

# Editorial

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

## Black money and the dream-merchants

Unexpected and often unwanted things keep happening here in the state of Manipur more than at any other states of the country. The impact of Demonetization killed thousands in many parts of the country while the very exercise transformed many into untouchables and made many more millionaires overnight. The Government of India under the leadership of Narendra Daodardas Modi announced demonetization all of a sudden on 8 November 2016 of all Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 banknotes of the Mahatma Gandhi Series. It also announced the issuance of new Rs. 500 and Rs. 2000 banknotes in exchange for the demonetised banknotes. The government claimed that the action would curtail the shadow economy and reduce the use of illicit and counterfeit cash to fund illegal activity and terrorism. His expressed intention was to distribute the black money recovered to the poor people of the country. What is heart-breaking is that the Prime Minister's aspiration to make every citizen of the country rich is never likely to become a reality. But demonetization brought good fortune for some exceptional people in the state. There are talks doing the round in the town that due to the demonetization some small micro finance runners who took risks became millionaires overnight and it was due to the many privileged class people who have plenty of black money contributed to the success of the micro finance bankers.

Unlike in other state, the demonetization is perhaps a blessing for the state. It raised a group of capitalist class people who provided employment opportunity to hundreds of jobless people. Even as it is against the socialist ideology, it did serve some people who are searching for job. The agenda of Right Wing ideologue is revealed even as it has always been working under the shadow of the Socialist ideology.

It is not a simple and baseless criticism when this newspaper states that a neo capitalist class has been born of demonetization but an open secret which happened in front of our eyes. The only thing is that Indian legal system is very complicated that sometimes a wrong becomes right due to loopholes to prove that it was wrong. Perhaps it may be not due to loopholes in the Indian law but lack of sincerity and commitment to prove that it was wrong among the legal practitioners or worse still, a deliberate obstruction/destruction of evidences to support proof of the crimes.

Well good things are always good. Everybody needs to encourage those who are successful in becoming employers. But what about the many hundreds of people who had uncountable amount of black money which makes things possible for some exceptional people?

So far, there hasn't been any investigation into how a person have so much money beyond his known sources of income before the demonetization and how such individuals deposited huge amounts to the micro finance business establishments instead of depositing it to the banks. Why has the government agency still not looking into this matter?

While success needs to be appreciated and encouraged, the government machineries who are authorized and entrusted to keep a check and balance on such things need to put their acts together and place their responsibilities before the perks privileges of their profession if any semblance of financial order is to be maintained in the society failing which the whole system runs the risk of falling prey and giving in to corruption, black marketeering, extortions and blackmails becoming a daily affair. Strict vigilance and swift corrective measures supported by stern legal actions will prove to be a big deterrent for anyone indulging in public money for their own greedy and selfish end.

## 12 killed on railway tracks in Mumbai on single day

Agency  
Mumbai, Nov 13

As many as 12 people were killed and five others received injuries in separate accidents on railway tracks in the city and its neighbouring areas on Monday, the Government Railway Police (GRP) said on Tuesday. A railway official said the casualties were due to people being run over by moving train while crossing tracks, falling from overcrowded local trains, slipping in the gap between train and platform, and also committing suicide. Three people each were killed on railway tracks in the neighbouring

Thane district and its Kalyan town on Monday, while two persons died in Mumbai's Wadala area, the GRP said in its report of deaths and injuries compiled daily. Besides, one person each died on tracks in Kurla, Mumbai Central and Bandra areas of the megacity, and Dombivli town of Thane, it said, adding that all the deceased were men.

Although suburban railway is considered as the lifeline of Mumbai, it is increasingly becoming a 'death trap' for commuters as 3,014 people lost their lives in accidents on rail tracks in the city in 2017, the GRP had said in reply to an RTI query earlier this year.

## Chhattisgarh elections: First phase sees 70% voter turnout amid sporadic Maoist violence

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov. 13

Defying threats by Maoists, 70 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote on Monday in 18 constituencies in the first phase of Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh amid violence and allegations of EVM rigging. The turnout was just a shade lower than the first phase in 2013 when 75.53 per cent of voters turned out to exercise their franchise.

Appreciating the enthusiasm of the voters, Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat said attempt were made to instill a sense of fear among people. "Polling was peaceful. In comparison to earlier elections, this elections have been singular achievement of the people working in the fields. Attempts were made to create fear among people but enthusiasm in voters was appreciable," ANI quoted Rawat as saying.

