

Involvement of church in de-hinduisation drive and promoting militancy in India

A Supreme Court bench comprising of Arijit Passayat and P.Sathasivan on January 17, 2008, ruled that a live-in relationship should be treated as equivalent to marriage. It further said that the children born to such parents would be called legitimate and they will have the rights in their parent's property.

In June, 2008, the National Commission for Women then headed by Ms. Girija Vyas also recommended to the Ministry of Women and Child Development that a woman in a live-in relationship should be entitled to maintenance if she is deserted by her man. The Commission also sought a change in the definition of wife as described in Section 125 of CrPC which deals with maintenance, and suggested that it should include woman involved in a live-in relationship. It further sought another amendment to Section 125 of CrPC stating that adultery should no longer be a ground for denying maintenance to a woman.

The government of Maharashtra in a bid to give some sanctity to live-in relationships had sent a proposal to the Centre to amend Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and expand the definition of the word wife to include a woman involved in a live-in relationship with a man for a reasonably long period. The decision to seek such an amendment to Section 125 of the CrPC was taken by the Maharashtra state cabinet on October 8, 2008. The cabinet decision was based on the recommendations of the Malimath Committee appointed by the Centre to suggest reforms in the CrPC.

The Supreme Court on October 9, 2010 held that an adulterous relationship may become matrimonial by consent and referred to a larger bench the question as to whether a woman in a live-in-relationship was entitled to maintenance from her man. The apex court said that a decision on the issue was required as there was a conflict between the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and Section 125 CrPC vis-à-vis grant of maintenance to a woman in a live-in-relationship. While the domestic violence Act recognizes the right of a woman in a live-in-relationship to maintenance from the man, Section 125 postulates a situation in which only a legally-wedded wife, aged parents and children are entitled to the maintenance. The bench consisting of Justices G.S.Singhvi and A.K.Ganguly further commented that in the light of the constant change in the social attitude and values, which have been incorporated into the forward-looking Act of 2005, the same needs to be considered with respect to Section 125 of CrPC and accordingly, a broad interpretation of the same should be taken.

On July 3, 2009, all major news dailies in India especially the English dailies came out with bold head line news describing the Delhi High Court ruling decriminalizing private consensual sex between adults of the same gender as a land mark judgment. The English Daily The Times of India proclaimed it as India's gay day and said that India took a giant step, albeit belated, towards globalization on 2nd. July,2009 when the Delhi High Court gave the so-called historic judgment to amend the 149-year old colonial era law Section 377 of the IPC to decriminalize gay sex. The paper went on to add that it is the biggest victory yet for the gay rights activists and a major milestone in the country's social evolution. The court declared that Section 377 which criminalized consensual sexual acts of adults in private violated the fundamental rights to personal liberty (Article 21 of the Constitution) and equality (Article 14) and to prohibition of discrimination (Article 15). The bench further clarified that the provisions of Section 377 enacted in 1860 to deal with unnatural offences would hereafter be restricted to non-consensual penile non-vaginal sex (rape by homosexual) and penile non-vaginal sex involving minors (paedophilia). The court commended the Law Commission's 172nd. report for removing a great deal of confusion on the subject. The Law Commission had suggested repeal of Section 377 of IPC.

The Section 377 Indian Penal Code imposes a maximum penalty of life sentence on anybody who has 'carnal intercourse against the order of nature' with any man, woman or animal. No doubt, gay sex is a perversion. However criminalizing it and the prescribed harsh punishment is definitely unwarranted. To that extent, the Delhi H.C. ruling is a welcome development. But the undue attention and publicity given to this verdict by the media and the interpretation of this judgment as legalization of gay sex by some activist groups and describing it as a historical judgment liberating the Indian society from the shackles of colonial-era laws is not only ludicrous but quite sickening. According to media reports, some of the gay rights activists who took to the streets in places like Delhi to celebrate the so-called historic judgment were found openly indulging in hugging and kissing. The very thought of such scenes involving same sex partners is quite repulsive.

It is a fact that homosexuality is prevalent among a small section of people in India. But it does not have any social acceptance as it is generally considered as a perversion. However it is not considered as a punishable offence in India provided there is no use of force or involvement of minors.

