

# Editorial

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## Responsibility matters

In an effort to keep up with the increasing pace of development and advancement in every sphere, our lives are being forced to conform and keep pace with these progressions. The comings of various electronic gazettes which enable us to communicate with any person, at any moment, at any place make this world a village. Issues vary and lifestyle differs. The perception of the once upon a time generation which felt that only those who blessed with opportunity could live a King size lifestyle has changed in today's world. Every people around the world now knew that there are Americans or British or the Chinese who don't like the superiority thinking perception of their older generation. As we see the changing trend we the people across the globe today sees youths which coming up as human, no matter how poor he or she was brought up.

A 22 years old youth Birkarnelzelzit Thiyam, born and brought up by a parents who live on hand to mouth now become one of the best Motivational orator. Young Manipuri at the age of 25 now established a company that give jobs to over 500 youths of the state. There is reason to believe that amidst the storm from the northern block Manipur cannot be stop from marching ahead toward development as long as Young entrepreneur like Sanasam Jacky, the Chairman of Lamjingba Group exist. A youth of today's Manipur now successfully started expanded his business across the globe by opening office at world most expensive city like Singapore and Dubai. Manipur today is changing so should the perception of guiding to understand their responsibility is the need of the hour than restricting them or giving punishment.

An inevitable change is taking place- what is now being accepted as the "quick-fix" mantra or instant gratification- instant food, instant drink, instant relationships and instant solutions.

Such changes, borne out of necessity rather than a fad, bring with it various radical changes that cater to the needs and conveniences, most remarkable being the spawning of a whole new sector of packaged foods and drinks that can be used in an instant.

The seemingly like preconceived mode to bringing up their children in Manipur society should be changed. As a restriction might misguide your children no matter what you are doing is for the good the motive will give frustration, anger and hate all his or her live. But if the dealing with your children is with love and understanding or by making him or her understand how things should be than the bondage of love and respect will grow.

Its family that is important, but the more important is the society or politically a state or nation. The rulers who ruled are more like father or mother. The people are the children and forcing the people to do things that you people want will be a disaster. What is happening in the state of Manipur is like having a strict parent who punishes their children every time over failure to follow what the parents think were right.

The unanimous condemnations and protests, while understandable and desirable, could also spell a premature demise of a nascent industrial movement in the State. We should spare a moment to delve deeper into the actual trials and tribulations that a few of our pioneering people from the State are facing to bring about a revolution of sorts by fighting against almost insurmountable odds to turn their dreams into reality.

Taking the untrodden path has always been fraught with dangers and uncertainties, especially in a State like ours where only negativity and pessimism thrives, not to mention the teeming parasites lurking in the shadows, waiting for any vulnerabilities and weaknesses of fellow beings to take advantage of. The Government should take proactive steps and help out these struggling start-ups to flourish and show the way to an industrialized society instead of taking a negative and punitive stand. It would be stating the obvious to mention the fact that the laws, measures, plans and steps of the Government at present is not conducive for the growth of industry- from investment and financing problems to the utter absence of support and encouragement which is vital for a sustainable and viable industrial atmosphere.

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# Tourism and its new insights (GEOTOURISM) relevance step in Manipur

By Herojit Nongmaithem Sr. Geologist GSI, Imphal Office

Tourism being a global industry with its costumers on the exponential increase since 2010, each country has targeted this sector for gaining economic mileage. In the context India with its varied physiography, cultural heritage, historical and ancient monuments has been emerging as international tourist hotspot. The national government has also focused on the sector since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the formulation of National Tourism Policy (NTP) in 2002. Manipur too followed the national path and tourism can now be viewed as an industrial investment sector. However the enigma still hovers in bringing the tourism sector of the state to global arena and henceforth new perspective needs to be sort out. In the context the whole spectrum of Niche tourism (Agriourism, Birth tourism, Culinary tourism, Cultural tourism, Dark tourism, Eco tourism, Extreme tourism, Geotourism, Heritage tourism, Medical tourism, Movie tourism, Nautical tourism, Pop-culture tourism, Religious tourism, Slum tourism, Sports tourism, Textile tourism, Virtual tourism, War tourism, Wellness tourism, Wildlife tourism) though is not suitable in our societal and cultural set up, few of them will be need of the hour.

