

# Editorial

Thursday, September 12, 2019

## Empowering citizens: There should be a toll free grievance cell

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh appealed to the people of Manipur to act like the public of Bihar state where they fine a policeman for not wearing helmet while riding his motor bike as a clear indication of realizing the need for empowering of citizens to make sure that laws are being respected by all irrespective of their position. Yes, the recently passed Motor Vehicle Act, 2018 which has been declared to enforce across the country may have received some criticism, but the idea of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to make all citizen participate in making the law - a success is perhaps an important turning point of his government. Not only the newly enacted Motor Vehicle Act but also all laws of the country need to be properly implemented and for that empowering the citizens and making them a part to the enforcement of any legislation is the need of the hour. The quantum of awareness level among the public about the various laws of the state is the only key to run good governance. Motive of the Chief Minister needs to be applauded but what is more important is to design a modus operandi of how to make sure that those public who participate in the making of the law implied to all citizens including law enforcers are also protected. This is being stated as people fear not the law but the enforcers who can play the law. So when it is the law enforcers that the public fear how could one think of punishing a law enforcer that violated the law.

This write up is not criticism to what Chief Minister had announced yesterday, but an attempt to draw his attention of working out a plan if he is committed to what he had stated. Since N. Biren Singh became the Chief Minister of Manipur he had announced so many good things for the welfare and for eradication of poverty and to wipe out corruption. He had introduced the CMHT to make sure that all poor received equal treatment with those of rich people at hospitals. He had announced housing loan for those who cannot bear to build a house of their own. One of the most appreciated works that the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had initiated was the opening of the "Anti Corruption Cell". Yesterday's announcement for citizen's participation to make sure that the Motor Vehicle Act 2019 is properly implemented is also a laudable effort. But then people are skeptical as such announcement turns out to get applause only. This is being speculated as almost most initiative taken up by the Chief Minister turns out to be just an initiative or announcement to make the people happy which was never turn into action effectively.

Well, with the emergence of the dissident BJP MLAs including some who are holding important portfolio in the Biren Singh led government, people now understand - why the good initiative of the government taken up under the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh fails to work many a time. The answer is simple - No Ministers or BJP MLAs who are supposed to support the good work never cooperate him. Imphal Times did not speculate it, but the rebellion by BJP MLAs and some Ministers to replace him in mid-term is a clear circumstantial evidence.

Even today some BJP MLAs are working whole heartedly to pull down N. Biren Singh from the post of Chief Minister and this also indicated that the good work of Chief Minister may be sabotaged by his team just to defame him.

The citizen of the state knows but in politics only the powerless become the victim and people will never wanted them to become victim.

Point wanted to bring here is the if the Chief Minister is committed to make sure that people are empowered to protect the law then there should be a grievance cell directly supervise be the chief minister himself and that the identity of the complainant against the VIPs, WVIPs and the law enforcers for kept secret.

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Albert Einstein

This world of ours which is a result of Billions of years of evolutionary process is burning with violence. Human beings have gone insane with their meaningless thirst for power and a desire to rule. History of mankind is a history of growth, progress, development, scientific inventions and also the record of war mongers, thirst of blood and mindless wars that witnessed people dying for nothing. Man has been around in 'present form' for around at least 20,000 years on Earth. Generations of Man have gone through series of experiments and experiences but they learn nothing out of it. Man has successfully changed material surroundings but the basic nature of mankind remained unchanged. Before the dawn of Human Civilization, Earth was ruled by the great Dinosaurs, due to stroke of fate they disappeared from the face of planet, however, they left us an evaluable 'inheritance' and that is this beautiful planet 'Earth' - full of Mother Nature's blessings, natural wealth and abundant potential to nourish delicate species like 'MAN'. What inheritance will be left by us for the 'new world' that would arrive when the last man would successfully take his last breath in the last coffin he placed in the last grave he dug out for himself?

What differentiates Mankind from the other species of animals? Man has been bestowed upon ability to 'reason' and a blessing of 'consciousness of higher level'; with such godly gifts Man was given an authority to be a fatherly figure of Earth. Man was given the custody of Earth and every animal on it. The creator must have thought that he created the best species on Earth-an epitome of his experiments. But what now has become of Man who supposed to be the father, king, Caretaker, Guardian of the Earth? Protector now has become Destroyer. There is no species on Earth that glorifies Wars and Killings; except mankind. There is no species on Earth which indulges in Rape, Murders, Lies, Manipulations, Cheating, Theft; except mankind. Ours is an only species which set itself on an agenda of rampant destruction of planet Earth. We are the ones who derive pleasure in ruling the weak and helpless. We are the ones who spend life in activities which has no constructive contribution to the protection of ecosystem of which we are part of. We are the ones who, in an insane desire to rule the planet contaminated Sky, Land and Water.

