

Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, May 28, 2016

Manipur in dire straits

When a guardian wait and watch to heal the wound without giving proper medication in time, the act was often described as "negligence", "irresponsible" and so on and so. It's perception that, even after knowing the wounds will be healed in the passing of time, there is no dearth for criticism. This is human society of 21 century. Competition everywhere, the onetime valued first division student is now of no use unless the marks he get crossed 90% and above. And this is a signed real world. And there is every reason for criticizing the guardian who waits to heal the wound of his ward instead of taking to physician for speedy cure. Manipur, the erstwhile kingdom, which became a part of India in October 15, 1949, is now seriously suffering from a chronic illness. The wound is getting serious day after another and everyone knows that "it is bleeding". That is why the guardian of this erstwhile kingdom, now a state of India, needs to find an immediate cure.

The wait and watch policy which has been seen following for a quite long time is going to worsen the wound and definitely there is will criticism from almost all corners for being irresponsible guardian.

History still tells how the then erstwhile kingdom after becoming a part of India was treated after its merger to the Indian Union. It was given the status of Part C state. Status of a state was only given after peoples' movement. Then there was an issue about the influx of foreigners' which is being continued till today. Amidst the various issue the most controversial accepted by critic as draconian act AFSPA is still enforced. And people across the globe whoever have some understanding about the history of Manipur knows how the people of this region had struggled to get their language included among the scheduled language of the country. At all these issues none are timely cured, some - like granting of state status and inclusion of the Manipuri language among the scheduled language have been granted after a series of protest and some which discriminate the entire people of the state from the rest of the country still have not been taken as a matter of serious issue. This is about AFSPA.

Amidst this the burning issue of Inner Line permits system which has its roots as early as late 1960s is still keeping Manipur in the frying pan.

"The more you fight your enemy the more he learnt your weakness", the saying seems true and it's being utilized as we see today's Manipur. The issue which all the people of the state had unanimously fight together have now received opposition from groups of people. And more over the new concept of demanding ST status and publicizing it as the only means to protect the indigenous people and propagating it as an alternative to ILP demand is pulling back the genuine issue dividing the people of the reason into several groups. Now the demand for ST status for the Meitei Meitei community which is being patronized by groups of people is also another invitation of another bitter confrontation with the smaller underprivileged community of the state.

This is being stated because these few months every years is putting the state into state of war like situation harassing the students which are the pillar of the future. The just declared result of both class X and Class XII is not surprising, but one should rather appreciate on how the student managed to get through in such a chaotic situation.

Almost everything has been ruined and if the education atmosphere is disturb the future of Manipur is surely to be landed in serious trouble.

Are these wait and watch attitude a strategy to end the future of this state? A matter that each of us need to ponder upon.

Admit Card & Mark Sheet Lost

I have lost my original class X Admit Card and mark sheet bearing Roll No 7819 of 2011 issued by Board of Secondary Education Manipur on the way between Imphal to Irom Meijirow on 25-05-2016. Finders are requested to handover the same at the undersigned.

Sd/
Thingbajam Rabichandra Singh
Irom Meijitrow
Contact No. 9856557709

Admit Card & Mark Sheet Lost

I have lost my original class X Admit Card and mark sheet bearing Roll No 23700 of 2013 issued by Board of Secondary Education Manipur and Admit card of COHSEM of the year 2015 bearing Roll No. 11999 on the way between Ningombam to Thoubal Bazar on 12-05-2016. Finders are requested to handover the same at the undersigned.

Sd/
Okram Prafullo Singh
Thoubal Ningombam, Thongju Leikai
Contact No. 8014782476

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National & International News

Thane factory blast: Death toll rises to 12

PTI Mumbai, May 28: The death toll in the boiler blast in a factory at Dombivli in adjoining Thane district climbed to 12 with recovery of another body from the debris today, an NDRF official said.

"The toll till yesterday was 11. We have reports that civilians found a body at the site this morning," a senior National Disaster Response Force official told PTI.

"Six bodies were recovered day before yesterday and four found yesterday. Also, an injured died in hospital, taking the toll to 11 till yesterday," the official said. The rescue work is as good as over, he said.