Despite the Delhi High Court verdict decriminalizing consensual sex between the adults of the same sex, same-sex marriage is still illegal in India. But strangely, a Gurgaon Court in July, 2011, effectively recognized a marriage between two lesbians, Beena and Savita, of Khekada village in Bhagpat. The runaway couple from Bhagpat recorded their statement before the court confirming that they had married each other of their own will, without coercion, duress, fraud or misrepresentation. The petitioners submitted that they fell in

love in June 2011 and got married to each other on July 22 by signing an affidavit before a public notary in Gurgaon. The court also recorded the fact that savita had earlier been married to a man by name Ombir and that the marriage was later dissolved at a Panchat in Bhagpat. But the question arises as to when the same-sex marriage is illegal in India, how can an Indian court recognize such a marriage?

The Supreme Court on 28th. April, 2010 dismissed all the 22 criminal cases registered against film star Khushboo for her remarks on pre-marital sex. In 2005, while giving an interview to a journalist, actress Khushboo had said that men can not expect their brides to be virgins any more, but suggested that women should take protective measures before engaging in pre-marital sex. Many people in Tamil Nadu who were agitated by these comments accused Khushboo of defaming Tamil womanhood and chastity and 22 criminal cases were also filed against her in different courts in Tamil Nadu. Khushboo moved the Madras High Court to quash all the cases filed against her. But the court rejected her plea and ordered the transfer of all the cases against her to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Chennai to facilitate speedy disposal. In 2008, Khushboo had appealed against the High Court order in the Supreme Court of India. Giving its verdict on her appeal, the Supreme Court dismissed all the criminal complaints registered against Khushboo stating that everybody had the right to their personal opinion and added that living together before marriage was not an offence. But the judgement clarified that while there was no problem with adults engaging in consensual sex, adultery still remained an offence.

The Times of India, the leading English news daily in the country, through an editorial piece in its edition dated May 3, 2010 had welcomed the Supreme Court judgement in the Khushboo case. However the editorial titled 'Moral Policing' said that it had some reservations against the court's clarification on adultery which continues to be an offence in India. The court based its ruling on Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code which makes it an offence for a man to have sex with a married woman. The woman too is liable to be punished as an abettor. According to the paper, it is time, that the IPC is amended and provisions such as Section 497, which are loaded with moral overtones, are scrapped. The paper argued that pre-marital sex and adultery should not be made a punishable offence as punishing such acts gives legal sanction to one's morality or ethics. Pointing out that this should not be the case in liberal democracies, the paper asserted that everybody should have the right to hold their own opinions and live their lives accordingly. The paper concluded that some sections of people may not agree with pre-marital sex or adultery, but that does not make it a crime. In essence, The Times of India is calling for the legalization of adultery in India.

The above mentioned controversial court decisions and the English media's support for such unconventional verdicts have created a lot of confusion as well as resentment among substantial sections of people in India.

The marriage is a sacred and time-tested institution which existed in our society since time immemorial. It binds a man and a woman in a life-long companionship. The family and social structure is rooted in the institution of marriage. The sanctity of this institution has been severely eroded in most of the Western countries since last few decades with many of the young and elite sections of people in those countries challenging the so-called shackles of the institutionalized set up of marriage and preferring to indulge in live-in relationship, gay sex, etc. This virus of rebellion against family values and traditions has starting affecting third world countries like India also lately with some of the elite sections of the society in cities like Mumbai and Delhi also challenging the most sacred institution of marriage and foolishly indulging in degrading western trends like live-in relationship and gay sex. In India, those who indulge in live-in relationship reject the institution of marriage and the sanctity attached to it. These misguided youngsters who are blindly aping some of the degraded trends and practices prevalent in the western society, remain under the illusion that it will make them modern and liberal.

The Supreme Court's observation that it finds nothing wrong in pre-marital sex and live-in relationships where consenting adults are involved has shocked vast sections of people in India. Such practices, though common in western countries, are in general frowned upon by the conservative Indian society. The institution of marriage is still considered as sacrosanct in India. Sex and cohabitation can only be a part of such a socially accepted legal alliance. Entering into a casual alliance of convenience without any vows and commitment and not bound by any rules and regulations can never be endorsed by the Indian society. Those who are involved in live-in relationships constitute only a miniscule section of people in India. Since it challenges the institution of marriage, the very foundation of our family and social structure, such a relationship should never be encouraged. Pre-marital sex, though not widely prevalent, is a fact of life in India also. But any encouragement to such practices can have very unhealthy and undesirable impact on the younger generation in the country. The Supreme Court ruling gives a new respectability to such relationships and could encourage more young men and women to opt for such relationships, which is quite unfortunate.

The Maharashtra government has seriously erred in writing to the Centre seeking an amendment to the Section 125 of the CrPC to expand the definition of 'wife' to include a woman involved in a live-in relationship for a reasonably long period. However the proposed amendment to Section 125 of CrPC will only create more legal complications as it will necessitate amendments to other Sections dealing with bigamy, inheritance, etc. as listed below.

