is the negation of the moral conduct of the people. It is very unfortunate that mob lynching is politicized but this should not be done for the sake of humanity. The political parties should rise above the petty politics and condemn mob lynching and mob violence but it is hardly done as the political parties only politicize this important issue.

Mob violence and mob lynching cannot be justified on any reason whatsoever and as such we cannot justify mob lynching on any account. In a democracy and a liberal country as ours the behavior of mob lynching is most disturbing and highly condemnable and all the right thinking people should condemn mob lynching.

There is the duly elected government to punish those who commit crimes and the people have no right to take law into their own hands and inflict punishment on those who commit any crime. The law of the land should be allowed to take its own course and no one should be allowed to tinker with the law and thus take law into its hands.

Sometimes mob lynching is justified on account of the protection of the holy cow and calf but in the protection of the milch giving animals the law should be given its place and the punishment of the crimes should be left to the government and the mob lynching should not be resorted to under any circumstance.

The people belonging to minorities and Dalits should not be made sacrificial goats and killed with sadistic pleasure by the unruly mobs.

It has been seen time and again that the unruly mobs punishing the innocent and weak people belonging to minorities and Dalit communities and such behavior is not acceptable in a modern society. Mob lynching scenes bring down shivers down ones spine and this should not be accepted.

The heart rending scenes are there to see in the mob lynching cases as the victims are made to die with canning and the pleadings and requests of the victims are disregarded and the victim is beaten to death.

Earlier, a Sadhu was beaten to death by the some unruly people and the case attracted condemnation from the society and the media. He pleaded for the life but his request for life was not heard and he was done to death on flimsily grounds.

These days the mob lynching of a Dalit man is reported from Hanumangarh of Rajasthan. Here a man was done to death by mob lynching and all his pleadings for life fell on the deaf ears of the unruly men who continue to beat him to death. Mob lynching is a dastardly act but the political parties are politicizing this issue to score brownie points and this is unacceptable.

In the present case of the mob lynching of the Dalit man the killers should be identified and kept behind bars and severe punishment should be given to the people involved in mob lynching of the Dalit man. It is very unfortunate that after beating to death the Dalit youth, killers threw 0dead body of the victim near his home.

This shows that the killers have no fear of the law. It is necessary to create fear in the minds of the people so that the cases of mob lynching will not take place again. One fails to understand as to how the unruly men have beaten the victim to death ignoring all his pleadings for the life and how savage the killers are who take sadistic pleasure in the death of the victim. In the present case of the mob lynching of the Dalit youth in Hanumangarh there are eleven men who are involved in beating to death of the Dalit youth and upto now only four men have been arrested and seven are at large still. What is needed is that all the people who were involved in beating to death of the Dalit youth should be identified and severe punishment should be awarded to the killers so that mob lynching is not resorted again. Mob lynching is a law and order problem and as such the fear of the law should be created among the people so that the cases of mob lynching will not happen and tarnish our image in the world. Therefore what is needed is the enforcement of the law so that there is no case of the mob violence and mob lynching.

The fear of law should be created in the people so that they think eleven times before committing mob lynching. The relatives of the youth killed by mob lynching have alleged as to where were the Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi and why they have not visited the home of the youth lynched by the mob. Mayawati who has visited the home of the victim of mob violence in Rajasthan has said that congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi has not visited Hanumangarh because there are no elections in the state in the near future. One thing is crystal clear that the mob lynching should not be politicized but it should be condemned by all the political parties and no points should be scored in politicizing the issue of mob lynching. To be specific mob violence and mob lynching are alien to our culture and as such it should not be resorted to under any circumstance whatsoever as it cannot be justified on any reason.

Thus in our democratic country the cases of mob lynching are unjustified and hence unacceptable.

Prem Bhakti-Loving Devotion

■ **CAPT (RETIRED) PURSHOTTAM SHARMA**

Loving-Devotion is a steadfast spiritual pursuit based on the sanctimonious relationship that aims at to link oneself with God and to realize that all beings are the children of God, He is seated in our heart, He illumines our inner-self; is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient.

