

Editorial

September and Hijam Irabot

Hijam Irabot has been now considered as the pioneer leader of the Manipuri people by the people of the state irrespective of the differences in their ideology. Even the government of Manipur now recognised the sacrificed of the great leader and on the other hand those waging war against the state too still consider Hijam Irabot as the father of the revolution movement in the region. The multi faced leader is also the pioneer of journalism, literature, Sports and Arts and culture.

Hijam Irabot is the leader of all people, he dreamt of a better Manipur society. A classless society with the proletariat on the forefront is what our leader wanted. For these causes the leader had waged a political war against the British colonial rule and then later against feudalistic nature of the Maharajah and the ruling capitalist class of Manipur and later against the Union of India as communist.

What makes different from this pioneer leader and the so call leaders of our days is that he was not lured by the prospect of the royal prerogatives and official facilities including the prestigious post of membership to the Sardar Panchayat Court that was being offered to him for having married princess Khomdonsana.

To Hijam Irabot, the war was not only against the external force which had colonized the nation state but it was rather against all forms of oppression and suppression committed under the feudalistic character of the system. He dreamt of a nation where every citizen has the right to live with dignity. His work for promotion of the culture, sports, literature and journalism is a reflection of his love towards this erstwhile nation state.

All his life the great leader had work for the cause of the people sacrificing every comfort of live. To convert his dream into reality he spearheaded various political movement starting from the grass hood level. He was the man behind the formation of students' federation, peasant union, women's organization and progressive party.

For his active role to bring about a reformed state, he was sent to prison many a times during the British colonial era. Later after the British left the nation state, Hijam Irabot was once again declared as a terrorist as his activities continued to be a threat to the Maharajah himself as well as the ruling capitalist.

In recognition to the activities of this all time leader, people of the state observed September as a month dedicated to Hijam Irabot. State Unit of the Communist Party of India (CPI) is taking the main initiative in observing the month long observance in memory of the leader in September. September is important because he was born on September 30, 1896, declared underground by the Manipur State Council on September 21, 1948 and then he died on September 26, 1951.

But one thing many often ask is - How many nights have we spent sleepless thinking about the fate of our nation. How many times had we shed tears for our motherland? We might not have time, but our great leader Hijam Irabot had many times cried and spent sleepless night thinking about the future of Manipur. A matter needs to ponder upon.

RC Book lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my Certificate of Registration for my two wheeler vehicle Activa bearing Registration No. MN 06 S 6642, Engine no. JF08E..8193410 and Chesis no ME4JF082K58014676 on the way between Canchipur to Poana Bazar on 19 Sept. 2017.

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The Greatest Achievement of Humanity

By: Hareesh Gupta

We live in the era of modern technology and have made many impossible things possible. We reached the moon; climbed the highest mountain peak and measured the depth of the ocean; invented aircraft and many more machines to make our life happier and more comfortable. But are we content with what we have achieved? What is the Greatest Achievement of Humanity?

Prem Rawat says "It is contentment; it is to be in peace. Peace is not a luxury which can be purchased. It is not a thing that can be found on a mountain peak or deep inside the ocean. It's a feeling within us. Contentment is a feeling that emanates from within you. If someone asks you, "Are you satisfied?" You can say, "Yes, I have a good family, good job, good car, great friends, even my pets listen to me, hence I am satisfied." But are you content? Have you sown the seed of contentment?"

There is a story. Once, there was a remote village. The people in this village were very simple. One day a tourist arrived and stayed for a night. The next morning, he took out his mirror and put it up on a wall so he could shave. He cleaned up and shaved, but forgot to take the mirror off the wall before he travelled on. An elderly villager with grey hair, bright eyes and shiny face saw the

mirror on the wall and looked into it. He had never seen a reflection of himself, so when he saw his face in the mirror, he was mesmerized, and said to himself, "Today, I have seen the face of God." He left - completely happy, saying "I have seen God". Then along came a young girl. When she saw herself in the mirror, she was taken aback and exclaimed "I have seen the most beautiful woman! Since I grew up, this is how I wanted to look like. And then came along a man who had lost his father not too long before. He looked into the mirror and said, "Oh, my god! I have seen my father again." Now, each of these three people wanted to keep this mirror with them because they had their own reasons to it. The older man wanted the mirror because he had seen the face of God. The young girl wanted the mirror, because into it she has seen, how she wanted to look like. And the third man wanted the mirror because into it he had seen his father again. They started arguing and long fights were breaking out all over the village, because whoever looked into the mirror and whatever they saw - they liked and they all wanted the mirror for themselves.

