

Editorial

Tourism matters

Everyone knows that Tourism is the 2nd largest industry in the world. With the gifted landscape and rich cultural heritage Manipur too have the potential of becoming a tourist destination. To make the state a tourist destination we the people under the initiative of the government need to do a lot of things. The government is doing some good work by organising events like Sangai Festival to attract tourist from outside the state as well as abroad. But to some people the festival was a curse as the way it was witness in the last year or years before was most terrible.

Traffic jam, congestion, dust storm and standing in queue for hours to visit the festival site were not what was expected by the locals as well as the tourist.

But this time the government has plan something different to make people convenience in celebrating the festival. As per the organising committee the festival will not be concentrated at a single place. Even though we do not know how the festival will be this time the way the government is taking the festival with extreme seriousness is needed to be appreciated.

The much anticipated extravaganza conceptualized to showcase and promote the diverse socio-cultural heritage and the rich traditional wealth of the state is just around 50 days to go. Effort is being made to transform Imphal city to attract the foreign and domestic tourist.

If previous instances are any indications, we will be seeing a change in inertia and a visible drop in enthusiasm making the whole efforts an exercise in futility. The incredible potential for attracting tourism in the State has been well known and even documented. From the enchanting misty mountains to the incredibly beautiful ethnic handiworks and crafts, from the inherently hospitable people to the excellent climatic condition, the unbelievably beautiful and mysterious caves and lakes- this small state has it all, and in no small measures.

This naturally endowed land has been wasted and neglected for centuries, our inability to see the big picture, occupied as we are in finding ways to secure our own personal lives through means fair or foul being the main reason. With the air connectivity with our neighbouring Asian countries a reality now, it would be an act of utter foolishness not to cash in on the euphoria and enthusiasm such a development has created. Without going into the details of the nitty-gritty of tourism and it's pros and cons, it is an undeniable truth that with proper planning, timely and effective checks and due diligence, tourism would only improve the economy, change the perceptions of the local people towards the visitors and their way of life, adopt a more tolerant view of things and most importantly help in propagating our cultures and traditions throughout the world. For all these to happen, basic infrastructures and basic amenities must be put in place and make the whole state a tourist friendly one.

A lot more needs to be done to be where we want this State to be from where we are now. Only a dedicated, committed and sustained effort can make things possible. Working in fits and starts will get us nowhere.

Registration Certificate Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my original Registration certificate of my B.Ed. of the year 1995 issued by Manipur University on the way between Imphal to Bishnupur on 30/8/2017.

Finders are requested to handover it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Sanasam Bharati Devi
Sega Road Konjeng Hazari leikai, Imphal
Ph. No. 9402689469

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Manipur's 1950 Revolution Revisited

By Professor Naorem Sanajaoba

In the significant revisit, the author holistically examines the local application in Manipur, of the Asian communist revolutionary movement in 1950-1951, the inauguration of post-independence Manipuri armed struggle of the Manipur Communist Party, that transformed qualitatively, along with the Manipur-specific national question which had been subverted by the communist party of the annexing power and, that had been taken all the more seriously by the post-MCP Manipur national liberation movements.

In the conventional Manipuri revolutionary historiography, some of the historians are used to marginalise the role of the revolutionary party like the Manipur Communist Party (MCP hereafter) of which Mr. Hari or Jogeshwar i.e. Mr Hijam Irabot had been the untested supremo on the one hand, and the Red Guard Council (RGC hereafter) that had been the military apparatus with five red guard commanders that struck militarily at the post-annexation Manipur state and the Indian administrative apparatus from 1950 to 1951.

The 1950 MCP revolution was undoubtedly aborted for many a reason- the inevitable and the erroneous. Communist parties of administering Indian state (which some authors endorse as colonial power) make festive celebration in the state by projecting the revolutionary party supremo Irabot alias Hari (his clandestine code name) as the electoral mascot by totally and systematically blacking out his revolutionary militancy and his revolutionary path, with a view to once again aborting the ongoing, deep-rooted political militancy in Manipur and misleading the people by way of the subverting the political objective of the RGC. MCP profiling has been defiled and distorted by the political opportunists.

REVOLUTIONARY FAITH

Once, ex MP of Congress- Laishram Jogeshwar wrote that Irabot remained the party supremo, N. Boro, Ng. Mohendra, Th. Boro and M. Ibohah were 'riding on the crest of the revolution.' In Manipur, honesty and truth had been the first casualty at the hands of the incorrigibly crooked politicians. One can fool the people for some time, not for all time.

Many a scholar has disingenuously projected the MCP supremo as a multitudinous or a multifaceted person lacking a defined and single-minded direction of a committed political philosophy. It could have been possible that despite their studying two three books of Mao Tse Tung purchased from Silchar, the RGC leadership was not

ideologically mature barring the supremo's personal interface with Bengali speaking Marxians in Sylhet jail.

