

# Editorial

Imphal Tuesday, May 23, 2017

## The lesser truth of National media

At a time when the people of the state sees hope about the restoration of the peaceful and harmonious coexistence among the people of the state under the leadership of vibrant Chief Minister N. Biren, it is very unfortunate that some people are deliberately attempting to sabotage the good effort of the Chief Minister. This vested interested group had been even using some of the mainland National Television as well as print media to sabotage the image of N. Biren Singh and what is surprised is that the media group who had never given space to any other peoples' movement had run over 30 minutes programme just to highlight the issue which will give headache to the chief minister of Manipur who is working days and night to fix the broken ties between various communities of the state.

Before coming to the agenda, it is worth mentioning that every parents love their wards and almost most parents always stand by the side of their children no matter what he or she has been doing is right or wrong. With the exception of few, no parents would ever like their children to indulge in anti social activities. And when the loving child committed excess there are also some parents who come up to correct the wrong of their children. One such father is the present Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. It is fact that he himself had handed over his son Ajay who had allegedly killed a person in road rage in 2011.

Well, no one can be above the law. At the time when N Ajay allegedly killed one Rojer, N Biren was a cabinet minister in the Okram Ibobi Singh led Congress government. Besides being a cabinet minister having all advantage of protecting his only son, N, Biren took his son to the police station and let him surrendered to the police. May be the parents of Rojer are not satisfied with the quantum of punishment as per the law but it is a fact that N Ajay was convicted and imprisoned for the crime he had committed.

The question that Imphal Times would like to raise is that why the national media is taking so much interest in the case where the accused had already been convicted.

There were cases when Manipur was burnt and no mainland media had ever provided any rooms for such uprising. No national media was ready to expose the atrocities committed to the citizen of Manipur and no national media had ever carried any news to their respective channels when the Burmese army intruded the Manipur territories at the border and destroyed the properties of the Indian border village in Indo Myanmar border.

Fighting for justice from someone's own perspective is everybody's rights. When Irom Rojer's parents filed petition to the Supreme Court, it is their rights and no one will stand against them. But when such an issue is intentionally highlighted time and again by the National media, we as the citizen of Manipur have reason to think that someone is using the issue to sabotage the effort of Chief Minister N. Biren to reconstruct the bondage of brotherhood among the various communities of the state.

We are first citizen of Manipur and we have every right to stand for the chief minister of Manipur who is working hard to fix the broken ties of various communities in the state. For we always look forward for a united Manipur.

## Modinomics as the spring board of greater, stronger new India

By : Dr R Balashankar

In three years the Narendra Modi government has secured India's position as the spring board of world economic growth. India is growing at 7.9 per cent when the world is growing at 3.1 per cent. The stock market is booming. India is for the first time surplus in power and coal production. Energy scenario is promising. India is successfully developing alternative sources of energy at a time when oil prices are down. Inflation is low. Lending rates are coming down. Loan off take is looking up. The country is witnessing the highest ever public investment in infrastructure. And all the economic fundamentals are promising a sustained economic growth that will push India as one of the most vibrant large economies of the world.

Modi government has really retrieved the India story which had fallen into a morass of policy paralysis, crony capitalism and corruption. Shri Modi has proved that good economics is good politics. He has made development the central theme of Indian political debate. This in fact is the greatest achievement of the past three years of the present government.

It is a far cry from the politics of the past when emotional issues, caste, communal polarization and identity used to dominate national discourse. Every poll of late is being fought on development plank. Public response has forced parties to take moralistic stance and address the concerns of the aspirational India. This is how the

Prime Minister has reshaped polity. Sab ke saath sab ka vikas. Development for all with everybody being a stake holder.

For this the Modi government moved in the direction of Team India where every state became the bulwark of economic growth, competing with each other for investment promotion and creating atmosphere for ease of doing business. For this, the Centre substantially increased allocation for states on the lines of the 14 Finance Commission recommendations. In the Constitutional scheme of things, all major aspects of growth, bijali, paani, sarak, land and education are in the state or concurrent list.

The redefining of the role of planning through NITI Ayog was a step to promote state initiative for healthy growth match between states. As a result states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Bihar posted double digit growth trajectory in agriculture, pushing up the national farm growth.

Ensuring social security was another aspect of this story. For the first time since independence more number of people - 35 crore-became bank account holders. All these people automatically became eligible for life cover. More number of people got free cooking gas connection by encouraging rationalization of subsidy, making over 10 million families give up subsidy and saving as much as Rs. 55000 crore through direct cash transfer to poor families. Pradhan Mantri aas yojna and Mudra yojna has given wings to a million dreams providing shelter and job

opportunities to families who had no hope of owning a home or starting a trade.

Rural electrification has for the first time in seven decades lit up 19000 villages. While retaining and strengthening all the good and viable schemes of the previous government like MGNREGA, Aadhar and introduction of new welfare initiatives like Pradhanmantri jeevan beema and Suraksha Yojna and Swastya Mission, regulation of drug and stent prices have revolutionized rural life style. The measures have given hope and assurance to the people in the low income bracket. Demonetization was a major step towards redistribution of wealth to create a more egalitarian social order. It unearthed lakhs of crores of black money and eliminated equally huge chunk of fake currency.

