

'Verdict politically motivated'

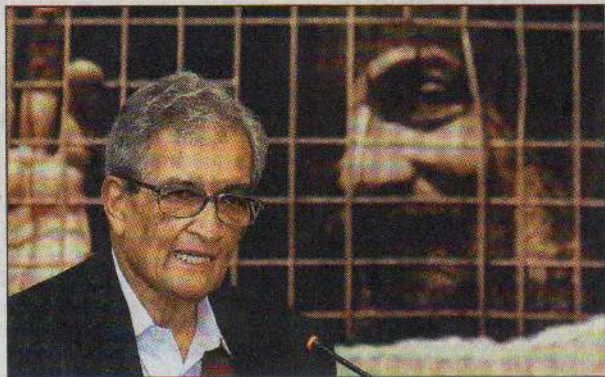
Binayak Sentenced For Crime He Never Committed: Amartya

Srijana Mitra Das | TNN

New Delhi: Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on Saturday said the verdict of a Chhattisgarh court sentencing doctor-activist Binayak Sen to life on sedition charges smacked of "political motivation" and hoped that it would be struck down by a higher court.

"The matter is sub judice. But as an Indian citizen and a human being, I must exercise my own judgment to ask if this is correct. Sedition means pulling the state down by violence. It cannot be suggested Binayak did this," he said at an event to release a book on Binayak Sen.

"On the contrary, his writing indicates violence is wrong. There is a deep moral



RULE OF FLAW? Nobel laureate Amartya Sen speaks during a book release function in New Delhi on Saturday

argument against sedition here," he said.

Sen said he was amazed by the judgment that is now being challenged by the jailed

doctor who's been accused of conspiring with Maoists. "It has a threatening nature and seems to have political motivation. Any intelligent per-

son would find that the judiciary acted very peculiarly. I hope the high court or Supreme Court quashes this."

Binayak Sen's story, the Nobel laureate said, was one of dedication. "It is about the dedication of a great human being. It brings to light a miscarriage of justice. It focuses attention on Indian democracy. And it shapes vision of a future to which Binayak makes a big contribution."

The economist, who is an advocate of humane growth, said, "Economic growth is very important but not an object in itself. It deals in things, not human beings. Binayak and others, including myself, believe that to judge a nation's progress, you must see what is happening to people's lives."