The author would not revisit the hackneyed domain, and would love to address to two core issues- firstly, the centrality of the MCP armed struggle and secondly, the national question that the MCP had not literally addressed to.

Naturally, the MCP with its party supremo and the striking force the RGC deserve the full credit for launching the post-independence armed struggle- the first ever in post-1947 Manipur in 1950. The front organizations had been outlawed before the revolution had been launched in no time. The Manipur State Council of sovereign Manipur by its resolution no.3 dated 21.9.1948 made the order: "... the Manipur State Council declared the above associations (read Krishak Sabha and Praja Sangha) to be unlawful under Section 16 of the Manipur State Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1948."

In order to remove any confusion about the post-accession Manipur in 1947, the official letter of the dominion agent is cited. Dominion agent Debeshwar Sharma replied to dictator E. Tompok Singh on 25 November, 1947 after three months of Manipur's accession to foreign state- India in August, 1947. "Admittedly, Manipur is a Sovereign State." Notwithstanding baseless and utterly whimsical opinions of diehard, biased individuals about the status of Manipur in 1947, the official position of the dominion agent as cited above is categorical, and the author had been following the official position of the dominion agent, in total disregard of the private exclamations of untrustworthy, and, half-baked scholars.

Pro-revolutionaries and radicals show admiration for the methodology, revolutionary tactics he had taken care of, whereas revisionists and bankrupt opportunists capitalize on his name by undermining, ridiculing and omitting his revolutionism. Worshipping a wrong god or, barking at the wrong tree? A leader or a revolutionary could be fully assessed, not in parts or piecemeal in order to suit the electoral market. At the same time, autobiography writers could do complete justice by covering the entire life span, not a chosen piece. The author would be doing complete injustice to Manipuri revolutionary historiography, if he does not acknowledge the commitment of Manipur people in 1953 towards undoing the disputed Manipur annexation and the subsequent post-MCP national liberation struggles that address fully to Manipur national question, which did not happen to be the cup of tea for the MCP in any sense of the term. The two major

events are not inextricable, as we perceive of after considering the shifting political equations and agenda.

Definitely, certain confusions arose among the scholars due possibly to sentimental obsessions and lack of objectivity. The MCP had no business at all with the post-MCP armed national struggles in Manipur except that it has inaugurated the first primer of armed struggle for the liberation of the peasants and exploited Manipur people in 1950-1951, in conformity with the international communist movement led by the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) in a half-hearted way in Asia, while it had complete concern for Europe.

The author in his own humble way studied exhaustively strategic materials on CPSU, CPI of that era, published materials nearly all of them from Manipur, talked in 1992 to Ughor Debabarma (a contemporary of Irabot who led the armed struggle in Tripura), late leader Soyam Shatradhari who told me fifteen years back that he would publish all the epistles and communications of late Irabot at his disposal, talked to a Meetei state committee septonagenarian leader of 1960s at Nongmeibung, RGC commander N. Binoy (alias Sunil in northern Manipur, alias Bipin in Southern Manipur) who single handedly collected 100 guns out of nearly two hundred guns of the RGC, L. Tiken of the RGC and also late Longjam Manimohon, who along with late Laishram Kanhai happened to be in the ranks of intermediate leadership of the MCP (not within the top decision-making 5 red guard commanders; reportedly the two did not take up arms) and studied strong refutations in 1996-97, made by late MP- Ngangom Muhindra, one of the top five red guard commanders in the millennium CPI souvenir.

The ideological format of the 1950 armed struggles had been based on 1) Defeat of Hitler and Japanese fascism in world war II (hence, Japan khurai thude-u song of Ms. Chandrakala; no chiding of the British colonialism, mark it please); 2) a new 'constellation of class forces'; 3) post-war colonies launching 'Armed Struggle against imperialists'; 4) Nehru's government denied freedom to Indian people; 4) National government id est, Delhi government collaborates with Anglo-American imperialism; and hence, the launching the democratic revolution by the CPI in 1950. The afoji did operate within these parameters.

Some of the MCP analysts, who along with another couple of scholars, who the late CPI MP had referred to in his refutations, did little source- verifications while jumping to Nongda hypothesis

(cited by V.V. Rao and Gangmumei Kabui). Irabot epistles are yet to be published, made public by the custodian concerned, and we have to re-assess the MCP vis-a-vis the CPI of the India-occupied Manipur after their publication. The author has no opportunity to read the unpublished Irabot documents, so far held up for unknown reasons for a long time, like many other scholars. The writer does not think that the CPI leaders of occupied Manipur in the mid 1950s would have been appreciated in the unpublished Irabot epistles, as many of them surrendered after SP Palit's racist crackdown on PDA detentions (that matriculated coloured barbarian-looking gentleman was awarded IPS along with a reward-hunting Meetei officer for subjugation of Manipur people and the RGC), and disowned their MCP role and themselves too, for setting new agenda of political opportunism.