Finally, a wise man happened to come there. When he saw the fights, he asked, "Why are you all fighting? Different people

answered, "I want this thing because this is my God," or "this is who I want to be," or "this is my father" or "this is my this; this is my that." He asked for the mirror to be brought to him. He looked at it and said, "Don't you know what this is? This is a mirror. He called the old man, the young girl and the third man and told them that they have seen themselves into the mirror. It reflects the image of anything that is in front of it."

How does this story relate to peace and contentment? You see, peace begins with each one of us; but we have forgotten our own self, our own need. What is the face of peace? Some people will tell you that the face of peace is the absence of war, but that doesn't mean the presence of peace! The face of peace is none other than your own face when you are in contentment when you are in peace - when peace dances upon your face. Look at how much money governments spend on trying to make society amiable; but when we are content, that happens automatically. We have spent so much money, time and energy; however we need to also realize this simple and basic human quality that when you are content, you are nice and when you are not content, whew! Forget it. If somebody is in your lane and just looks at you implying, "Can I come

in front?" you will drive your car a little further ahead, "Don't even think about it!" because you are no longer stable. You become different. This is the importance of contentment; this is the importance of peace. Without contentment, we are unrecognizable. With contentment and peace, everything begins to dance in the sweetest and the most beautiful way." Mr. Prem Rawat, an International Speaker addresses global audiences on the topic of Humanity and Peace. He is also known by the honorary title "Ambassador of peace". His message is recognized and admired globally by various forums i.e. *European Parliament, United Nations, Oxford University, Harvard University, IIT Delhi* and many more. He is closely involved in various humanitarian programs and projects. In recognition to his Nobel work and dedication towards humanity, he has also received several awards like *Life Time Achievement Award, Brand Laureate Award, Keys to Cities* etc. In 2001, he started *The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF)*, with a mission to address the fundamental human needs of food, water and peace. TPRF's - Food for People, is an innovative program that provides nutritious meals to children and ailing adults in India, Nepal and Ghana. The excerpts of Prem Rawat's message are available online at www.timelesstoday.com and www.premrawat.com.

National & International News

Rohingya crisis dents Myanmar's hopes of Western Investment Boom

Reuters

Yangon, Sept. 22: When officials from Myanmar's commercial capital Yangon toured six European countries in June, they were hoping to drum up investment in transport, energy and education. Instead, they were bombarded with questions about the country's treatment of the Rohingya Muslim minority, who have long complained of persecution by the Buddhist majority in the oil-rich, ethnically divided, western state of Rakhine.

"In each of every country, that issue was always brought up," Hlaing Maw Oo, secretary of Yangon City Development Committee, told Reuters after the 16-day trip. The situation in Rakhine has worsened dramatically since then, with more than 400,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh to escape a military counterinsurgency offensive the United Nations has described as "ethnic cleansing". Western trade and investment in Myanmar is small, but there were hopes that a series of reforms this year would prise open an economy stunted by international sanctions and decades of mismanagement under military rule.

With most sanctions now lifted, an expected flood of Western money was seen as a key dividend from the transition to civilian rule under Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Regional diplomats saw it balancing China's growing influence over its neighbour. But Suu Kyi has been beset by international criticism for saying little about human rights abuses against the Rohingya, and lawyers, consultants and lobbyists say the European and U.S. companies that had been circling are now wary of the reputational risks of investing in the country.

Louis Yeung, managing principal of Yangon-based investment firm Faircap Partners, said one of his business partners - a listed, U.S.-based food and beverage company - decided to hold off its plan to enter the Myanmar market for three to five years, citing factors including slower-than-expected reforms and the Rohingya crisis.

"Their conclusion is that it wasn't the right time for them," he said. "They want to see more traction from the government and Rakhine is not helpful." **On hold**

The pressure has been growing in recent months, even on existing investors, with rights group AFD International calling on foreign firms to stop investing in Myanmar. A small group of investors in U.S. oil major Chevron filed an unsuccessful motion at its annual general meeting urging it to pull out of its production sharing contract with a state-run firm to explore for oil and gas, while Norwegian telecoms firm Telenor, which runs a mobile network in Myanmar, issued a statement calling for human rights protection.

