Editorial
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Giving life to Nambul River

The ailing Nambul River, which is the face of the Imphal city, finally sees hopes of restoring to its normalcy with the kind of work being taken up to rejuvenate it under the supervision of some committed government officials. The river was life for the people in the once upon a time but it has converted to killer river for the people of today. According to Deputy Director of the Directorate of environment, Dr. T. Brajakumar, the pollution level at Nambul is so high that even scientists fears skin damage while collecting the river water from various places for laboratory purpose.

As per report of the Assessment of Water Quality Index of Nambul River published at International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET) in December 2016, the WQI value for the water samples collected ranges from 103.89-115.34. The highest WQI value of 115.34 was recorded from Hump Bridge site which is in the dense populated area of Imphal city. The WQI value which crosses 100 is unsuitable for human use. Even aquatic life doesn't survive. Two years after the condition is worsen. The Water Quality Index (WQI) is crossing 200 at some place the WQI reaches 253 (subject to correction about the exact figure which was informally procured from Environment department authority).

Every citizen of the state knows that Nambul has become one of the most polluted Rivers not only in Manipur but also in the entire planet. What is worrying to the people is that the present condition of Nambul River has also become a threat to the one and only fresh water lake Loktak, a Ramsar Site and the largest freshwater lake in North East India. Nambul River drains into the Loktak Lake. As per scientific findings Nambul river generates about 72.23 tons of solid waste and 31.207 cubic meter of sewage every day in (the data has been increase this year).

Even after knowing all this facts, people continue to pollute the river. No citizens no matter how literate they are or how knowledgeable they are about the impact of spoiling the Nambul River, almost all sections dump the waste garbage in river.

Some few years back, short term measures like construction of retaining wall at both the river banks or imposition of certain law stop us in those who throw garbage at the River, bed or bank were seen taken up. However, the state government this time seems to be serious. They are making a long term plan to make sure that Nambul River is useable once more. With the kind of project take up to rejuvenate the Nambul River, people now sees hope that aquatic lives are seen after so many years. But then, this dream of making live the Nambul River depends to the citizen. Without the support of the people it will be next to impossible to either save the Nambul River or the Fresh water Lake – Loktak.

The government team which is implementing the works for treatment of Nambul River, has wisely invited community to participate in the making of Nambul River a clean one. It is also learnt that the govt. team under the initiative of the Environment Department is appointing some people on payment basis to clean the river bank from Keisampat to Kwairamband Kthel Thong Nambonbi is an appreciable attempt. But then, it should be remembered by the authority that such measures should not be simple for getting appreciation from the people. It should be with clear motives to clean the river bank. Once the river bank is maintained and keep clean there will no better place for people to enjoy evening walk. For this too the river water need to be keep clean.

Hope the ongoing rejuvenation works at Nambul River gives life to the dying river which is the face of Imphal city.

Digital India-A New India

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Digital India with **"POWER TO EMPOWER"** motto was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1st July 2015, which is a campaign launched by the Government of India in order to ensure the Government's services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or by making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology. The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. Digital India consist of three core components: the development of secure and stable digital infrastructure; delivering Government services digitally and universal digital literacy.

Launched on 1st July 2015 by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is both enabler and beneficiary of other key Government of India scheme such as BharatNet, Make in India, Startup India and Stand up India, Industrial Corridors, Bharatmala , Sagarmala, dedicated to freight Corridors, UDAN-RCS and E-Kranti. As of 31st December 2018, India had a population of 130 crore people (1.3 billion), 123 crore (1.23 billion) Aadhaar digital biometric Identity cards, 121 crore (560 million) internet users up from 481 million people (35% of country's total population) in December 2017 and 51% growth in e-commerce. The vision of Digital India programme is inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products, manufacturing and job opportunities. It is centered on three key areas-digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen, governance and services on demand and digital empowerment of citizens. Some of the facilities which will be provided through this initiative are BharatNET, digital Locker, e-education, e-health, e-sign, e-shopping and national scholarship portal. As a part of Digital India, India Government planned to launch Botnet cleaning centers.

