

Editorial

Thursday, January 2, 2020

The choice is yours Mr. Chief Minister

The year 2020 is going to be another hard times for the N. Biren Singh led Manipur government as major reshuffle is likely to be taken place due to pressure from BJP MLAs as well as those Congress MLA who had defected and joined the government. Last year saw many BJP MLAs including some BJP Ministers in revolting against the Chief Minister and demanding for his change. But by the end of the year Chief Minister N. Biren Singh managed to stay in his position. The last month of the 019 saw another revolt from the BJP MLAs, but that time it was about change of all Ministers except the Chief Minister. It might have been by circumstances that BJP MLAs demanded major reshuffle unlike the previous demand, but it is also by circumstances that N. Biren Singh could secure his position as the Chief Minister. This opportunity given by some of the BJP MLAs should be tackled with extreme seriousness by N. Biren Singh if he really wants the state to move forward.

It is open secret that almost all the Ministers in the N. Biren Singh government acted on their will instead of consulting the Chief Minister. N. Biren Singh got less respect from his ministerial team and whatever he announced for the development of the state whether it may be the auspicious "CMHT" or the "Go to Village" he hardly gets support from the Ministers concerned for implementing it judiciously. There are hurdles seen facing by the Chief Minister in his nearly 3 years of government. (His government is completing 3 years on March this year). In team work sincerity of the captain alone is meaningless. All team members should take their respective role and perform with equal responsibility with proper understanding and cooperation. If the members fails to coordinate with their captain the team is a failed team no matter how sincere is their captain.

In 1990 FIFA World Cup final Match, Germany defeated Argentina, that time every one was talking about Diego Maradona. Maradona was superstar and he played too good that it's no wrong calling him the best player of that time. Nobody (in my state) was heard naming any of the German players because Maradona was too good to compare with others. Even none played like him in his team. But Germany defeated Argentina. There was no exceptional player like Maradona in German team as all played together in same spirit. In team event/game what is required is equal understanding and respect of all the players. The exceptional skill of the team captain is of no use if other players do not coordinates with his plan or strategy. Or else it will be Germany again that will win the match.

This is where the chief Minister should understand. When it comes to the Central government, they too should understand the need to give opportunity to the Chief Minister in picking up his team so that he can lead the state towards the right direction.

When there is opportunity, N. Biren Singh should not miss it. It is only 2 years left now, before election has been announced better do the needful to make the state bright.

Modi seeks support of spiritual Guru in support of CAA



ITNews
Mumbai, Jan 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stepped in to counter the "misinformation campaign" against the CAA/NRC/NPR by people and groups with vested interests. He put out a tweet containing a week-old video by spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev, popularly known as Sadhguru among his followers. PM Modi posted the tweet with hash-tag #IndiaSupportsCAA, commenting, "Do hear this lucid explanation of aspects relating to CAA and more by @SadhguruJV. He provides historical context, brilliantly highlights our culture of brotherhood. He also calls out the misinformation by vested interest groups."

Ironically in the video, Sadhguru holds the government accountable for protests and vandalism, though indirectly. He says in the video while responding to a question put to him by a young woman from Lucknow, that due to the lack communication from the government side "for whatever reasons", some people "took advantage and spread misinformation" about the CAA. Precisely at 13.35 minutes into the video, Sadhguru says, "It looks like that the government was caught napping. They did not expect such a big reaction to such a simple issue." Again at the 20.05 mark, Sadhguru can be seen saying, "In some way, I think, the government has failed to communicate this properly. Otherwise, personally I don't see any issue on these things. But I think communication-wise, the way it was communicated, a certain number of people are perceiving it as a threat to them."