The highest voter turnout was recorded in Khujji at 65.5 per cent till 4.30 pm. The Maoist hotbed of Bastar, which saw just 40 per cent voter turnout in 2013, witnessed a healthy participation this time, with 58 per cent of the electorate coming out to vote. Dantewada recorded 58

per cent turnout, while other regions in the Naxal belt like Kondagaon, Keshkal, Kanker, Khairagarh and Dongargarh saw 61.47, 63.51, 62, 60.5, 64 per cent voter participation respectively.

Minutes before polling began, an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated in Dantewada district by Naxals, who had called for a boycott of the polls. Security personnel also recovered IEDs near a polling station in Bijapur and in Sukma district.

Moreover, five personnel of Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) were injured and five Naxals were killed in two separate encounters at Bijapur district's Pamed area. The first encounter took place when a group of Maoists opened fire at a patrolling team of the CoBRA's 204th battalion, injuring two jawans. The Maoists fled upon retaliation.

When the same patrolling team was cordoning off a forest patch near Majiguda village, Maoists again opened fire at them, injuring assistant commandant Amit Deswal, head constable Sunil and constable Chaitanya.

In the run-up to the elections, the state has registered an increase in

the number of Maoist attacks. The rebels have mounted three attacks in the past two weeks, leading to the deaths of eight security personnel and five civilians. On October 30, a Doordarshan cameraman was killed in a Maoist attack in Neelavaya in Dantewada. A thick security blanket, comprising over 1.25 lakh police and paramilitary personnel, was thrown across the 18 constituencies, which fall in the Naxal belt. Out of the 18 seats, 12 of them fall in the Maoist-infested Bastar region. The Congress had won 12 of the 18 seats in the 2013 elections and faces a tough task in retaining them with the emergence of a new front — the Ajit Jogi-Mayawati alliance — that may eat up a percentage of their vote share.

Meanwhile, the Congress alleged rampant EVM rigging in the Bastar area even as the Election Commission rejected the charges. "BJP has completely lost the plot in Chhattisgarh and its desperation and desolation are more than evident with reports of rigging of EVMs pouring in from Bastar," IANS quoted Congress Legislative Party leader TS Singh Deo as saying.

A poll officer said as many as 31 EVMs and 51 VVPAT machines were replaced due to technical snags. Another 72 constituencies are set to vote on 19 November to conclude the Chhattisgarh elections.

The prominent faces in the first phase included Chief Minister Raman Singh, who was pitted against Congress' Karuna Shukla in his home turf Rajnandgaon. Shukla, a niece of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee switched to Congress from the BJP in 2014. In the first phase of the elections polls, about 190 candidates were in the fray.

Amid the polling for the first phase, Prime Minister Narendra Modi kickstarted the campaign for the second phase by addressing an election rally in Bilaspur. Attacking the Congress for its dynastic politics, Modi said that the grand old party's "politics begins and ends with one family". Singling out the Gandhis, Modi said the "mother-son duo were out on bail" and hit out at them for questioning the government's demonetisation move. The PM was referring to the National Herald case, where both Sonia and Rahul have been named as accused and are out on bail.

## Cyclone Gaja: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry on red alert; thousands of rescue personnel on standby

Agency  
Chennai, Nov. 13

On November 15, the cyclonic storm Gaja will make its landfall across the Tamil Nadu coast between Cuddalore and Pamban. Heavy rainfall and wind will also be unleashed on the state along with the cyclone and as many as 30,500 rescue personnel have been kept on standby, as per the Met office.

While the state government machinery has been put on alert, neighbouring Puducherry is also on high alert and precautionary steps have been taken in the union territory. By Tuesday, the cyclone is very likely to move west southwestwards from 720 km east-

northeast of Chennai over the Bay and intensify further into a severe cyclonic storm, the IMD said.

On November 14, there will be rainfall at most places in Tamil Nadu and extremely heavy (over 20 cm) rainfall over isolated places on the next day. The IMD has asked for a total suspension of fishing from the fishermen into central parts of south and central Bay of Bengal 12th and 13th and into southwest and adjoining west central Bay of Bengal during 13th and 15th November since the condition will be rough to very rough. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall is expected in the south coastal region of Andhra Pradesh in the next four days and Kerala will also receive rainfall on November 15

and 16.