He reciprocates His devotee's endeavor. Graceful Lord puts His hands where his dear devotee sets his feet and is ever kind. We need to equip ourselves with spiritual strength to encounter storms of worldly temptations like lust, wrath, greed, attachment, ego, hatred and jealousy.

A true devotee has to swim across the currents. He has to continue onward march untroubled by the activities of adversaries and strike a solid balance without being moved either by praise or prejudice. Lord is pleased with His devotee's unimpeded devotion, love and purity of heart.

Spiritual strength is achievable by righteous actions, beauty in character, discipline, determination, discrimination, humility, truthfulness, compassion, forgiveness, honesty, cordiality and 'Satsang' (company of the enlightened souls).

Once on onward march, there is no moment vacant of incessant-loving-devotion because 'Bhakti' itself becomes devotee's solemn nature. 'Navdha-Bhakti' (nine steps) in the journey of devotee towards God are 'Shravnam, Keeratnam, Vishnu-Smarnam, Paadsevnam, Arelnam, Vandnam, Dasyam, Sakhyam, Aatamnivednam'. (Srimad Bhagavata VII.V 23)

(1) 'Shravnam' (Listening): Devotee should be keen to listen to the plays and stories of the Lord.

(2) 'Keertanam' (Adulation): Devotee should loudly sing His praises, His sports and His majesty regularly so that his thoughts, words and actions are imbued with Lord's name.

(3) 'Smarnam' (Remembrance): To remember Lord's magnificence, grace, majesty so that He is always held in devotee's thoughts.

(4) 'Paadsevanam' (Showing respect): is to worship Lord's lotus-feet with deep-devotion and piety.

(5) 'Archanam' (Ceremonial worship): is propitiation of the loving Lord by means of ritualistic worship.

(6) 'Vandanam' (Paying obeisance): Devotee prostrates before the Lord and sights Him in all beings revering all life.

(7) 'Dasya' (Doing service): Devotee considers himself a loyal and faithful servant of the Creator and His creation.

(8) 'Sakhya' (Friendliness): Like Arjuna, devotee treats the Lord Eternal Beloved, never failing companion, his trusted friend, confidant and comrade.

(9) 'Aatamnivednam' (Self surrender): This is devotee's stage of submission to the WILL of God offering everything to Him and experiencing total surrender.

Yashoda's devotion was of 'Vaatsalya' Bhav treating the Lord her 'Shishu' (child) and made her to find Him in her lap for care and bliss Meera Bai's and Andal's devotion was of 'Kanta Bhav' considering the Lord their life-partner. In 'Shishu Bhav' a devotee calls the Lord her/his mother or father or both parents affectionately. Swami Gaibananda ji Maharaj (author's revered Guru), a celebrated saint, an extra ordinary in brilliance, a born spiritual genius, always in perennial ecstasy, in the opening verses of one of his works 'Anand-Ullas' revealing culmination of his devotion into one-ness of 'Aatma' with 'Paramatma' says:

'Bhagwan Ko Bhajta Hua Bhagwan Hi Main Ban Gya, Bhagwan Mujh Mein Mil Gya Bhagwan Mein Main Sangya, Abhiman Hi Agyan Tha Weh Baraf Delha Gal Gya, Us Sindhu Sachidanand Mein Main Ek Ho Kar Rai Gya, Main Kaun Hun Weh Kaun Hai Ab Kueh Pata Lagta Nahin, Sarita Mili Jab Sindhu Mein Ab Bhin Ho Shakti Nahin, Lakdi Jali Jab Aag Mein Ab Kaath Ho Sakti Nahin, Bhushan Gala Sona Raha Bhushan Kahin Milta Nahin.'

'Chanting the Holy I became Holy one, He and Me are not separate but one, Ego, my ignorance, melted like a Flake of snow without hiss. Myself dissolved in that ocean of Truth, 'Consciousness and Bliss. I cannot now make out the difference between He & Me.