- a) The proposed amendment is projected as a progressive law meant to protect the interests of women involved in live-in relationships. On the contrary, it will only harm the interests of women. For instance, if the man involved in a live-in relationship is a married man, by granting the

status of wife to his live-in partner, his legally married wife will suffer. Who will protect her interests? Moreover, a woman entering into a live-in relationship is fully aware that it can be a temporary, no-string-attached alliance and in case of a break up, she will not be entitled to any compensation. Then why to give any compensation for her?

- b) The court says that a woman involved in a live-in relationship with a man for a reasonably long period can be granted the status of 'wife'. But this 'reasonably long period' has not been defined so far.
- c) Bigamy is illegal and an offence in India. How can a woman involved in a live-in relationship can become a wife, if his partner is a married man, as it will violate the provisions of bigamy laws.

The controversial court verdicts on issues like live-in relationships, gay sex, etc. and the English media's support for such decisions as bold and timely is not surprising. There is a powerful lobby of NGO and human rights activists in the country who have been demanding such reforms in our criminal laws so as to bring them in tune with the global trends. Though this lobby does not have any mass support, its views and demands always get highlighted in the press and electronic media because of the media's, especially the English media's, unflinching support for this lobby. But what remains unknown to most people in India is that there is a sinister conspiracy, hatched by certain church agencies, behind this drive against the institution of marriage and other Hindu religious customs and practices. The Christian missionaries who are involved in conversion activities were earlier targeting mainly the Adivasis and Dalits. Having made substantial gains in the Adivasi and Dalit areas, they have now started targeting the OBCs and upper class, without any significant breakthrough. They found that apart from better financial and educational status of OBCs and upper class Hindus, the biggest hurdle against weaning them away from Hinduism was their deep faith in the family value system and religious rituals. The sanctity and pride attached by Hindus to the institution of the marriage and religious symbols like married women's "mangal sutra" and 'sindoor', etc. proved to be a great impediment against the conversion designs of the Christian missionaries. So it was necessary for them to destroy sacred institutions like marriage and Hindu religious practices like wearing 'mangal sutra' and applying 'sindoor' on the forehead, etc. and promote unholy and immoral practices like live-in relationships and perversions like gay sex and lesbianism. The present campaign for legalization of live-in relationship and gay sex by the so-called civil rights activists and English media is masterminded by certain church agencies. It is again these church agencies which are the brains behind many of the militant groups that have come up within various caste groups in the Hindu community with the sole aim of creating dissensions and anti-Hindu feelings within such groups so as to make it easy for the Christian missionaries to wean away substantial sections of people from the Hindu fold. For instance in Maharashtra, a number of new militant organizations have come

up within the Maratha community, a major component of middle class Hindus, preaching hatred against Hindus and Brahminic institutions. These organizations include Sambhaji Brigade, Maratha Seva Sangh, Jijau Brigade, Shiv Rajya Party and Shambhu Sena with Sambhaji Brigade being the most militant one. The followers of these outfits are not allowed to practice any Hindu rituals and practices or wear any Hindu symbols like 'mangal sutra' and 'sindoor'. Reportedly these organizations are promoted by some western agencies. Leaders of these organizations have openly denounced Hinduism and claimed that they all have now embraced a new religion called "Shiva Dharma" which has been established to uphold the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

In Kerala, a new militant Dalit outfit called the Dalit Human Rights Movement (DHRM) was formed in 2007 with the avowed objective of protecting the interests of Dalits and Adivasis. However its existence and activities remained unknown to the general public for two years. Then on 23d. September 2009, in a mystery murder that took place near Trivandrum, one Shiva Prasad (68), a resident of Varkala was hacked to death by three people who came on a motorbike. They had earlier attacked another person, a tea shop owner, on the same day in a similar manner. But he survived. The police investigation revealed that the three men belonged to the militant outfit DHRM and they never had any contact with the two victims and that the crime was committed only to terrorise the people and to get some publicity for their organization. On further enquiries by various agencies, it was found that during the late-night meetings conducted by this outfit in Dalit colonies, some outside leaders used to come and give lectures on Dalit empowerment and about the sufferings undergone by the Dalits for the past many centuries. They also used to tell the Dalit supporters that the Dalits were never a part of Hinduism and they should stop worshipping Hindu Gods and shun all Hindu religious rituals and symbols like 'mangal sutra', 'sindoor', etc.