Chevron declined to comment on its investment in Myanmar, while Telenor did not respond to several requests for comment. Bernd Lange, chair of the European Parliament Committee on International Trade, said last week his delegation postponed a visit to Myanmar indefinitely, saying the human rights situation "does not allow a fruitful discussion on a potential EU-Myanmar investment agreement".

Khin Aung Tun, vice-chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation, told Reuters global firms planning to hold conferences in Myanmar were now considering other locations. "People were just starting to see Myanmar as a 'good news' story," said Dane Chamorro, head of Global East Asia at Control Risks, a global risk consultancy. "Now you can imagine a boardroom in which someone mentions Myanmar and someone else says

"hold on, I've just seen something on Myanmar on TV: villages burned down, refugees, etc..."

In an interview published in Nikkei Asia Review on Thursday, Suu Kyi acknowledged it was "natural" for foreign investors to be concerned, but repeated her view that economic development was the key to solving poor Rakhine's long-standing problems. "So investments would actually help make the situation better," she said.

In China's orbit

Myanmar's \$70 billion economy should be a strong investment proposition for Western firms. It boasts large oil and gas reserves and natural resources such as rubies, jade and timber. Wages are low and its youthful population of more than 50 million is eager for retail and manufacturing jobs. In April, Myanmar passed a long-awaited investment law, simplifying procedures and granting foreign investors equal treatment to the locals. A game-changing law allowing foreigners to buy stakes in local firms is expected later this year.

"The investment conditions were improving," said Dustin Daugherty, ASEAN lead for business intelligence at Dezan Shira & Associates, a consultancy for foreign investors in Asia. Myanmar's economy may not suffer much, however, if Western firms shun the country - or even if their governments were to reimpose some sanctions, although that

appears unlikely for now. Suu Kyi has sought to deepen relations with China at a time when Beijing is keen to push projects that fit with its "Belt and Road" initiative, which aims to stimulate trade by investment in infrastructure throughout Asia and beyond.

Myanmar trades with China as much as it does with its next four biggest partners: Singapore, Thailand, Japan and India. None of that top five participated in previous sanctions. Trade with the United States is only about \$400 million and U.S. investment is just 0.5 percent of the total. Europe accounts for around a 10th of investment, while China and Hong Kong make up more than a third, and Singapore and Thailand another third.

Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Director General of Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, told Reuters European investors might have "second thoughts", but he expected Asian investors to stay put. China is already in talks to sell electricity to energy-hungry Myanmar and pushing for preferential access to a strategic port on the Bay of Bengal. In April, the two countries reached an agreement on an oil pipeline that pumps oil across Myanmar to southwest China. "It is going to feed Aung San Suu Kyi straight into the hands of (Chinese President) Xi Jinping," said John Blaxland, director at the ANU Southeast Asia Institute and head of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre.

Two militants involved in Banihal terror attack arrested

PTI Banihal/Jammu, Sept 22: Two militants involved in the deadly terror attack on the SSB party in Banihal belt of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday have been arrested, the police said today. Garzafar and Arif have been arrested in connection with the attack in which one SSB jawan was killed and another injured. "We have arrested two militants involved in the terror attack on the SSB party in Banihal. They were arrested within 24 hours of the attack by the police during a major combing operation in Banihal belt", SSP, Ramban, Mohan Lal told PTI. "Two service rifles, including an AK

assault rifle and an Insas rifle, which were snatched during the attack, were also recovered from their possession", the SSP said. Gazanfar and Arif were recruited to foment terror in the Chenab Valley region, officials said. The duo, along with Aquib Wahid, were involved in the attack. The hunt for Wahid is on, they said. 21-year-old Gazanfar Ahmed and 22-year-old Aquib Wahid are BSc students at the Degree College in Anantnag. 25-year-old Arif is working with a private company. Families of Gazanfar and Aquib were allegedly associated with the Hizbul Mujahidebn in the past, they said.

Two arrested over London tube bombing freed

PTI London, Sep 22: Two of the six men arrested in connection with last week's bombing in the London subway have been released without charge, the Scotland Yard said. One of those released is a 21-year-old, who was arrested on Saturday from Hounslow in West London. The second man, 45 years of age, was held from Newport in south Wales on Wednesday. Four other men, arrested in connection of the bombing, remain to be in the police custody. "We anticipate that the searches will take some days to complete and may cause further disruption."