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Effects& Solutions of Stubble burning



By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh
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Stubble burning is intentionally setting fire to the straw stubble that remains after grains like paddy, wheat etc. have been harvested. India is an agricultural-driven economy where 50% of the population is engaged in the cultivation of agricultural products. The production of crops such as rice, sugarcane and wheat not only feeds the country but also a major contributor to the foreign export sector. The production of millions of tons of agricultural crop every year has also increased the agricultural waste that we as a country are dealing with right now. The waste commonly known as the residue is made up of organic compounds from various organic sources like rice straw, coconut shell, sugarcane bagasse to name a few. Since the residue compiles to form a really large amount, it becomes extremely difficult for farmers to take care of the waste. During the harvesting season, the reaping of the paddy fields generates a humongous quantity of husk which needs instant dumping. Farmers usually gather the husk and incinerate it as it is the easiest way to dispose it without leaving any trace of waste in sight. However, doing so creates serious issues that is directly linked for our environment. Research has shown that the burning of agricultural biomass residue or stubble is a major health hazard. It doesn't just affects the organic carbon levels of the soil but also produces an uncontrollable amount of harmful smoke that causes air pollution to the immediate vicinity. A large number of toxic pollutants are emitted into our atmosphere due to open burning of the husk. These pollutants also contains harmful

gases like methane, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. These toxic gases either build a cloud of ash or formulate into smog that is formed due to the intensified amount of smoke present in the atmospheres. These harmful gases create an obstinate amount of cumulative danger that has the ability to travel thousands of kilometers, increasing the level of air pollution in the nearby cities and completely wrecking the air quality index and becoming the causes of numerous health issues. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana in north-west India has been cited as a major cause of air pollution in Delhi. Smoke from the burning produces a cloud of particulates visible from space and has produced toxic cloud in New-Delhi. The burning of husk or stubble more often contributes to the frequent formation of brown clouds that have an adverse effect on the local air quality, hampers atmospheric visibility and further impacting the reason for climate change. We also need to understand that the burning of paddy or stubble leads to the loss of key nutrients as nearly 50% Sulphur, 75% potassium and 25% of the nitrogen and phosphorus is lost. A study estimates that crop residue burning at Punjab and Haryana, released 149.24 million tons of Carbon dioxide (CO₂), over 9 million tons of Carbon monoxide (CO), 0.25 million tons of oxides of Sulphur (SO_x), 1.28 million tons of particulate matters and 0.07 million tons of black Carbon. These directly contribute to environmental pollution and are responsible for the haze in Delhi and melting of Himalayan glaciers. Burning stubble causes increased soil erosion and heat from burning it penetrate 1cm into the soil elevating the temperature to 33.8°C to 42.2°C which kills beneficial soil organisms like bacterial and fungal populations critical for a fertile soil and eventually causes low yields. Burning of crop residue causes damage to other micro-organisms present in the upper layer of the soil as well as its organic quality. Due to the loss of 'friendly' pests, the 'wrath of enemy' pests has increased and as a result crops are

more prone to disease. The solubility capacity of the upper layer of soil have also been reduced as intense burns induce the formation of a water repellent soil layer by forcing hydrophobic substances in litter towards through the soil profile. In dry environments, burning residues can reduce soil fertility quite quickly. Since soil organic matters holds sand, silt and clay particles into aggregates, a loss of soil organic matter results in a loss of soil structure. According to a report, one ton stubble burning leads to a loss of 5.5 Kgs of Nitrogen, 2.3 Kgs of Phosphorus, 25 Kgs of Potassium and more than 1 Kg of Sulphur- all soil nutrients, besides organic carbon.

Stubble burning is a serious issue and it must be sought an immediate effect. With such grave impact on the environment, understanding the importance of opting for potential alternatives to stubble burning is the only available solution. Providing stubble collecting machine to the farmers or offering reasonable labor to reap paddy fields in order to avoid stubble generation is the other way to control the issue. Offering temporary employment to the people in need during the harvesting time is another way to combat the situation. One great way to approach the issue is to think of alternative to deal with it. **Converting stubble into energy** in an innovative way to address the matter. Not only it helps in reducing the greenhouse effect but also helps to fight against the threats of global warming. Setting up **biomass power plants** in the villages can help meet the energy needs of the villagers. Setting up biomass fuel plants to generate fuel using paddy husk or **making fodder for livestock** out of the collected stubble can also serve as an important step to bring down the adverse effect of crop residues finding their way into the environment during the needless burning of crops. Another impact of alternative practices to stubble burning on the environment is the using of **Happy Seeder**- a machine that can sow wheat in the presence of rice straw - is a profitable for farmers and can also help the environment. The researchers found that using the Happy Seeder

led a nearly 10-20% increase in farmers profit on average. Since in **Happy Seeder practice** reuses the crop residue in the field, the biomass improves soil moisture and could be good for the long term health of the soil. In Happy Seeder practice mulching, the machine can be mounted on a tractor and it cuts and lifts rice straw, sows wheat into the bare soil and deposit the straw over the planted area as mulch. However, not all farmers currently have access to Happy Seeder equipment and there needs to be more available options for renting these machines as it is not affordable for everyone. Besides this, crop residues can also be effectively managed by using machines like: Rotavator; Zero till seed drill; Balor; Paddy straw chopper and reaper binder etc.