Amongst these GEOTOURISM can be brought to public domain for assessing the economic potential. Geotourism is one of the newest concepts within the field

of tourism, and primarily focuses on promoting geological and geomorphological features in landscapes as tourist attractions. This new niche market segment within tourism is based on the conservation of geoheritage and geodiversity through appropriate sustainability measures and management. It begins with an understanding of the abiotic (non-living) environment, to build greater awareness of the biotic (living) environment of plants and animals as well as the Cultural environment of people, past and present. It is argued that geotourism offers a new form of sustainable tourism which is more holistic than previous niche forms of tourism.

Since the reincarnation of Manipur Tourism Festival as the Sangai Festival in 2010, if enquired about tourism to all, the Manipuri Diaspora and general people limit their perception to *Sangai Festival, Sendra-Loktak Lake, KLN, Moreh, Pineapple Festival, INA, Dzuko Valley, Kangla Fort, etc....* etc. The so called system of tourism in Sangai Festival in our state attracts mostly the local enthusiasts that too almost entirely the youths who are dependent to their parents. It's evident from the fact that the influx of outside tourists (both national and international) during the Sangai Festivals is very meagre. It's contradictory to the NTP:2002 and Manipur Tourism Policy (MTP), 2014 and the big enigma of harnessing economy from tourism still looms doom. Here lies to cater few changes in the mindset of policy makers, stake holders that should proportionately raised the influx of outside tourist in

Manipur.

One basic principle of the NTP: 2002 focuses on the emergence of a new young class of tourists; loving for adventure, distant destination in hills, caves and forests. These tourists don't need 5 star accommodation, luxurious transport but only simple, neat and clean place to stay and down to earth hosts and guides. This can be fulfilled with **Guest Tourism**. Such youths are now looking towards the north-eastern states. To cite the best examples, trek to Dzuko Valley, Shirui Hills are more fascinating than those of Kangla, Loktak Lake and the tourists even consider a lifetime achievement for these treks. The income to expenditure ratio in such sites are very high as **only a good guide, comfortable and cosy guest houses—even guest huts** will suffice. In the present scenario, people prefer to stay in tents. Singcha, Khayang, Phangrei, Kwatha, Phungyar, Tharon, Narum, Chatrik, Kwatha other than the known Dzuko valley and Shirui peak are potential guest tourism destinations in the border region of Manipur. Even then Guest Tourism might attract a few people only. However if we elevate these places to GEOTOURISM spots, a new dimensional scope of treasure hunt/ natural resource assessment will come up. Linking these places with geology, the state has been endowed with very rare geological phenomena viz. occurrences of OPHIOLITES, PLATE TECTONIC boundary, etc. The state govt. and concern department can put proposal for scientific study in such areas of geologically significant features. The 36<sup>th</sup>

International Geological Congress will be hosted by India in 2020 and the global community of geoscientists are on the discovery mode. It is right time to highlight these spots as GEOTOURISM spots which is synchronous with foreign funding for natural mineral resource assessment of the state as well. A testament to the rapid growth of geotourism worldwide is the expansion of membership of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, from 20 Geoparks when it was founded in 2004 to 147 till April, 2019. Concurrent with the growth of geotourism, there has been an explosion in the number of scientific publications on issues related to the subject over the past few years. To date, the major focus of these publications has been on geotourism as an economic driver with respect to rural development. Geotourism is, however, a broad concept which encompasses many aspects of a range of tourism activities, such as transport, accommodation, destination amenities, recreation, planning, and management. Considering the inability of the state to build up world class infrastructure in tourism sector, the grooming of the agile scientific human resource would be multi-faceted approach once the GEOTOURISM is on the upfront. **One may look for tourism as income generation in the present context, who knows it may be a game changer turning Manipur into global natural resource market for gold, precious stones, Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and base metals, Chromium, Nickel and Platinum in the decades to come. Hence let's not hesitate to promote GEOTOURISM in Manipur.**

# Chidambaram Arrest: Infatuation with Roughness is Turning India into a Banana Republic

Courtesy The Wire By : Harish Khare

It was not all that long ago when four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court had held a famous press event in New Delhi because they felt strongly that they needed to express their sense of anguish over the judiciary's failure or unwillingness to provide a corrective to an overweening political executive.

What those four judges were asserting was an ancient principle of jurisprudence: a judge need not bend herself to the political expediency of the day. An independent judiciary's foremost responsibility is to clamp down on any outbreak of political, corporate, executive or even judicial waywardness.

