

Editorial

Another stunt, but things remain the same

The tiny State of Manipur, for its size does not lack in drama and role-plays.

The recent intensification of drive by the State police against bootleggers in and around Imphal city is a classic case in point.

Much had been witness- law enforcers acting tough against them. But everytime such action was seen at the time of coming new Police Chief or government. Such drives were seen for few days and later the same liquor vendor were seen as it was after some days. This time too the people witness intensive drive against selling of liquors. Manipur is a dry state and such an act worth appreciations from call corners.

The move, thought a welcome one for the society reeks of a search for cheap publicity and certainly can be termed as an exercise in futility for the Police force. It is interesting to note that it is not the personnels from the Narcotics cell who are undergoing the drive, a job clearly meant for them. These bootleggers are not new, nor their reach and influence in any doubt. Their flourishing business has been going on for more than a decade now, with neither a hindrance nor any sign of them being stopped in the foreseeable future.

Their notoriety has reached such a proportion that certain spots like the MG Avenue, Pologround Parking and Videocon Galli, Roopmahal Tank etc. have become prominent landmarks in their own rights for anyone wishing to procure a bottle or two of the intoxicating drink. The intoxicating affair does not end here. "Canteens" which stock only Indian Made foreign Liquors (IMFLs) are common public knowledge. Production of country liquor in the tribal colonies which are part of their tradition cannot be meddled with.

In fact, this "dry" State has more "illegal" liquor vendors than some States where licensed vendors put up their business. It is another matter altogether that these bootleggers operate without any semblance of fear or discretion. The uneasy fact is that certain individuals with reach and influence are racking up earnings which cannot be taxed, while on the other hand, there is no practical means to prevent the sale or consumption of alcohol in the State. Instead of the State force organizing photo sessions with the seized liquor bottles once every blue moon, the government should take a long hard look at the reality of the situation, draw up and implement pragmatic steps to legalise the sale of alcoholic drinks.

While this very idea risks violent remarks and response from various social organizations trying to prevent the sale and use of any and every kind of intoxicants in the State, yet we have to admit the bitter truth. It may be the only way to curb and control the stealthy and rampant abuse of the drink and a lucrative source of much needed income for the State.

Registration notice

An association under the name and style of "Leishanghiden Development Committee" Kyamgei Pal Ahanbi Imphal East formed. The newly formed association will be registered under the Manipur Societies Registration Act, 1989 at the office of Deputy Registrar of Societies Imphal East. If anybody want to object to the registration of the association may object with him fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice. No complain will be entertained after the due date.

Sd/-
President
Leishanghiden Development Committee,
Kyamgei Imphal East

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Policy to Alleviate Water Problems in Manipur

By Chingakham Dina, Arambam Karamjit

We look into water resource and compare their management between Manipur and other countries. It is imminent that water problem strikes almost every year- flood or drought. It is recurring year by year. But nobody cares much about this very important unavoidable resource. We need it every single day for whole life for everyone. We raise the voice only when the time comes and strikes hard, otherwise we do not learn anything from the past. We have water shortage or flood problem because we don't have proper water management.

Annual rainfall. According to World Bank, India's annual average rainfall was 1,083 mm in 2014. Manipur receives annual rainfall of 1,467.5 millimetres (57.78 in). Delhi's annual average rainfall is 617 mm. Let us see the rainfall of some of the countries in the world and how they manage water resource. Thailand's annual average rainfall is 1622 mm. Singapore has high annual average rainfall at 2,497 as the country is located at equator. UAE had annual average rainfall at 78 mm in 2011 according to the World Bank, which shows that this is semi-desert like condition. USA has annual average rainfall 715 mm which is about half the rainfall of Manipur. In spite of receiving annual rainfall of 1,467.5 mm in Manipur, we have water scarcity problem almost every year. In the following table, it is showing annual average rainfall and water usage per head per day.

Country	Annual rainfall	Per capita water usage
India	1,083 mm	135 litres per person per day (on planning paper)
Thailand	1,622 mm	219.5 litres per person per day
Singapore	2,497 mm	150 litres per person per day
UAE	78 mm	500 litres per person per day
USA	715 mm	154 litres per person per day
Manipur	1,467.5 mm	Data not available

Fig: Annual average rainfall and water consumption per person per day

Water management in different countries. Water scarcity is happening in many countries without proper water management. In Thailand, the government builds dams to manage water. Sometimes, they use artificial rainfall when there is insufficient natural rainfall for agricultural usage. Singapore is located at equatorial region receiving annual heavy rainfall. It has potential water scarcity problems due to little rain catchment area because of extensive city construction, but Singapore solves the issue by importing water from Malaysia and it implements very high quality water recycle that includes sewage water.