For the stream cannot fall apart once merged into sea. Log that burnt cannot be wood any more.

Melted ornament turned Gold is orna-

ment no more'.

The Bible says that 'pious seekers seek the God' but Annie Basant said 'God seeks the pious seeker!' That's the power of devotion.

It is virtue of loving-devotion that rewarded Sages, Vasishtha, Kashyapa, Atri, Brighu, Agastya, Gautama and Angiras to find and form the Galaxy of Seven stars (that is, 'Saptrishi Mandala') an honor of eternal nature. Many saints, sages and seers like Valmiki, Surdas, Tulsidas, Tukaram, Jneshwar, Eknath, Sehjobai, Muktabai, Guru Nanak Dev arose to the highest perfection with unflinching Loving-devotion. We find unparalleled devotion of animals, birds and reptiles who act rides of Gods and Goddesses.

Cow, Elephant, Bull, Eagle, Lion, Crow, Parrot, Rat, Serpent, Tortoise and many others have nearness to them as per our mythology. Even trees and plants like Peepal, Billav, Amla, Rudraksh and Tulsi are sacred.

All varieties of flowers particularly Lotus please the Lord. Can we assume all these possess attribute of Loving-devotion that pleases the God!

Paltoo Sahab believed to be an incarnation of Saint Kabir Sahab beautifully speaks.

'Sahab Ke Darbar Me Kewal Bahakti Pyaar, Kewal Bhakti Pyar Sahab Bhakti Mein Razi, Taja Sakal Pakwan Liya Dassi Sut Bhaji, Jap Tap Nem Achar Kare Bahutera Koi, Khaye Sabri Ke Ber Muye Sab Rishi Mini Roi, Kiya Yudhishtir Yagya Batora Sakal Smaja, Marda Sab Ka Maansupach Binu Ghat Na Baja, Paltoo Unchi Jaati Kau Jani Kou Kare Hankar, Sahab Ke Darbar Mein Kewal Bhakti-Pyar'

God feels delighted with Loving-devotion only. It was the loving devotion of pious couple Vidur and Vidurani that pleased Him to part-take of that Brahmins maid-servant's son Vidur's saltless 'Saag' (a veg-dish) declining Duryodhana's fifty-six dishes.

Moved by a Bihini Tribal woman Sabri's intense Loving-devotion, Lord Rama Himself visited hermitage to honor her Guru Matang Rishi's words and to confer deliverance on her. She offered wild-berries to the lord which He relished

delightfully.

Although she was a low caste, she was dearest to the Lord among all the hermits for she was in total identification with Him by dint of Loving-devotion of high mark.

This way, the lord helped egoistic saint and sages to follow Sabri in their spiritual pursuit and repent on their follies of having ridiculed Sabri. Lord explained to her nine steps of devotion:

Navda Bhakti Kaun Tohi Pahin, Savdhan Sunu Dharu Man Mahin (Aranya-Kanda, Sri RamCharitamansa) 'Listen attentively nine forms of devotion from Me and Cherish in your mind'. These are:

(1) Company of Saints
(2) Fondness for My plays and stories
(3) Humbly serving the lotus feet of one's 'Guru' (preceptor).
(4) Singing My praises
(5) Muttering My name with unflinching faith.
(6) Self-control to be virtuous and righteous
(7) To see and experience My existence in every being and treat the saints greater than Myself.

(8) Devotee to feel contented whatever he gets and find no faults in others,

(9) Devotee should be guileless and straight in dealings with others, cherish and hold unshaking faith in Me in all situations without either exultation or depression.

King Yudhishtira performed a yajna on such solemn occasion. Conch ('Shankh') is sounded to honor the celebration. In spite of repeated efforts, the conch did not blow. This was considered a bad omen. At last all-knowing Lord Krishna was consulted who revealed that Swapach, a low-caste saint, who lives in that cottage in the capital city's outskirts has not been invited to this 'Yajna' and mass feed which amounts to My devotee's humiliation and My humiliation as well. King Yudhishtira made him to join the yajna celebration.