## The fall of 'Man'

*A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.*

We are the ones who teach about human evolution in school, and we are the ones who has become great barrier in it. We are the ones who dream 'progress' and 'development' with ever-readiness to pay the cost of the destruction of our own 'home' which we have not constructed but was gifted to us by the almighty. Human Race has become like a curse for this beautiful 'insignificant' Blue Dot located somewhere in the vast expanse of timeless Universe. The activities of human race can be compared with that of a 'prodigal son' who is eldest in the family that go on destroying what was created by his parents and elders due to his mindless, reckless behaviour. As an immediate outcome of the globalization; world has become like a village, however, humanity did not become like one family. In the name of international diplomacy, strategic interests, political inevitability, security concerns, terrorism, atomic threats; artificial boundaries were drawn which further ghettoised the Man. In the name of Peace the events of nonsensical actions and mindless show off of Arms are happening. Organizations like UNO remained an 'imagination' of mankind. International organizations are failing to bridge the gaps between 'hearts, minds and souls'. World population is dying of hunger, malnutrition, wars and laboratory invented viruses as well as bacterias. Man is getting busier in discovering new ways to keep the world insecure to secure individual petty interests which are meaningless, useless and absolutely insignificant before the timeless existence of this universe.

Manmade institutions-political, social, cultural, economic so on and so forth proved to be utter failure. Concepts like Caste, Race, Tribe, Clan, State, Nation created unnecessary 'binaries' in the world. The moment child is born he is introduced to the 'group' he or she is supposed to remain part of till his or her last breath and anything, everything, anyone, everyone outside the group is an 'outsider'-a first teaching from family. The first lesson that we teach to our child is a LESSON OF DISCRIMINATION which plant an idea of 'us' and 'them' in his delicate and pure mind. Achid who grows up with the notion of 'us' and 'them' can never be able to love the humanity unconditionally, cannot feel the pain of others, cannot think of others as own hence can never be able to be a

part of universal consciousness. Our invention of social, political, cultural tags and labels actually killed the natural relationship that man is supposed to have with the other. Political barriers should not deprive humanity from becoming one. The notion of Peace should never depend on its 'political correctness'. People kill and die in the name of nation & religion, missiles and rockets have clouded the sky, sound of the bullet overpowered the music of birds, the fragrance of flowers disappeared in the smell of gun powder. Poverty and helplessness killing the spirit of struggle in people. Spiritual darkness has spread everywhere. Man has been busy in digging the grave for humanity. This is factual reality of this world. In 21<sup>st</sup> century human civilization has not only lost its civic but human nature as well.

Darkness always carries an inherent possibility of 'light'. In this world which is full of pain and suffering, there must still be handful of people who are trying to bring this broken jigsaw puzzle of humanity into a correct order. Such people have always made their presence felt throughout the history. People who are devotees of peace and truth are the necessary counterforce to the world of ignorance. Those people have become instrumental in taking humanity ahead on the path of its destination. We need those people. This world need more healers, peacekeepers, thinkers, philosophers, wise engineers, free-minded doctors, wise-compassionate rulers and enlightened mass. How far can we afford to live a life of a lie? How long can we live a life of selfishness? When are we going to understand our individual as well as collective responsibility to the planet and this universe?

Let us first understand what it means to be a human being. People are living and dying for their selfish interests, imaginary ideals, ideas and perspectives, but nobody think of living and dying for others like Jesus Christ who lived and laid down his life for humanity with a heart full of compassion and love. If we want to change this dark face of the world, let us start from home. Let us not teach the notions of 'us' and 'them' to our children. The lessons on universal love, peace and understanding must be imparted in schools, colleges and universities. Children must be taught about their responsibilities to the

humanity and planet at large. We must see that the coming generations are inspired by the colours of flowers than the Barrel of the Gun.

After the grand victory at Kalinga War, Emperor Asoka went into severe depression and shock of his life when he witnessed the mindless killings, rivers of blood and suffering. His experience at War made him realize the futility of violence. Asoka also understood that the real victory lies in winning over our 'wild, brutal nature' our 'inner-self' our 'satanic-self' than winning the empires and states with the might of Sword. After Great War, Asoka embraced Buddhism. Kalinga incident helped Asoka discovered the 'kingdom of God' that resides within, which further guided him throughout his life and he never ever use Sword or fight any other battle till his death. However, history teaches us, without Sword, Asoka still managed to expand his empire, but this time it is Love and Compassion that helped him won the people not the Military or Sword.

