

Editorial

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Issues not at all matter in LS poll for Manipur

Except in the case of 2004 election in the aftermath of the Mass June Uprising in 2001, it is unlikely that the Lok Sabha Election scheduled to hold in two phase here in the state of Manipur will have any impact with some of the important issues that had rock the entire North Eastern State. If one recalled almost all civil bodies in the state had called total shut down, staged violent protest and hold series of discussion criticizing the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) which the BJP led NDA government was trying to pass in the Rajya Sabha after clearing it at Lok Sabha. Before the CAB issue came it was the issue of detention of TV Journalist Kishorchandra Wangkhemcha under NSA after the Court released him. The issue that put halt the academic atmosphere in the state for almost three months due to agitation against Government backed Vice Chancellor AP Pandey by the Manipur University community seems to have been sideline with electioneering process rise.

If one looks back to the history of every election in the state Lok Sabha Election is a completely different phenomenon. Candidates sent up by the ruling party always won. And when it comes to the State Assembly Election it was always the political party that halts power in the Center. The lowest level election - that is for the local body election like the panchayat or Zilla Parishad is also a completely different picture.

Moreover, people of the state don't take that seriously on the Lok Sabha Election. So, it was the MLAs and other elected members that took the Lok Sabha Election very importantly. The number of voters they can contribute is an X-factor to go ahead in their political career.

It almost all voters of the state are sensible enough to the kind of issues that may decide the fate of the state than there is no way that BJP candidates get elected as the National President of the BJP Mr. Amit Shah himself had stated that CAB will be passed if the BJP comes to power.

What is surprising the political culture of politician that has been witness by the people? AGP re alliance with the BJP, NPP joining hands with the BJP in fighting the Lok Sabha Election and some workers and followers of the BJP here in the state talking openly about their support to the CAB showed that this election is not going to be on issue base.

As happen earlier, the one who have more MLAs, power (govt.) and other was likely to be the winner in both the inner and outer Lok Sabha Election. The same thing was happened during Congress ruled too. Amidst the many issues about fake encounter, development and corruption issues the one nominated by the government always won.

Now it is confirmed that altogether 8 candidates are in the fray for contesting the Lok Sabha Poll. None of the political parties, which talk so much about, empowering of women, had not nominated any lady candidate, which showed that this is going to be election which will be fight with only money and power.

So, discussing the Lok Sabha election on issue base will be useless. An analysis base on how much money and power does the candidate have will be the right subject to discuss. Hope this regalia changes and this writing prove wrongs.

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“Social Media”- a boon or a curse?

By:-Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

It took 38 years or so for Radio to reach 50 million people, 13 years or so for television to reach the same number however it took just 4 years for Internet to do so. In just one recent year, the Popular Social Media site Facebook signed over 200 million users. What makes Social Media so

Appealing? What is a Social Media or networking site? The answer is: it is a website that allows those who have an account to communicate with a selected group of friends or people. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp and 2Go are just some of these Social Media sites.

In recent times, we have experienced an overwhelming upsurge in the number of new users, especially youths. This in turn has been a force for good. It has improved relationship, improved learning, created awareness, improve crime detection, helped students make good grades, created thousands of jobs, connected friends and family and improved to spread useful information and much more. However it has done the opposite as well. How so? When properly used, Social Media has been a powerful tool in connecting with loved ones and interacting with friends. In fact, humans are hardwired to interact with humans and that's why Social Media is so appealing, because it does just that. Also many youths have friends and family members living far away. In the past, it took weeks or even months for letters or telegrams to get to their destinations. Sometimes they never get there. With the advent of mobile phones, it became easy to keep in touch with loved ones. But sometimes, we cannot call these ones because we don't have airtime. It might be difficult to communicate with friends and

family living abroad because of the exorbitant airtime needed. Worse yet, it consumes time especially since you have to call one person at a time and some may not be at home or available to talk when you are.