The Adivasi Gothra Maha Sabha founded by C.K.Janu, a tribal leader of Waynad, in Kerala is another militant outfit promoted by the Christian missionaries to promote Christianity and militancy among the Adivasis in Kerala. C.K.Janu did not have any formal education. She learnt to read and write by attending the adult education classes run by a Christian NGO. She was groomed to become a firebrand Adivasi militant leader of Kerala by certain Christian NGOs like 'Solidarity' and People's Global Action, a Germany-based NGO. She has been fighting for the land and forest rights of Adivasis since last twenty years. Though deprived of any formal education, Janu has toured countries like the US, Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland and South Africa, which were all arranged by the NGOs 'Solidarity' and 'People's Global Action'. She had attended a UN conference on indigenous people in 1994 and had addressed an international conference on Women's Liberation in Geneva in 2001. Janu and most of her supporters have now embraced Christianity.

Pradip Prabhu, a former Catholic priest, who founded the 'Kashtakari Sanghatana' (a militant Adivasi outfit) in the tribal belt of Thane district of Maharashtra had also been telling his Adivasi followers that the Adivasis were never a part of Hinduism and they should shun all Hindu rituals, symbols and practices. All his Adivasi supporters have now become Christians, although many of them still retain their Hindu names. There are many such church-sponsored militant organizations functioning in different parts of India promoting Christianity and militancy and indulging in anti-Hindu activities.

A substantial section of the English media, including the electronic media, probably because of its links with certain shady external agencies, is found to be encouraging all anti-national activities in India. The media is also found to be supporting the de-Hinduisation drive spearheaded by the Christian missionaries in India. Some T V channels in India have started showing programmes ridiculing / criticizing certain Hindu religious beliefs and practices. This trend has reached an alarming pitch in Tamil Nadu. Sometime back one TV channel in Tamil Nadu showed a women's empowerment programme in which one of the panelists ridiculed the sanctity attached to the 'mangal sutra' of married women and described as a symbol of slavery. He said that the marriage is a sacred institution wherein both the male and female partners enjoyed equal status and pointed out that the 'mangal sutra' on the other hand degraded the woman as an inferior partner and a property owned by the husband. In this stage-managed show, some of women in the audience also agreed with the view that the 'mangal sutra' is a symbol of degradation and slavery and this practice should be done away with. At the end of the programme when the anchor asks whether any woman in the audience was bold enough to publicly defy the practice of wearing the mangal sutra, one woman in a dramatic manner jumps up and breaks her mangal sutra stating that she does not want wear such a symbol of degradation any more. It is quite surprising as to how such a programme was allowed to telecast and how it has gone without any protest.

The de-Hinduisation drive in India, masterminded by the Christian missionaries and being implemented through the so-called civil rights activists has become a major threat to not only Hinduism, but to the unity and integrity of the country. A large number of retired judges have also become an active component of this civil rights lobby. The recent controversial court judgments indicate that the activist judges have started influencing the judges in service, which is a very serious matter.

It may be noted that all the anti-national movements in the country like the Naxal / Maoist movement, Islamic militancy, ULFA, LTTE, etc. enjoy the total support of all the church-sponsored militant organizations. The above-mentioned instances clearly show how the church agencies encourage militancy in India to achieve their conversion objectives. It also shows how the church's encouragement to militancy is linked with its de-Hinduisation drive.

According to a report in the Times of India, dated June 5, 2011, a European cult that mixes yoga with sex and pornography is found operating out of Chennai since last two years. About 100 youngsters are reportedly undergoing training in yoga and 'tantric love' at a rented house in Chockalingam Nagar, Teynampet, Chennai now under the auspices of Movement for Spiritual Integration in Absolute (MISA) which wants to spread the new movement across the country. A team of seven MISA teachers from Denmark and Romania had come to Chennai to conduct a special camp titled "Tantra-The Path of Love". A majority of them, including the lead couple Mihai Stoian and Adina Stoian, have reportedly acted in many porn movies produced by a Copenhagen-based production house Sublime Erotica with which MISA has close ties. MISA has different names in different countries. It is called Tara in the US and Satya in India. MISA's supreme guru a Romanian called Gregorian Bivolaru has been jailed on several charges, including pornography, and is now taken asylum in Sweden. The yoga centre in Chennai, called Chennai Satya Esoteric Integral Yoga at Teynampet is registered under a trust represented by Indians. Anjela Ostergaard, a 35-year-old Danish woman manages the Chennai centre. The group wants to spread the message that sexuality is a divine integration of masculinity and femininity to attain spirituality.