

Editorial

Monday, April 8, 2019

If BJP win , people of Manipur like and support CAB

With just 3 days and 10 days to go for the outer Manipur and Inner Manipur Lok Sabha Poll respectively, political parties across the state are engaging in hectic poll campaign across the state. Promises after promises, criticisms after criticisms among rival candidates fill the air of Manipur. It is not only in this tiny state of Manipur but across the entire country that similar situation is notice. We are witnessing the biggest festival of democracy.

But the air is murky in the state of Manipur and the so call biggest festival gives neither joy nor hopes to the people. In outer Manipur Parliamentary constituency altogether 8 candidates are in the fray.

The Indian National Congress (INC), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Naga People's Front (NPF), National People's Party (NPP), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), North East India Development Party (NEIDP), Janata Dal United all field their candidate for the Outer seat. One Independent candidate is also contesting the election.

For the inner Manipur Parliamentary Election 11 candidates are in the fray. And the poll date is on April 18.

With the campaign gearing up by all the political party peoples' mind seem to be diverted from where it should be not only for the state of Manipur but also from all the people of the North East.

People across the north East seem to forget that the entire North East, particularly the state of Manipur was nearly burnt due to decision by the political party in power at the Center (i.e) that is the BJP. The decision to pass the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 at turned the entire North East states into a battle field like situation with violent protest everywhere. The situation resumed to normalcy only after the BJP led government failed to table the Bill at the Rajya Sabha.

Leaving aside other issue, it is natural that CAB should be an issue for the state of Manipur and that of other North East state. Political analyst suggested CAB - an issue of the Lok Sabha Election. But surprisingly BJP President Amit Shah during an election campaign at Assam said that CAB will be introduced in the country if BJP comes to power. This was again followed by Ram Madhav , another leader of the BJP, while talking here in Imphal at Hotel Classic Grande during a so called "Intellectual Meet" of the BJP. He was quoted by newspaper and electronic media as saying that the CAB will not affect the state of Manipur or North East.

As for other political party particularly the Congress, it is clear that they will oppose tooth and nail if non - secular law like CAB be put up for passing at the Parliament. President of the Congress Party Rahul Gandhi during his visit in the state had stated that his party will definitely challenge if any party force to pass such a Bill.

The Communist Party, the North East India Democratic Party (NEIDP) and others whoever contesting the election make their stand clear on the issue of CAB. Yes, they will finally oppose the CAB.

So, if one takes a deep look into the political theatre, this lok sabha election should be between those who are against the CAB and those who are supporting the CAB.

What is more surprising the confidence of the BJP in this lok sabha election. If the party win and give mandate to their candidate it is a clear indication that the majority of the people support the CAB and the hue and cry was voice of the minority. This justification may not be correct as the candidates contesting with "no CAB" issue may get votes but if distributed to the 10 other than a minority but magic number may push the BJP candidate as its elected representative.

On the issue of CAB this news paper had time and again highlighted its probable impact to the people of the region.

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Election Fever

The hysteria of a first time voter

By : Roshan Huidromba

India, the largest democratic country in the world is having election shortly and I can't wait any longer for the election day. For the first time in my life, I will exercise my voting right as granted by Election Commission to the eligible citizens of this democratic country. In the coming Lok Sabha election to choose the leader of my choice who will represent people. ECI issued my EPIC just few months after State Assembly Elections were held in 2017 following several unsuccessful attempts to enrol my name in the Electoral Roll.

As the polls are happening in just few days, all the stakeholders seems to be prepared in full swing; political parties, candidates, and their supporters are busy propagating their agendas in whatever possible way they could: through campaigns, public interactions, media forums and even social media platforms like twitter, Facebook , WhatsApp etc including publication of Election Manifesto and had already flooded with their views, opinions, hopes and aspirations of this country and it's people. ECI, on the other hand, is confident of its preparations so that no voter will be left behind to participate in a free and fair election of the largest democracy in the world. Some measures taken up by the Commission includes model code of conduct during election is

going on, providing security measures through deployment of various law enforcing agencies to ensure that no untoward incident is occur, introduction of most developed and reliable technological outputs of Information technology like VVPATs, cVIGIL app, GPS tracking of vehicles in transporting EVM machines and setting up of polling stations even in the remotest of areas, additional provisions for people with special needs, conducting awareness programmes related to election in every nook and corner of the country besides arranging support systems and keeping close vigil monitoring of any happening that may disturb or hamper the Electoral process in any form.

Coming to Manipur, a total of 19,30,912 voters will cast their votes in 2,861 polling stations across the state for two seats of Lok Sabha MPs. Out of the total voters, 9,39,926 voters are male, 9,90,960 voters are female and for the first time 26 voters are enrolled as first gender. Eleven candidates are contesting in Inner Manipur parliamentary constituency while eight candidates are contesting in Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency. Despite the challenges of it's geographical location, difficult terrain conditions and other sensitive problems, the

Election Commission is all set to conduct the election in Manipur in two phases; April 11 for Outer and 18 April for Inner constituencies respectively. As in the words of respected CEO Manipur Mr. PK SINGH IAS and I quoted here, "We are 100 percent prepared".

But the question is, are the citizens ready for election? This is indeed remains a big question. I would like to emphasize this because nowadays there seems to be an unconnected gap between public and the government due to various factors responsible for it, like rampant corruption (although the government always ask for proofs), worsen law and order situations, violation of even basic human rights in various ways, delay justice in legal matters, less development reforms but more gossip. Such factors built a dividing wall between WE and THEM. This is in fact very unfortunate as it creates a deficit of trust between the government and it's people.