The conch produced the sound. The yajna concluded successfully. Bhakti Heen Nar Sohee Kaisa, Binu Jal Barid Dekhiya Jaisa. 'A man lacking in devotion is of no more worth than a cloud without water'.

Earthquake & Disaster Management

■ **ER PRABHAT KISHORE**

Earthquake i.e., the slightest shaking of the earth causes shivering in the human mind. This doesn't give them a chance to recover and in the blink of an eye everything is offered to the nature.

However, it is an indisputable truth that people do not die due to earthquakes except in a few exceptions; but the death occurs due to unsafe constructions.

Earth's geographical structure, variations and internal movements are responsible for earthquakes. The whole earth is located on 12 major tectonic plates, namely Indian plate, Eurasian plate, Indo-Australian plate, Philippine plate, Antarctic plate, African plate, Arabian plate, South American plate, North American plate, Caribbean plate and Pacific plate. These plates are floating on the fluid lava beneath them and move slowly (approximately 4-5 cm) from their place every year.

When a plate comes near another plate, then the plate moves away from someone. Sometimes, one plate collides with the boundary of another plate and faults are generated; due to which the energy below the earth comes out and earthquake occurs.

The Indian plate extends from the Himalayan Mountains to the Antarctic. It just touches the Pakistan border. It is to the south of the Himalaya while the Eurasian plate (in which countries like China etc falls) are to the north of the Himalaya.

The Indian plate is moving up in the north-east direction with a speed of 4.7 cm every year; whereas the Eurasian plate is moving north at a speed of 2 cm only.

In such a situation, there is a possibility of earthquake due to collision of both the plates. The epicenter of an earthquake is the place just below which the geological energy is released by the movement of the plates. At this place, the vibration of the earthquake is high and the shock is strong. As the range of the vibration goes away, its effect gradually decreases.

The intensity of an earthquake

depends on whether the seismic frequency is upward or in the range. In case the frequency of vibration is upwards, fewer areas are affected.

The intensity of an earthquake (measured on the Richter scale) is the intensity of energy released from inside the earth during an earthquake. Earthquakes with a magnitude of less than 5 on the Richter scale are considered mild.

However, it also depends on the composition of the area. If the epicenter of the earthquake is on the bank of the river and high buildings are constructed there without anti-seismic technology, then an earthquake of magnitude 5 can also be dangerous.

Earthquakes of magnitude 2 or less are difficult to record and are not felt. An earthquake with a magnitude of 5 - 5.9 is considered moderate and earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 6 are considered fatal. Indian sub-continent has been divided into five zones of earthquake by Bureau of Indian Standards (IS Code 1893-2002); out of which four are currently valid on the basis of studies, as Zone-1 has been merged into Zone-2. Seismic Zone-5 has been considered as the most active i.e. dangerous and Zone-2 is considered as the least active i.e. safe.

The intensity is less than 4 magnitudes in Zone-2, 5 in Zone-3, 7 in Zone-4 and more than 8 magnitudes in Zone-5.

Zone-5 covers entire North-East states, parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rann of Kutch, parts of Bihar, and Andaman & Nicobar. Zone-4 covers parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Parts of Indo-Gangetic plains (Northern Punjab, Chandigarh, Western UP, Northern part of West Bengal, Bihar), parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra, and West Rajasthan. Zone-3 includes Kerala, Lakshadweep, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, parts of Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Zone-2 covers rest of the country and a major part of South

India. The entire Himalayan range comes under the high intensity zone of earthquakes. In year 1897, Shillong (8.7 Richter scale), in 1905 Kangra (8.0 Richter scale), in 1934 Bihar-Nepal (8.3 Richter scale), and in 1950 Assam-Tibet (8.6 Richter scale) were hit by major earthquakes.

To avoid the wrath of earthquake, the arrangements and preparedness of disaster management should be effective. Actually, most of the damages to the life and property occur due to unsafe and weak structures.