The deceased included two sons, and daughter-in-law of owner of Probace Enterprises, Dr Vishwas V Vakatar.

Charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder have been slapped on owners of the factory. "We have sought help from the factory inspector and other departments to determine the exact

cause of the blast and fire," a police official said.

Police have lodged a case against the factory owners under IPC sections 304-A (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), which attracts upto 10 years jail term and a fine, 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others).

On Thursday, Dombivli was shaken by a deafening blast which occurred in a boiler in the Probace chemical factory at Shivaji Udyog Nagar of MIDC phase-II area in Dombivli (East).

The impact of the blast followed by a massive fire resulted in heavy damage to two neighbouring factories in the MIDC complex.

The explosion impact saw damage to more than 600 houses, offices, shops in the two kms vicinity. In some homes, locked doors flew off hinges, all glass items, fittings, TV sets, crockery, vehicle glasses and even spectacles worn by people

were blown to sharp shreds. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who visited the site on Thursday, has ordered a probe into the tragedy.

Industry Minister Subhash Desai ordered a week-long shutdown of all chemical factories in and around the city to facilitate a thorough safety and security audit.

Police and district officials have started a survey of all the homes, shops, commercial complexes,

vehicles and other public and private assets which were hit by the blast.

70 ISIS fighters killed in Falluja

ANI Washington, May 28: The U.S. military has said that its coalition strikes have killed 70 Islamic State militants including the group's commander during the bid to recapture the city of Falluja.

Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
NATIONAL YOUTH CORPS
CALL FOR NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

An opportunity for youth to create youth networks, take part in Govt. of India schemes and emerge as youth leaders to contribute to nation building.

Government of India seeks young persons to help channelize their energies and capabilities towards nation building activities by organizing them into volunteers groups. You shall be asked to spearhead campaigns/awareness programme about health, literacy, sanitation, gender and other social issues and may also be called upon to assist the administration in emergency or implementation of various programmes.

Eligibility:

- i) Education – Class 10th Pass
- ii) Age Between 18 and 25 years, as on 1st April, 2016.
- iii) No regular students are eligible for applying for NYC volunteer ship.

This is neither a paid employment nor confers any legal right on the volunteer to claim employment with the Government.

How to Apply:

Visit the department's website (www.nyks.org) for details of the scheme and online application. Candidates may also apply through offline by submitting the application to the under mentioned office. **Last Date for submitting application is 31st May 2016. Candidates already applied earlier during this year, need not to apply again as their application will be considered. For any clarifications, contact the undersigned.**

S. Gourakishwar Singh
District Youth Coordinator
Nehru Yuva Kendra Gangpokpi
District Sadar Hills Senapati District, Manipur

Contd. from yesterday issue

Hijam Irawat and political movements in Manipur and the Surma valley

On 18 October 1948 the Maharaja inaugurated the first session of the Manipur State Assembly. Irawat was not destined the attend the Assembly as he was compelled to lead an underground life by the State Authorities after the "Pungdongbam Incident". This famous Incident occurred between a contingent of peasant rallyists who came to participate in the protest meeting at the Manipur Dramatic Union of Imphal and a group of police force led by the Officer-in-Charge. The protest meeting was being organized by the MPS and the MKS jointly under the guidance of Irawat to express disapproval of a proposed scheme of a section of the Indian National Congress for the formation of a new State to be called the Purbanchal Pradesh by combination of Manipur, Tripura and the Cachar district of Assam. In the scuffle that occurred at the Pungdongbam area, the O.C. of the police was killed by a bullet fired from the side of the police.

On the very day of the Incident the Interim Government of M.K. Priyobarta issued a warrant against Irawat and many of his associates. The Manipur State Council declared the MKS the MPS to be unlawful. A massive repression was launched on the members of the MKS in all corners of Manipur.

The Pungdongbam Incident became a watershed in the political history of Manipur. Although the protest meeting at the MDU could not be held because of the Pungdongbam Incident, it had a great political fall-out. The proposal of the Purbanchal Pradesh was drowned in the political turmoil unfolding in Manipur. The immediate effect of the police repression was that most of the activists of the MPS fled from it. The MPS passed into non-existence. The remaining members joined the

communist movement. The MKS survived the repression. Most of the members of the MKS became communists soon. Though elected to the Manipur State Assembly, the ruling clique wanted Irawat to remain outside the Assembly. He was forced to go underground. This ushered in a new type of political movement in Manipur, i.e., revolutionary movement. The Communist Party of India was built up in the underground period and undertook a militant revolutionary struggle with the peasantry as the backbone.