National e-Governance plan aimed at bringing all the front-end government services online. MyGov.in is a platform to share inputs and ideas on matters of policy and governance. It is a platform for citizen engagement in governance through "Discussion", "Do" and Dissemination approach. UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance) is a Government of India all-in-one single unified secure multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service freeware mobile app for accessing over 1,200 central and state government services in multiple Indian languages over Android, ioS, windows and USSD(feature phones) devices, including services such as Aadhaar, Digital Locker, Bharat Bill payment system, PAN, EPFO service, PMKVY services AICTE, CBSE, tax and fee or utilities bills payment, education, job search, tax, business, health, agriculture, travel, Indian railway ticket booking, birth certificate, e-District, e-panchayat, police clearance, passport, other utility services from private companies and much more. E-sign framework allows citizens to digitally sign a document online using Aadhaar authentication. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Mobile app is being used by people and government organizations for achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission. E-Hospital application provides important services such as online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online etc. Digital attendance gov.in was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1st July 2015 to keep a record of the attendance of government employee on a real time basis. This initiative started with installation of a common Biometric Attendance System (BAS) in the central government offices located in Delhi.

The 2016 Union budget of India announces 11 technology initiatives including the use of data analytic to nab tax evaders, creating substantial opportunity for IT companies to build out the system that will be required. This is a means to eradicate Black Money rackets. Digital literacy mission will cover six crore rural households. It is planned to connect 550 farmer markets in the country through the use of technology. Digital Locker facility store their important documents like PAN card, passport, mark sheets and degree certificates. Digital Locker will provide secure access to Government issued documents. It was authenticity service provided by Aadhaar. It is aimed at eliminating the use of physical documents and enable the sharing of verified electronic documents across government agencies. Three key stakeholders of Digital Locker are citizen, Issuer and requester. The government is planning to create 28,000 seats of BPO in various state and set up at least one Common Service Center (CSC) in each of the gram Panchayat in the state. E-Sampark is vernacular e-mail service. Out of 10% English speaking Indians only 2% resides in rural areas. Rest everyone depends on their vernacular language for all living their lives. However as of now, e-mail addresses can only be created in the English language. To connect rural India with Digital India, the Government of India impelled e-mail service provider giants including Gmail, Office and Rediff to provide the e-mail address in regional languages. The e-mail provider companies have shown positive sign and working in the same process. An Indian based company, Data Xgen Technologies Pvt Ltd has launched world's first free linguistic e-mail address under the name DATAMAIL which allows creating e-mail ids in 8 Indian languages, English and three foreign languages –Arabic, Russian and Chinese. Over the period of time, the e-mail service in 22 languages will be offered by Data Xgen Technologies.

Pradhan MantriGramin Digital Sakshartaabhiyan is being executed by PMGDisha with an outlay of Rs 2,351.38 crore with the objective of making 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019. Pradhan MantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan is an initiative under Digital India program, approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by the PM Narendra Modi. The main objective of the Pradhan MantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan is to make 6 crore people in rural areas across India digitally literate, reaching around 40% of rural households by covering one member from every eligible household. Common Service Centers (CSC) creates a conducive environment for the private sector and NGOs to play an active role in implementation of CSC scheme, herby becoming a partner of the government in the development of rural India. The PPP model of CSC scheme envisages a 3-tier structure consisting of the CSC operator (Called Village Level Entrepreneur or VILA),the Service Center Agency (SCA) that will be responsible for a division of 500-1000 CSCs and a State Designated Agency (SDA) identified by the state government responsible for managing the implementation over the entire state.

Manipur State IT Society (MSITS) is the designated Agency. Towards successful operations of these CSCs Government of Manipur has provided VSAT and solar Power packs to resolve the internet connectivity and power issues. As of now, 995CSCs are fully functional in Manipur. State Government had authorized and declared all CSCs to be permanent Aadhaarenrolment center. Pradhan Mantri Digital SakshartaAbhiyan is being taken up at these CSCs to provide Digital Literacy in the rural areas of the State. To provide Banking Services to the unbanked areas in Manipur, CSCs has appointed Business Correspondence under SBI, Vijaya Bank and Punjab National bank. Digital finance inclusion Awareness & Access is being carried out at these centers to promote cashless economy. The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under its Digital India program have announced "KARANG" as the first cashless Island in India on 13th January 2017. Commissioner (Finance) Government of Manipur along with Department of Information Technology has implemented Jeevan Pramaan in the state of Manipur and on boarding treasury/ Sub-treasury officers to the Digital Life certificate in Jeevan Pranaam portal for the pensioners. G2C(Government to Citizen) services available at these CSCs are- Aadhaarenrolment, updating and print, PAN Card application, Jeevan Parmaan GST fillings and registration, Legal literacy project(LLP) PMGDisha, passport application Pradhan MantriAwasYojana .Digital transaction from CSC portal are: agriculture service, e-recharge, Educational service,FSSAI, health care services, cattle & livestock Insurance and many others. In fact "Digital India "is a dream for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transform a new Bharat in this era of globalization.