Cloak and dagger policy prevailed in the post-MCP CPI premises even by concealing for seven years, the news about the death on September 26, 1951, of Hari or Jogeshwar, who the BCP called as AFOJI (elder comrade in Burmese or, comrade Ahal to the armed Manipuri red guards). The foreign comrades called him peoples' hero or, Jananeta (Meeyam luechingba in Manipuri free translation; the author has to look up a dictionary in order to decipher what a Jana actually meant).

Comrade Longjam Jyanendro of Kongba (whose elder brother possibly maintains his jottings in a small notebook of about 30 pages approx, about MCP and Irabot very privately) had to supply medicines and a few Akbar cigarette boxes, but comrade ahal missed in his most difficult times, the complete attention of the party to his deteriorating health. Afoji wrote to L. Jyanendro- "Eigee chaananaba hidak amatta leitre / Bismark Stomach powder nattaraga Maclean's Stomach powder Lilee Aneekakata Leiraga peeraku." The supremo was in dire need of medicine for his last survival (the author may not be completely wrong to guess so) and the party with a huge network of activists missed the opportunity to give a chance to him to live a little bit longer, in spite of the inevitable personal differences. A few good men could and might have existed by that time, in spite of capitalizing to-day his name for other purposes that Irabot would have not been comfortable with. Anyway, that was the past that nobody could alter. The full and comprehensive inside story has no space here and the author may be forgiven for the short write.

(To be contd.)

(This article was widely published in several online journals and print journals)

National and International News

Fear of epidemic disaster as disease stalks Rohingya camps

AFP Bangladesh, Sep 30: Rashida Begum steers clear of the water pump near the reeking latrine shared by more than 100 families in a grim corner of Bangladesh that has grown into one of the world's largest refugee settlements in just weeks.

"The pump works, but the water stinks, so we don't drink it," the Rohingya woman said in the squalid camp where her family of 11 has lived since fleeing Myanmar a fortnight ago.

The UN has warned of a humanitarian "nightmare" unfolding in Bangladesh's refugee camps, where half a million people have taken shelter after fleeing violence in Myanmar in unprecedented waves.

With a lack of clean water and toilets, aid workers say a major health disaster is imminent. Heavy monsoon rain is compounding the risk of disease outbreak, with field doctors reporting a huge spike in

cases of severe diarrhoea, especially among children. The near daily torrential downpours send streams rushing through areas where tens of thousands openly defecate every day. For some, this murky runoff is their only source of drinking water.

A stench of excreta hangs in the air on the outskirts of Kutupalong, a camp that already housed tens of thousands of refugees before the latest influx saw it mushroom into a fetid tent city stretching for miles.

At a field clinic, a long queue of refugees waiting to see the only doctor available stretched beyond the tent into the pouring rain. Dr Alamul Haque sees upwards of 400 patients a day and looked exhausted as he described the spiralling number of children presenting with water-borne illnesses.

"Earlier parents were bringing one or two children with them. Now it's three to four," Dr Haque, from Bangladeshi

charity SDI, told AFP.

"It's been raining, so human waste is running everywhere. There is a high chance of a diarrhoea epidemic here."

New groundwater wells are being dug quickly across the camps, which stretch along the Cox's Bazar district bordering Myanmar.

But there remains a serious shortage of fresh water, with the sheer scale of the disaster - described as one of the fastest-growing refugee crises in the world - outpacing aid efforts on the ground.

"There are long queues whenever we go to collect water.

There are far more people than there is water," said one Rohingya man, knee-deep in mud as he dug a pit latrine on a hillside.

At Unchprang, an enormous hillside shanty town of nearly 30,000 people, close to three-quarters of a million litres of water needs trucking in every day. But the roads are virtually

impassable, hampering delivery.

Further down the coast at Nayapara and Leda camps experts warn existing water sources will run dry by January.

But sanitation is a more immediate concern.

Toilets are being filled as fast as they are being built, forcing people to defecate wherever they can.

"There are hundreds of people queued for the toilets.

It's a big problem, especially for the children," Hasina Begum, an elderly Rohingya woman, told AFP.

"There are other toilets on the hillsides, but they're basic pits. They're filled up now, and stink, so nobody uses them."

The Red Cross says camps are teetering on the precipice of a full-scale health disaster.

Conditions are ripe for an illness like cholera to tear through the densely-populated camps, experts say, where refugees live cheek by jowl.