The time has come to recognize our human nature by diluting all the social, political, cultural, geographic barriers that separate us from each other. Let us embrace this planet in our arms. The words like Friend and Enemy is a result of an encyclopedia of socio-political binaries that has been dividing mankind since ages. The unjust rulers, war mongers, powerful people one day will realize just like Emperor Asoka, their victories too are as futile and as meaningless as their own ignorant life. Let us remind ourselves that the God is Love. Whoever lives in Love lives in God and God in them. Let us not be judgmental. Let us Love those who are thrown deeper in the pit for whom the bottom looks like up. Let us go beyond the ideas of 'us' and 'them', 'friend' and 'enemy'. Let us respect, love, care and cry for each other as human beings- let this be the story of mankind.

At the end, WE all are captives of a civilizational system that more or less compels us to go on destroying the 'EACH OTHER' in order to live. We are captive-and we have made a captive of the world itself however, many of us those who are willing to free themselves of captivity are unable to do so because they cannot see the bars of the cages, as they are blinded by the conflict of their ego-intelligence-values-desires-beliefs-worldviews and imaginations. That's what's at stake.

## 'New India' Will Soon Need Its Own Gulags

Courtesy The Wire  
By -Harish Khare

The honourable home minister of India must be applauded for stating so loudly and so boldly that not a single "ghuspathia" will be allowed to remain in the country. It needs to be noted that this proclamation, made on Monday at a conclave of Northeastern states, is very much a consistent part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's sales pitch; as the BJP president, Amit Shah had been holding out the same threat all through the last Lok Sabha elections, in and out of Assam. Nor is the BJP unapologetic about spelling out the political subtext of this "ghuspathia" threat: it is aimed and directed against Muslims. In the wake of the predictable confusion and concern after the publication of the National Register of Citizens, Assam's finance minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, reportedly argued that "a Hindu cannot be a foreigner in India". The BJP has been protesting the exclusion of a number of Bengali Hindus, Buddhists, Koch Rajbongshi, Chakmas and Hajong

from the NRC; and, horror of all horrors, very many "suspected Muslim Bangladeshis" are included in the Supreme Court-monitored exercise of verification. For the next few years, the BJP will use the NRC, and its unavoidable imperfections and errors, to keep alive animosities, anxieties and suspicions over the existential categories of the insider and the outsider; those well-meaning, moderate but naive voices who thought that the BJP would be content to use the NRC to apply a closure on Assam's festering sores find themselves rudely jostled. They have plainly underestimated the BJP's calculus. The idea is simple: do not let things settle down. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) is already threatening to launch an agitation if its demand for 100% re-verification is not conceded to. It argues that Assam will become an "Islamic state" if these "errors" stand un-rectified. Beyond the Northeast turmoil and tension, there is a larger, pan-India design at work, and it can be easily

configured:  
1. Keep positioning the BJP as the only political party committed and capable of preserving and protecting the Hindus against the "enemies," at home and abroad;  
2. Politics, policies and programmes have to be designed so as to keep the majority community perpetually on edge, making it feel insecure and vulnerable, dangling before it the threat of the barbarians at the gate, about to overwhelm the country; after all, the Hindi word "ghuspathia" is preferred because it carries with it that definite notion of hostile intent, and conveys a much more direct and graver threat than does the somewhat innocuous "illegal immigrant"; and  
3. For the time being, the Muslim has to be assigned the role of the "enemy." This is a role that can be easily and seamlessly segued into the national security mantras, given the very existence of two self-proclaimed Islamic countries, Pakistan and Bangladesh, on our borders. This anti-Muslim subtext is not new and has been part of the Jana Sangh/

BJP's political DNA; but it now stands underlined in bold letters because we have a regime that is not afraid to cast aside old notions of Nehruvian political correctness or liberal sensibilities. We are reminded almost every other day that we have a "new India" that no longer sees itself beholden to older maxims of statecraft, which emphasised moderation, accommodation and inclusion. There is a new resolve, a new clarity and a new leadership, itching to experiment with hard power, not only abroad but also at home. Given this remarkable clear-headed thinking among the ruling politicians, it is somewhat incongruous that the Central bureaucracy has found itself at a loss on what to do with the identified "ghuspathia". The embedded media has reported that the home ministry has no plans to deport those who stand branded as "foreigners" as per the NRC. Nor is there any agreement that Bangladesh will be inclined to take back all these non-NRC "foreigners". This confusion is inexcusable. (Contd. on page 4)