What Modi government achieved in three years is a total attitudinal change in the approach to growth. The government has made phenomenal savings in public funds be it through elimination of oil subsidy, rationalization of service charges, better tax collection, ensuring windfall earning through coal blocs and spectrum bids which the previous government had claimed as zero value assets. By this the Prime Minister has not only kept his word that he will guard national treasury as a sentinel but also put an end to cronyism in public life. Prudent economic planning was at the root of the idea of a cashless society and digital transaction. Policy driven, credible, targeted and

people-centric have been the approach so far. The regime of entitlements, privileges and mai baap ka sarkar is a thing of the past. In fact the real democracy in day-to-day aspects of governance is a whiff of fresh air Shri Narendra Modi has brought into politics and governance.

India has notched up points in index of ease of doing business in these years. Few months ago in a cover story titled India Online *The Economist* said, "Every second, three more Indians are experiencing internet for the first time. By 2030 more than one billion of them will be online. ...India boasts the world's fastest growing large economy and the planet's biggest population of millennials - and you can see why the likes of Facebook, Uber and Google are falling over themselves to establish footholds..." Clearly India under NDA is a revenue multiplier, investment destination. Of late the job market too has started looking up.

Successful start-ups are making India the manufacturing hub of the world. Democracy, credible institutional frame work, grant free and transparent systems have helped India to take a leap over China on investor confidence. Shri Modi has turned a new leaf for India which inspired the 30 million plus NRIs to trust the India growth story and bring huge remittances home. In three years Shri Modi has turned despair into hope, and as World Bank noted India still is the sole silver line in a sea of darkness.

(Courtesy PIB Feature)

### National and International News

## Indonesian men caned for gay sex before jeering crowd in Aceh

Agencies

**Banda Aceh, May 23:** Two Indonesian men were caned Tuesday in front of a jeering crowd as a punishment for gay sex, in a first for the Muslim-majority country where there is mounting hostility towards the small LGBT community.

The pair, aged 20 and 23, received 83 strokes of the cane each after being found guilty of breaking sharia rules in conservative Aceh province, the only part of Indonesia that implements Islamic law.

They were led onto a stage set up outside a mosque in front of a crowd of thousands, who jeered and booed loudly.

The pair, whose identities have not been revealed, bowed their heads as they were whipped by officials who wore dark robes and masks with eye slits, and used thin rattan canes.

One of the men grimaced occasionally and the other showed little emotion.

Before the caning, Abdul Gani Isa, a member of the Acehness clerics' council, told the crowd the caning was "a lesson for the public".

"Lessons carried out with our sharia law are conducted in a very thoughtful way, are educational and do not violate human rights," he said.

Their sentences, which were carried out in the provincial capital Banda Aceh, were reduced by two strokes of the cane due to time already served in detention.

The gay men were caught together in March by vigilantes who burst into the house where they were staying.

Shaky phone footage of the raid that circulated online showed the vigilantes kicking, slapping and insulting the men, with one of them slumped naked on the ground during the attack.

The punishment, condemned by rights groups, marked the first application of anti-homosexuality laws introduced in the province in 2014.

Aceh has long had a reputation as Indonesia's most conservative region. It is the only province that criminalises same-sex relations and that uses Islamic law as its legal code in addition to the national criminal code.

Up to 1,000 people, many filming with smartphones, watched as the two men received 82 lashes each. Many others watched the punishment being meted out on a livestream video.

Some in the crowd carried banners rejecting the presence of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in Aceh.

"I hope there won't be any more such cases of homosexuality, it is shocking," said Eni Tri Retnaningsih, a 20-year-old student who said she had watched others caned before for other offences such as adultery.

**Under pressure**

At least eight other men and women were caned for other offences ahead of the punishment of the two found guilty of having gay sex.

Police separated men and women in the crowd as proceedings began, with 10 men in brown robes and hoods preparing a bundle of canes in case any broke during the flogging.

The beatings were delivered on the clothed backs of the men and women, some of whom cried out in pain with each stroke. In some cases, the caning was suspended briefly if the offender signalled they were in too much pain.

Aceh is Indonesia's most westerly province, on the northern tip of Sumatra island, where Islam first took hold in the archipelago. The province caned 339 people in 2016 for a range of crimes, according to Human Rights Watch.

Indonesia has the world's largest population of Muslims but is officially a secular country. Most Muslims practice a moderate form of the religion. Religious police in Aceh have also been known to rebuke Muslim women without headscarves or

those wearing tight clothes, and people drinking alcohol or gambling.

Aceh is the only province allowed to implement sharia Islamic law under a special agreement that was signed in 2005 to bring an end to a bloody separatist movement.

Homosexuality is not illegal under Indonesian national law, but the LGBT community has come under pressure since government officials expressed reservations last year

about activism by its members.

Police in the capital, Jakarta, detained more than 140 men in a raid on a gay club on Sunday on suspicion of violating pornography laws.

Rights groups and activists have raised concern over the persecution of minorities, moral policing and violations of privacy and expression.

A presidential spokesman declined to comment on the caning.

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Sd/-

Adish L

S/o L. Bira Singh

Langthabal Mantrikhong, Imphal West

Or contact at 8974173799 or 9856150346

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