TN CM K Palaniswami called a high-level meeting at the Secretariat of Ministers and top officials and reviewed preparedness in the state as the forecast predicts a severe storm. Further, Revenue Minister R B Udaya Kumar confirmed that over 30,000 rescue personnel have been kept on standby and arrangements have been made for food and shelter at relief centres.

While teams of National and State Disaster Response Forces are ready for deployment, a total of 4,399 locations in low lying areas have been identified as vulnerable. Along with Cuddalore, Nagapattinam the several other coastal and vulnerable districts have been advised to stay

on high alert, Kumar said.

The wind speed is expected to touch 110 kmph while in Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal district of Puducherry, the storm surge of a height of 1.0 meter is very likely.

"Roofltops may blow off...damage to power and communication lines," the IMD alert said. They also cautioned against water intrusion in low lying areas and damage to standing crops.

The Central Water Commission has also issued an advisory to Tamil Nadu and Kerala authorities to keep watch on various dams in the cyclone coverage which are already 80 percent to 91 percent full.

## Leaders, public pay homage to Ananth Kumar

Agency  
Bengaluru, Nov 13

A stream of leaders and supporters Tuesday paid their last respects to Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister and senior BJP leader Ananth Kumar, who passed away on Monday.

The body was taken from his Basavanagudi residence, where it was kept since Monday morning to Jagannath Bhavan, the BJP state headquarters at Malleshwaram, in a decorated military vehicle with personnel of the three services- the Army, Navy and Air Force- accompanying it.

The procession began, with supporters chanting slogans "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", "Ananth Kumar Amar Rahe".

State BJP President B S Yeddyurappa and party's General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Muralidhar Rao were present at the state BJP office, where a pall of gloom has descended.

Several BJP leaders including Union Minister Sadananda Gowda, R Ashoka, K S Eshwarappa, Anurag Thakur, Pralhad Joshi, and hundreds of party workers paid their last respects to the departed leader at the party office, where the body will be kept for about an hour.

Kumar's mortal remains will then be shifted to the National College Ground, which falls in his

constituency, for the public to pay homage, before the funeral at Chamarajpet crematorium in the afternoon.

The central government has announced a state funeral for Kumar. According to sources close to the family, Kumar's brother Nanda Kumar will perform the last rites according to Brahmin traditions. The 59-year-old Bangalore South MP breathed his last around 2 am on Monday at the Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre where he was under care after returning home in October following treatment in the US and Britain.

Besides Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu and BJP President Amit Shah, Union Ministers, including Rajnath Singh, Piyush Goyal, Harsh Vardhan, Radha Mohan Singh, Ramdas Atavale, Mahesh Sharma, Ashwini Kumar Choubhe and Ramkripal Yadav would pay homage on Tuesday, party sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew in here from Varanasi and drove straight to the residence of Kumar at Basavanagudi and paid homage to his colleague by placing a wreath on his mortal remains, on Monday night.

Modi consoled Kumar's wife Tejaswini and his two daughters during his 15-minute visit.

BJP leaders and those from various political parties, relatives, family

friends, party workers and people made a beeline at Kumar's residence to pay homage to the "most-loved" Bengaluru MP, known for his affability and cordial ties with rivals. The Karnataka government had declared a three-day state mourning.

Foraying into politics in 1987, Kumar became an Union minister in the Vajpayee cabinet in 1998 when he was only 38.

He remained in the inner circle of the central leadership of the BJP — be it during the heyday of Atal Bihari Vajpayee or Narendra Modi now.

He served as an important link

between the central and state units of the party.

Teaming up with Yeddyurappa, Kumar was among the few party leaders who could be credited for the growth of the BJP in Karnataka, bringing it to power in 2008 and making it the first saffron party government in the South.

Kumar made his parliamentary debut in 1996 from Bangalore South, where he remained unconquered till his death.

He had defeated software icon Congress's Nandan Nilekani in the highly politically conscious constituency in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

## Smoggy morning in Delhi, light showers recorded: MeT

Agency  
New Delhi, Nov 13

Delhiites woke up to a smoggy morning on Tuesday with light rainfall in parts of the city, MeT department said.

The minimum temperature in Delhi-NCR settled at 14 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature is expected to reach 30 degrees Celsius.

The MeT Department has predicted

a cloudy sky with light rains across the city through the day.

Light rainfall was recorded in central and eastern parts of the national capital even as smog engulfed it, a MeT department official said.

The relative humidity was recorded at 86 per cent, he said.

On Monday, the maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded at 30.2 and 14.2 degrees Celsius respectively.

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