However, the Social media has made things even easier. With as low as 10 Megabyte of data, one can connect with friends and family members anywhere in the World and for a longer period of time. In fact, some network service providers have made social media free of charge! This has made communication easier. What's more, the Social media has been very useful when disaster strikes-such as the earthquake, Tsunami that caused untold disaster in parts of Japan on 11th March 2012. During and after such a disaster, phone lines are usually down and no one cares to check emails. So it becomes impossible to communicate with our loved one and inquire about their safety. But with Social media, one can just pick up his cell phone, access the internet and go the page of his or her loved one and read the information posted or even chat briefly. It's that easy.

But Social media has a demerit in this aspect. In the bid to connect with people many youths have added friend requests from people they know absolutely nothing about. Some of these friends might be criminals, fraudsters, bullies. Sexually immoral people and bad friends. These wrong types of friends can prove to be bad influence. We have many stories of youths who were defrauded, raped, bullied and even murdered by their social media friends. Others learn bad things from these so call friends and end up engaging in crime. More alarming also is the amount

of time that is spent by teenagers "connecting with friends and families. Many teenagers have

become addicted to the point that the social media has taken over their lives. They are so deeply engrossed that they get cut off from the society and hibernate into the world of social media. These youths are constantly thinking about being online. Even when online, they keep thinking about to update their status and post new pictures when they come to the online next. They read comments here, post videos there, reply to comments the other side and before you know it, hours will fly by. This in turn will have negative consequences. These youths end up losing the real friends they have to friends they have not met before. They get robbed of sleep, isolate themselves from family and friends and become lost in the imaginary world of Social media. Some end up getting killed in road crashes while chatting on Social media sites. How tragic is this!

Social media has helped in crime detection, Security agencies have access to people's personal accounts. This can help in cracking down on criminals and fraudsters. However it has also increased crime. How so? Most teenagers think that their privacy is secured while on Social media. Hence they post their pictures of where they are or disclose information that are supposed to be kept to them such as their home address, email address, where they attend the school, the name of their pet, the times when they are at home and when no one is and other sensitive information. This information are enough to tell criminals or stalkers when to strike. It can also be used for identity thefts, hackers, phishing, scams and virus sending. The Social media has also made it

possible for pupils and students to make good grades at school. Assignments can now be posted online by teachers and students can have access to them. They can also collaborate with few fellow students on assignments. Students can also have easy and free access to resources to help them learn. This in turn boosts learning and grades at school. However Social media is also responsible for mass failure of pupils and students at the schools. It has been found that while grades of students who used Social media slightly improved the Grades of the students who are addicted to it declined greatly. One study says that students' Users have an average GPA of 3.06 while non-users have an average GPA of 3.82. This is one of the worst real problem & painful situation that our parents are facing at the moment. Social Media has created thousands of jobs for people, at the same times it has led to loss of jobs and unemployment. Social media is a very cheap weapons to ruin one's reputation with just one thoughtless picture or post. Another notable advantage of Social media is that it has facilitated the spread of useful information. Today, useful and even lifesaving information floods the Social media platforms thereby, creating awareness and as we know, information is power.

Social media can do well, it can also do badly. The bottom line is just moderation. Youths should learn to use the social media with moderation. This will help to make the world of social media a great place.

So let's use Social media usefully.

Any suggestions & comments can reach to: Sjugheshwor7@gmail.com Or, WhatsApps No: 9612891339

World Water Day 2019

By:-N. Munal Meitei

Today, I was shocked to read a Newspaper clip where it is reported that in Bengaluru if the present water crisis persists, then peoples have to evacuate within a decade. Now water is the most difficult problem in almost all states in the country. In Manipur also, due to the low water level of the Imphal River, the valley is facing the water crisis. In many parts of the town, water supply has been stopped. It's not just for Imphal and Bengaluru, water is now an acute crisis over the country. India will have a water deficit of 50% by 2030 as per an estimate made by the Asian Development Bank. Increasing in population and reducing in rainfall and other water resources are the main cause for the global water crisis.

World Water Day is celebrated on the 22nd March every year since 1993. The theme for 2019 is "Leaving no one behind". It is about tackling the water crisis by addressing the reasons why so many people are being left behind. Today, there are million people living without safe water at their households, schools, workplaces, farms and factories struggling to survive and thrive.