Unlike recently held State Assembly election, it seems that citizens of Manipur give less importance to Lok Sabha election. Another possible reason is the lesser number of MPs as compare to other states which is very wrong, as the saying goes something is better than nothing. Besides this, no man

candidate has file nomination paper despite the ever increasing issues of woman. I really don't know the reason behind it but more and more woman policy makers must come up. However, it is encouraging to see some vibrant and energetic youths as candidates.

So, the most pertinent question is, who will be our MPs? For me the key criteria for selecting our leader will be someone who will respect our human rights, who is ready to bring reforms be it electoral or economic, education etc, who will be fighting corruption with all his will, who can challenge this deformed system rather than adapting to it. And I am very hopeful to elect him as our leader. One more thing I don't believe in propagandas like my party or our party is the best, because, to me, it doesn't matter in what party a candidate belongs, a good leader will always be a good leader.

Lastly, for those people who always wonder why should we elect leaders to work in a deformed system, as Nelson Mandela once said, "The world is in chaos not because of presence of bad people but the silence of good people", as a citizen I urge all of you to come out and be a part of the change you just wishing and longing for. I am very thankful to the Commission for this privilege. Thank you so much ECI for making me a decision making part of this country.

The writer is presently persuing MA ECONOMICS at MANIPUR UNIVERSITY (IGNOU CENTRE). All feedbacks and suggestions are most welcome and feel free to drop the same at email id: huidrombaroshan@gmail.com or Facebook username: @huidromba

The Way We Never Were

For much of the century, traditional "family values" have been more myth than reality.

Courtesy The were
By Stephanie Coontz

People have been predicting the death of marriage for almost a century. In 1928, John Watson, the most famous child psychologist of that era, predicted that marriage would be dead by 1977. In 1977, sociologist Amatai Etzioni declared that if current trends continued, by the 1990s "not one American family will be left." In 1999, the National Marriage Project announced breathlessly that the marriage rate had fallen by 43 percent since 1960. And in 2010, a Pew Research Center poll found that 40 percent of Americans said marriage was "becoming obsolete." The marriage rate is calculated on the basis of how many single women 18 years and older get married each year. In 1960, half of all women were already married before they turned 21. Today, the average age of marriage for women is 27, so it's no surprise that the percentage of women over 18 who are married is much lower. But most people eventually marry. In 1960, only 2.8 percent of women and 3.5 percent of men married in their forties and fifties. Today, sociologists project that almost a quarter of women still single at age 40 will wed in the next ten years, and that 85 percent of women will have married by the time they reach age 85. As for the 40 percent of Americans who told pollsters in 2010 that marriage was "becoming obsolete," most of them simply meant that marriage is no longer an institution you have to enter in order to have a respectable or satisfying life. Because we live so much of our adult lives as singles, it no longer makes sense to



assume that marriage is the only way people will organize their obligations and commitments. In 1992, I published *The Way We Never Were: American Families And The Nostalgia Trap*, a search for the supposed "golden age" of family values in the twentieth century: I found that the male breadwinner family of the 1950s was a very recent, short-lived invention and that during its heyday, rates of poverty, child abuse, marital unhappiness, and domestic violence were actually higher than in the more diverse 1990s. Much has changed for American families in the 25 years since the book first appeared. The most dramatic transformation has been the cultural and legal about-face regarding same-sex marriage. The prospect of legalized same-sex marriages seemed far off even when the second edition was published in 2000. As late as 2004, 60 percent of Americans still opposed granting gays and lesbians the right to marry, and in 2013, 35 states had laws limiting marriage to heterosexual couples. Yet by 2014, 138 polls by 21

different polling organizations all found majorities supporting marriage equality. Then on June 28, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that marriage was a fundamental right and could not be denied to gays and lesbians. Hundreds of thousands of gay and lesbian couples across the country, many raising children, can now enjoy full marital and parental rights. Other changes reflect the persistence of family trends that were already well established by 1992. Between 1960 and 1990, the average age at first marriage rose from 20 to 24 for women and from 22 to 26 for men. By 2014, it had climbed further to 27 for women and 29 for men. Many more people now delay marriage until their thirties or forties, and some researchers believe that a full quarter of today's young adults may reach their mid-forties to mid-fifties without ever having been married, although unmarried cohabitation has grown more common. Many older "rules" of marriage and divorce have been transformed in the past 25 years. In 1992, living together before

marriage was not yet the norm. As of 1987, only one-third of women aged 19 to 44 had ever cohabited, and cohabitation before marriage was a risk factor for divorce. By 2013 a majority of marriages began with cohabitation and living together before marriage no longer predicted divorce. But living on one's own may be growing even faster than cohabitation. Today almost 30 percent of American households comprise just one person. Delaying marriage until one's early 30s used to raise the chance of divorce; now it lowers it. In 1992 I critiqued the panic over growing family diversity. My skepticism about the doomsayers has since been proven correct. Despite the continuing rise in unwed births since 1994, juvenile crime rates have fallen by 60 percent. Domestic violence is also down 60 percent. Parents today spend more time with their children than in 1965. But I was badly off the mark in my predictions about the prospects for marriage equality and expanded reproductive rights. I wrote in 2000 that the controversy over gay and lesbian marriage seemed likely to persist, but that the long conflict over abortion and contraception might soon be mitigated by inventions such as the morning-after pill, which prevents a fertilized egg from implanting itself, and RU486, the pill that makes an early abortion easier and more private. It turns out I got things exactly backward. Support for same-sex marriage soared, from barely a quarter of the population to almost 60 percent, and marriage equality became the law of the land in 2015.

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