About 30% of water in Singapore comes from recycle plants. Water in Singapore's public toilet is high quality and, even better than the quality of water used by the elite class people of Manipur. UAE solves the water problem by getting about 72% required water from underground. USA has annual average rainfall of 715 mm which is about half the rainfall of Manipur. But their prosperity and high technology and investment make them one of the richest water resource available for usage in the world.

Manipur's rainfall is higher than that of India's average rainfall. Even though we have higher rainfall in Manipur we still suffer water scarcity due to improper water management. Water is drained and disappeared just after rainfall as there is no rain water harvesting facilities. As the rain catchment areas are destroyed, water is drained quickly after rainfall. This year, we are suffering from flood again.

Daily water consumption per head. On planning paper, India expects everyone could get minimum water at 135 litres per person per day (source: The Hindu, February 15, 2013), but it cannot achieve its goal. Thailand's water usage is 219.5 litres per person per day at present decreasing from 223.5 litres. Sometimes there is water scarcity

for rice field in Thailand but there is no question of shortage of running water for home usage. It is the government's responsibility to supply enough water for everyone and everywhere in Thailand. Their government is doing their job and they really mean what they are supposed to do.

United Arab Emirates is one of the least annual rainfall. This is near desert like country. But UAE is one of the highest average water consumption of 500 litres per head per day. It is possible because of proper water management. Annual average rainfall in the USA is 715 mm and it's consumption is 154 litres per person per day. This huge water usage per head is possible because of her strong and effective policy and management. Rain harvest is commonly done everywhere to manage proper water supply. This is the area we are lacking and our government should use money in projects for such unavoidable necessary resource.

Human as causes of water scarcity in Manipur. There are many rivers, wetland, lowland and suitable places for construction of dams and reservoirs in Manipur. People of Manipur have very low civics sense compared with other nationalities. We have bad culture of water usage. We take a bath in the pond, and the same water is used for drinking and kitchen purposes. Our already insufficient resource is spoiled by dumping

to running-pipe water. Water is so much important than some other resources and one cannot live without water and this basic need is important for everyone till the end of our lives. However, this resource is being neglected by everyone from government authorities to common people.

The quality of water supplied in pipe could not be high enough to drink in Manipur comparing with other countries. In Singapore, their government uses high technology water treatment plant. The quality of water is amazingly high but her citizens do not drink it directly from pipe water as people are very aware of health. In the same way, in Thailand people don't use running pipe water for drinking even though the water is very high quality. People drink bottled water. We don't have modern water treatment plants in Manipur. The quality of pipe used is not as high standard as of Thailand or Singapore. Rusting in pipe, leakage on supplying pipeline and contamination with disease causing germs and bacteria, poor quality of water treatment are fearsome to consume but this is what people drink and consume directly.

Health, hygiene and people's appearance are very much directly related to water quality. The smoothness of our skin, the quality of our hair is very much understandable by using strong

for home usage. Compared with Singapore, we are still lucky enough with large land and forest coverage that we shouldn't have any problem if we manage well without going extremity to recycle the sewage water like Singapore. Lately, there was in the news that hospital sectors in Manipur earn large income, which is a direct reflection of people's poor health, and spent more money to hospital. This is not good sign for public health.

4. Use project money efficiently: Development of a country depends much on the sincerity of the people. It is open secret in Manipur that project money hardly reaches the target areas fairly which shows by breaking of Sekmai dam one year ago. If we use every single rupee sanctioned for the project, we are going to be nearly developed like as Singapore and Thailand.

5. People's involvement: We need more people's involvement in construction and water management projects such as construction reservoirs, not only waiting for government money. People are not willing to spend money for water and people still prefer to spend money on non productive activities. Local people should come out to monitor the quality of water reservoir construction so that the public property will last many years to come.

6. Pay water bill on time: Water scarcity is both responsible by government and people. People should clear water bill on time. The money comes from this bill will help to run government's expenditure. When people don't take responsibility of paying their bills, government can't run smoothly. People are less aware this issue in our society. However, we should not point finger to people only for this issue. There is great responsibility for government to supply water regularly, maintaining broken pipeline without delay to make people also satisfy with the service, as well as install prepaid water system like prepaid electricity to make people use water more carefully.

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Certificate lost

I have lost my original certificate of class X, 2009 bearing roll no. 27342 issued by BOSEM and class XII, 2011 bearing roll no. 106187 issued by MBOSE (Meghalaya) on the way between my residence and Manipur University on 5th September 2017. Finders are requested to handover to the undersigned and a handsome award will be given.

Sd/-
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