In Manipur, during our childhood, lands were abundant and each of the homesteads had a pond. We could get all our water requirements from these ponds. But now due to increase in population and also the land value, we hardly see such ponds in our locality. Therefore, we are compelled to know the importance of water.

Water is life, sanitation and hygiene are dignity. All organisms contain water and depend for survival. Water is one of nature's most important gifts to mankind. Water is at the heart of adaptation to climate change, serving as the

crucial link between the society and the environment. Water is crucial for all biodiversity including mankind. In a wide range of ecosystems, water is a dominant component. Water bodies or wetlands are among the world's most productive environments. They are cradles of biological diversity, providing the primary productivity for countless species of plants and animals. In our state to save from an acute water crisis, we need to save and conserve our remaining wetlands. Water is also an important storehouse of plant genetic materials. In short, water keeps our planet alive and well. Water helps the body metabolize stored fat; it may possibly be one of the most significant factors in losing weight.

Water has the power to unlock education, create economic potential, and improve health. Access to water and sanitation is a precondition to life and a declared human right. Over the coming years, our water-related challenges will become more urgent. The increasing demands of a growing population and rapidly developing global economy, combined with the effects of climate change, will exacerbate lack of access to water and sanitation. In fact, the unpredictable supply of water could constrain socio-economic progress in the future.

Celebration of World Water day also highlight the impacts of growing forests, creating rivers and fields rich with soil and restoring other natural elements of environments that are damaged, can assist in purifying water. Damaged ecosystems affect the quantity and quality of water available for human consumption.

Water on Earth is constant. No water is added or taken out from the

Earth. But the problem faced by the earth is its scarcity. Due to injudicious use of water, human is facing insufficient water. Our so called civilized society continues to contaminate this precious resource.

Water covers 71% of the Earth's surface, and is vital for all known forms of life. 96.5% of the planet's water is found in oceans, 1.7% in groundwater, 1.7% in glaciers and ice caps. Only 2.5% of the Earth's water is freshwater and 98.8% of that available freshwater is in the form of glaciers, ice and groundwater and only about 1% are available with us. Out of this palatable water, the maximum are again in the lakes and rivers. Hence only a little fraction of water is available for our use. Approximately 70% of the fresh water goes to agriculture.

The human body contains about 70% water. To keep us healthy, the body requires about 3% of our body weight which is about 3 liters of water daily. Water is necessary for the digestion and absorption of food; helps maintain proper muscle tone; supplies oxygen and nutrients to the cells; rids the body of wastes; and serves as a natural air conditioning system.

A significant amount of disease could be prevented through access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and better hygiene practices. Diarrhoeal disease alone amounts to an estimated 1.5 million people deaths every year (WHO 2012). It is estimated that 8,42,000 deaths per year, is attributable to unsafe water supply that includes 361 000 deaths of children under age five, mostly in low-income countries (WHO 2014).

World Water Day called on each one of us to maintain and improve the quality and quantity of fresh

water available to future generations. Water has the power to change lives. The power that turn dreams into realities and poverty into possibility.

In Manipur, now we are facing water scarcity problem. The roots of our current water crisis go back a long way. Our state does not have a long term water plans like dams and other water storage facilities for any eventualities. Unluckily, all of our rivers are rain fed, there is no snow fed river in our state and hence when there is scanty rainfall, then we face the drought.

Most of our water sources have been dried up during the lean season and incapable of supplying the water requirements due to lack of vegetation in the upper reaches. Therefore, felling of trees at river catchments should immediately be stopped. As an impact of climate change, the state is facing the scanty in rainfall. Now we need to spread awareness program about the water conservation. Every new house construction should compulsorily have the facility for rain water harvesting. The authority should install for more water treatment facilities in all localities from all resources. Promoting ideas for making the best use of existing water supplies should also be a core initiative. The state needs have a sewage water treatment plant which can save a huge amount of about 200 million litres water annually from unnecessary waste.

Therefore, with the coming of World Water Day, 2019, we need to take care of our water today, and otherwise tomorrow may be too late for us from facing a dreaded water crisis in the state that cannot be solved forever.