So, there is a dire need to enact laws for building construction on earthquake resistant technology and strictly enforce it all over the country, especially in the plains and hilly areas.

It costs approximately 6-7 percent extra amount to make new houses with earthquake resistant design, while about 12-15 percent extra cost is incurred in converting old houses as earthquake resistant.

Efforts have also been made to bring awareness in this direction by the Disaster Management Department of the State Governments.

The IS code assigns a Zone Factor (the maximum horizontal acceleration that can be experienced by a structure) to each zone, which is used by the Structural engineers for earthquake resistance design of the structures. Some basic provisions should be taken care of in the construction of masonry buildings for earthquake protection. Building based on one brick thick walled structure should be up to three-storey only.

Horizontal bands are important earthquake resistant feature.

It holds a masonry building as a single unit tying all the walls together and is similar to a belt tied around the box.

Lintel Bands as well as Plinth bands are required in every building.

Gable bands are essential in buildings with pitched or sloped roofs. A roof band is not necessary in a flat RC roof building, because the roof slab itself plays the role of a band. The Indian Standards IS: 4326-1993 and IS: 13828-1993 provide sizes & details of

the bands. In Earthquake Zone-5, bands should also be made on the sills of the windows.

In doors and windows larger than 600 mm, steel bars should be provided in concrete on both sides.

It prevents the formation of cracks in the wall during earthquake.

In the buildings constructed in all the regions, except that falling in Earthquake Zone-3, Tor steel bars should be provided inside the concrete at the corners of all the rooms. Empty pockets should be made in the brick joints for pouring concrete.

These standing bars, starting from the foundation and adjoining all RCC bands, should be bent 300 millimeters inside the slab of final roof. If the bars are to be joined to reach the full height; then overlapping length of two bars should be at least 50 times its diameter and properly tied with wires.

For doors, larger than one meter, steel bars in concrete are provided on each side.

The sum of the widths of doors and windows should be in definite proportion to the total length of the wall.

It should be less than 50 percent of the length of the wall in a single storey building, less than 42 percent in a two-storey building and less than 33 percent in a three-storey building.

The walls between the doors and windows should be equal to the length of at least two bricks.

The distance of the door or window from the corner of the wall should be at least equal to the length of one brick. The height of the wall between the window and the ventilator should be kept at least 450 mm.

Earthquake is a natural phenomenon; as a result, it cannot be prevented.

But the use of anti-seismic techniques in the construction of buildings and other infrastructural structures, can restrict the loss of life as well as property to a minimum level.

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YOUR COLUMN

Fossil fuel dependence

Dear Editor,

India is the world's second highest importer producer and consumer of coal with China being on top. Due to the encouraging tempo of vaccination programme had contributed to a full throttle resumption of economic activity and consequently a sharp rise in the consumption of electricity. The crises is also said to be partly because of the global race to reduce dependency on Fossil Fuels.

The race to become green has resulted many countries

shutting down coal mines and oil rigs. The onset of the festival season has also upped the power demand.

Short term arrangements are likely to ease the situation but question arises for how many times such type of short time arrangements will be made and it is imperative to look at the larger picture and country should tap sources of renewable energy and also more solar energy plants be set up and also there is high scope of wind energy and in rural areas Gobar gas plants should be set up in large numbers with provision of subsidy

The current coal crisis across the nations may send a negative perception among consumers that transitioning from fossils to renewable comes with its own set of hardships.

At the same time, it provides an opportunity for devel-

oping nations to boost their green transition efforts as the fallacies of fast-depleting reserves of fossil fuels have come to expose the limitations of coal and other fossil fuels. It may just be the right moment to bring the discourse around the use of renewable for power generation on the dais in an ever-stronger and firm manner.

However, in the immediate future, the Central and state governments must coordinate on the issue to take stock of the situation and chalk out holistic short-term plans to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. The onus also lies upon the public at large. Have we still realized the gravity of the issue, and are we willing to change the ways in which we consume power?

Yash Pal Ralhan.