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China and US Agree To Restart Trade Talks

Courtesy The Wire
By : Roberta Rampton and Michael Martina

Osaka: The US and China agreed on Saturday to restart trade talks and Washington will not levy new tariffs on Chinese exports, China's foreign ministry said, raising hopes for the world's two largest economies to resolve their trade war.

In their nearly year-long dispute, the two countries have slapped tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's imports, disrupting global supply lines, roiling markets and dragging on global economic growth.

"We're right back on track and we'll see what happens," US President Donald Trump told reporters after meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan.

The eighty-minute meeting with Xi was "excellent, as good as it was going to be," Trump added.

In a lengthy statement on the talks, China's foreign ministry said the US would not add new tariffs on Chinese exports, and added that negotiators of both countries would discuss specific issues, but gave no details. Xi told Trump he hoped the US could treat Chinese companies fairly, it added. On the issues of sovereignty and respect, China must safeguard its core interests, Xi said.

Before the talks, Trump had threatened to extend existing tariffs to cover almost all imports from China into the US if the meeting brought no progress on wide-ranging US demands for economic reforms.

The dispute, which includes a feud over Huawei Technologies Co had also fanned fears it could threaten global growth.

Financial markets were likely to welcome the news.

"Returning to negotiations is good news for the business community and breathes some much-needed certainty into a slowly deteriorating relationship," said Jacob Parker, a vice-president of China operations at the US-China Business Council.

US President Donald Trump meets with China's President Xi Jinping at the start of their bilateral meeting at the G20 leaders' summit in Osaka, Japan. Photo: Reuters/ Kevin Lamarque

"Now comes the hard work of finding consensus on the most difficult issues in the relationship, but with a commitment from the top we're hopeful this will put the two sides on a sustained path to resolution," he said.

"Cooperation and dialogue"

At the start of Saturday's talks, Xi stressed the need for dialogue rather than confrontation.

"Cooperation and dialogue are better than friction and confrontation," he said.

Trump responded that a fair trade deal with China would be "historic" and he hoped "We can go on to do something that truly will be monumental and great for both countries."

The US says China has been stealing American intellectual property for years, forces US firms to share trade secrets as a condition for doing business in China, and subsidizes state-owned firms to dominate industries.

China has said the US is making unreasonable demands and must also make concessions.

Talks collapsed in May after Washington accused Beijing of reneging on reform pledges. Trump raised tariffs to 25% from 10% on $200 billion of Chinese goods, and China retaliated with levies on US imports.

US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands before a bilateral meeting during G20 summit in Osaka, Japna, Photo: Reuters/ Kevin Lamarque

At their meeting, the leaders shook hands in front of flags in a small conference room, with Trump flanked by the secretary of state Mike Pompeo, a China hawk, and treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin, who has taken a more business-friendly approach to the talks.

Trump adviser Peter Navarro, known as the author of a book "Death by China," watched Xi intently as he spoke.

The dispute had spread beyond trade as US-China ties soured. The Trump administration has declared Chinese telecoms giant Huawei a security threat, effectively banning US companies from doing business with it.

American officials have also pressed other governments to drop Huawei from plans to develop fifth generation, or 5G, networks.

Trump has suggested easing US restrictions on Huawei could be a factor in a trade deal with Xi while China has demanded the US drop the curbs, saying Huawei presents no security threat.

As G20 officials worked in Osaka to hammer out a communique on shared goals, Japan's Nikkei newspaper said they would agree to accelerate reforms of the World Trade Organization, but stop short of urging resistance to protectionism.