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MeeteiToday.com launched

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A web portal www.meeteitoday.com with aims to connect Meetei living across the globe was launched yesterday. The team announced an online essay competition on the theme "Meetei sans boundaries: The dawn of a new era". Contestant can submit entries from the 1st of January, 2020 till the 31st of January, 2020.

The essay contest aims at making the youths of our society have a vision for the entire Meetei race regardless of geographical boundaries, the challenges that must be overcome to realize the vision, the methods necessary to achieve it and the opportunities that come with it. The 'Essay Contest 2020' prizes include cash rewards, winner certificates and a chance for paid internship with us in future.

The details of the 'Essay Contest 2020' can be get at <https://www.meeteitoday.com/essay/>.

A statement by the team Meetei Today said that the website aims to connect Meeteis across the globe, and is dedicated to overall development of Meeteis, especially youths living in any corner of the world. It also would help the far flung Meeteis share a sense of belongingness to one another and establish a common goal. The idea is to help one another grow and reach one's maximum potential and develop leaders in all fields.

14 scientists awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships

Agency
New Delhi, Jan 2

The Union Ministry of Science and Technology have awarded Swarna Jayanti Fellowships to 14 scientists to pursue basic research in frontier areas of science and technology. The fellowship covers all the requirements for performing the research and includes a fellowship of 25 thousand rupees per month. A research grant of five lakh rupees for five years is also being provided in addition to their salary. Instituted to commemorate India's 50th year of independence, Swarna Jayanti Fellowships are awarded to young and brilliant scientists to pursue unfettered research with financial freedom and flexibility.

100 organisations plan nationwide anti- CAA stir under 'We The People of India'

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Jan. 2

Nearly 100 organisations, across the country including "Swaraj India" have decided to fight the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), National Register of Citizens and the National Population Register (NPR) from 3 January, 2020 onwards in multiple agitations.

While addressing media at the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) in North East Mumbai, "Swaraj India" National President Yogendra Yadav said that as of now, at least six national-level protests have been planned in January. The first protest is intended to happen on "Savitribai Phule Divas", January 3, 2020. The next protest is "Bharat Bandh", planned by CITU and other left-oriented organisations on January 8. The third protest is envisaged on the "Youth Day" (January 12) while the fourth one is planned on the death anniversary of "Rohith Vemula/social justice day" (January 17). Fifth and sixth protests will be held on January 26 (Republic Day) and concluding protest will be held on January 30 (Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary).

Yadav was in Mumbai to take part in a panel discussion organized by the students union on CAA-NRC-NPR - "The confusion, the struggle



"Swaraj India" National President Yogendra Yadav addressing the media. Social activist Medha Patkar and others are seen in the picture.

and the voices". However non-TISS students were denied entry into the campus attend the discussion. Yadav, said in the national coordination meeting held after the discussion, saw participation from nearly 100 organisations across the country during which a month-long campaign was planned, under the banner 'We The People of India'. The organisers have been asked the protestors to hold protests under the same banner-which is also the first four words of the Indian Constitution. Accusing the government of repressing the voice of the people in connection with the recent clampdown on the rioters by the police in different parts of the

country, Yadav asserted that the protest will entail a call for a boycott of NRC, NPR and CAA by the participating organisations. He also added that a request will be made to the government to declare their intentions regarding the implementation of the NRC in a standard formalised manner. The discussion which was held to chart the future course of action regarding anti-CAA stirs was attended by Rashtriya Seva Dal President Ganesh Devi, student leader Kanhaiya Kumar, "United Against Hate" member Umar Khalid, Kavita Krishnan, Medha Patkar and the controversial activist Harsh Mander, known for constituting skewed hate-tracker.