That responsibility needs to be underlined in the context of the P. Chidambaram case. Medieval vendettas are being dressed up as pursuit of absolute virtues. A vindictive political executive may feel it is entitled to its roughness, but a combination of action and inaction in the Delhi high court and then the Supreme Court last Tuesday has ended up diminishing us all.

The scene of CBI officials choosing to scale the gate of a former home and finance minister of India's residence should be a reminder that, inch by inch, we are being pushed into a front-rank banana republic.

What is disquieting is that outside the court, the Chief Justice of India has been most eloquent, warning the nation of 'dark forces' lurking around the corner; but, this appreciation of dangers somehow does not seem to get reflected in the apex court's judicial exertions. The democratic forces often find themselves baffled and mystified

by the judiciary's unwillingness to live up to its primary constitutional obligation to speed-break a rogue executive.

There is a dangerous lop-sidedness in the distribution of power in our polity. This lop-sidedness has produced its own ecosystem; the drum-beaters with their new songs in praise of the rulers, new apologists with their specious arguments in defence of legal trickery and constitutional roughness.

On the other hand, the principal opposition party is mired in its internal feudalism; and, consequently it is not able to become the fulcrum for democratic resistance and dissent. The ruling party, dominant and domineering, holds all the aces in its hand.

**'Decisive' leadership** Admittedly, the judiciary is not responsible for this extreme imbalance. But the judiciary does need to be wary of the new tautology at work. The self-justifying argument is simple as it is brazen: because we live in the age of strong and decisive leaders, a strong leader and his preferred understanding of the "will of the people" should be acknowledged and respected.

The sub-text of this tautology is that all other institutions and voices in the country should fall in line with the 'strong leader' and his whims. Whatever the 'decisive' leader decides is ipso facto deemed to be not just legal but also overflowing with wisdom and statesmanship. Some kind of infallibility is being claimed for the leader. And even if democracy produces palpably "non-democratic dividends," so be it. Strong and mature democracies do not change their basic constitutional values and republican virtues with a change

of government. Democratic institutions ensure a basic commitment to the practices and protocol of reasonableness and check abuse of procedures. The greatest accomplishment of the Nehruvian era was that we collectively avoided the temptation of a rogue state.

The Chidambaram case is unsettling because it seems our newly empowered rulers are getting tired of Nehruvian restraint and temperance.

Whatever message the "decisive" leader may have wanted to send to the domestic audience, the ugliness that attended Chidambaram's molestation would not go unnoticed, at home and abroad. The CBI court was constrained on Thursdays to direct the agency's officials to ensure that Chidambaram's "personal dignity is not violated in any manner".

We are already reaping the harvest of "decisive" leadership in the management of the economy. Populist demagoguery may sway millions – as it did in the monumental disaster called demonetisation; it cannot promise economic rationality. The decisive leadership overload has already alienated the entrepreneurial class and the business community.

In the run up to the Lok Sabha elections, Delhi was agog with stories of a shakedown of corporate houses. It is too much to expect those who got extorted to suddenly start trusting and respecting the government just because it can commandeer a 300-plus tally in the Lok Sabha. The businessman has no reason to be impressed with the ruling party's moral posturing, either. He has refused to be intimidated. And, suddenly there is panic, notwithstanding the availability of

that ubiquitous decisive leader. Even the *hosanna* singers at the Niti Aayog are publicly acknowledging the trust deficit. Obviously the words of appeasement from the Red Fort were not enough for the industry.

A leading corporate voice, Anil Agarwal of the Vedanta Group, kicked the can down to the Prime Minister's door. He was reported, in the *Economic Times*, to have observed: "I think every day people are waiting. Like people wait for rain. In Bihar, we used to keep looking at the sky, our neck would start aching. But we were absolutely sure that it would rain. Similarly, the whole country is waiting for the prime minister to do something. And everybody is hopeful that he is going to do something to help trade and industry."

What a delightful exercise in massaging the great leader's ego while delivering a kind of ultimatum. And, lo and behold, on Friday evening, the government got off its moral high horse. The finance minister found herself constrained to roll back the proposed criminalisation of CSR violations, besides announcing a set of new measures, all designed to placate a deeply alienated business community. A plain and simple surrender to economic common sense and policy reasonableness.

There is one simple message in all this: rulers need to be rescued from their own follies, even if we are told that this is the age of strong and decisive leaders. That is why democracies have sturdy institutional arrangements, including a free and independent judiciary, to ensure fair play and level playing field. It's time to remind ourselves that we are still a constitutional republic and not a one-man show