After he returned to Manipur in March 1946 Irawat did not immediately establish a unit of the CPI. He was steadily enlightening his close associates on the principles and organization of the Communist Party. In February 1948 Irawat along with other delegates attended the first Assam Provincial Conference of the CPI. Irawat was elected to the Assam Provincial Committee of the CPI. He presided over the open session and mass rally, where he called upon the people to strengthen the party. Being elected as one of the delegation, Irawat attended the Second Congress of the CPI on 28 February-6 March 1948. During the Congress in Calcutta Irawat had talks with the fraternal delegates from Burma led by Thakin Than Tun, particularly on tribal areas inside Burma bordering Manipur and the rest of India. The Second Congress adopted the "Russian Path" line of B.T. Ranadive. The call for leading the revolutionary upsurge to the people's democratic revolution was the main theme of the Second Congress. The political thesis of the Congress and other documents worked out a full-fledged left-sectarian, dogmatic and left-authoritarian line and pursued it relentlessly. The sectarian line of

exaggerating the revolutionary upsurge and trying to lead it to the path of armed struggle had disastrous consequences.

While actively organizing the MPS and the MKS, Irawat was making effort to build up the communist movement in Manipur. The first unit of the CPI was formed on 23 August 1948 at Keishamthong, Imphal. A District Organising Committee (DOC) was formed at the said meeting. Takhellambam Bokul was elected as the first Secretary. The first DOC became defunct from the Pungdongbam Incident. On 29 October 1948 the DOC was re-organised and strengthened by incorporating committed members. Thokchom Boro was elected as the Secretary. In the period from October 1948 to June 1950 the Communist Party developed roots in Manipur. Under the guidance of the DOC a strong movement of the peasants was built up based on the Krishak Sabha which was organized by Irawat. The movement was largely successful in giving benefits to the peasants. Along with the peasants' movement the DOC formed a Red Guard. The Communist Party was successfully beginning to implement an armed revolution with the formation of the Red Guard and giving military training to the village militia. As the activities of the DOC became a regular feature and the Red Guard began to conduct its training camps successfully, the state authorities resorted to repressive measures to capture the communist cadres, more particularly, the inspiring spirit Irawat. Initially a reward of Rs. 1000/- was announced on the capture of Irawat whether dead or alive. Among the quantum of the reward was magnified to Rs 10000/- which motivated many opportunists to act as intelligence informants for the security forces.

In the early part of 1950 the DOC resolved to contact the communists of Burma. In May 1950 Irawat started for Burma and reached there soon. He arranged for the training of the Red Guard by the Burmese communists. Batches of Red Guard cadres were sent by the DOC and trained by the Burmese communists and provided with weapons. In the midst of his hectic engagements, Irawat died of typhoid at Tangbaw village of Burma.

Meanwhile, on 21 October the Central Committee of the CPI announced withdrawal of the Telengana armed struggle. After eschewing the armed struggle the CPI began to take the democratic path of struggle and participated in the parliamentary elections held in 1952. In Manipur also an overground group of the CPI was formed. Thokchom Bira contested as a CPI candidate in the first parliamentary election of 1952. The Secretary of the official faction was Thokchom Bira and that of the faction was Lamabam Ithombi. With the inter-faction relation full of stress and strain this condition of parallel functioning of the two parties continued till 1956. With this, a historical period full of twists and turns came to an end.

To conclude, Irawat was a multifaceted personality. During his chequered life, he made far-reaching contributions in different aspects of Manipuri society. He was not only a leader of the Manipuri people, but by his unstinted work for the Surma Valley peasantry he became the beloved leader of the Surma Valley, viz., the Manipuris, the Bishnuipriyas, the Bengalis and the Burmans. It is indeed an irony that while he was hunted in Manipur and led an underground life, the people of the Surma Valley had already honoured him as Jananeta Irawat. In fact Irawat's life was a legend. **(Concluded)**