

Editorial

Monday, September 30, 2019

Remembering Lamyamba Irabot and his politics

Lamyamba Irabot is one of first torch bearers of modern progressive politics in Manipur. Not only his political positions at every political movement in the first half of the twentieth century Manipur were commendable, he is also a master of political strategy and tactics. His political carrier did not start with a radical position; rather his politics became more and more radical at every movement. He began with a linguistic movement for the inclusion of Meiteilon in the education system of his time and worked tirelessly for developing Meiteilon.

His contribution in linguistic movement gave him an important place in the political scene of Manipur in the first half of the twentieth century. He was made a member of the Sadar Panchayat and received favours from the royal family. However, he left all these privileges after he joined the movement against amang-aseng which later culminated into the movement of responsible government. His rift with the ruling class of Manipur further aggravated when he openly supported Nupi Lan against the colonial designs under which the Marwari businessmen are exporting rice from Manipur creating a steep rise in rice prices in Manipur at that time.

Once a glorified member of the state administration, he was jailed for supporting the cause of the people of Manipur. He politics further expanded in scope when he met communists in Syhlet. He became a communist and when he came back after six years of imprisonment and exile to Manipur, he started working for a structural change of the society he found himself in. When the responsible government finally came to fruit in the form of constitution, he said that it is one of the most important chapter in the history of Manipur. But it does not mean that he was in agreement of the 1948 constitution of Manipur in its entirety.

He went underground when the protesters at Pungdongbam resisting the formation of Purvanchal Pradesh clashed with police. This event shaped the politics of Manipur for the future generation to come. After he went underground, he started waging an armed struggle against the state for socialist country. Many scholars, citing this phase of Irabot's political life, have argued that he is the father of insurgency movement in Manipur. Nevertheless, both state and civil society organizations are now celebrating his struggle against oppression and exploitation every year on September 30.

Irabot Day and the practice of volunteerism in Manipur

By - Monika Ingudam Devi
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On September 21, 1948, a public meeting was called by a member of the Manipur Assembly to protest the proposed formation of Purbachal Pradesh. This was to be composed of Manipur, Tripura, Cachar and the Lushai Hills, with its capital in Silchar town. People coming to the meeting were being stopped, and at Pungdongbam village in Imphal East district, a scuffle broke out in which, tragically a police officer lost his life. As a result of the police action the meeting was not held, a warrant was issued against the leader, who evaded arrest. This communist leader died a few years later in the jungle, a fugitive of the law.

This is known as the Pungdongbam Incident, and is seen as a watershed in the history of Manipur, and is seen as the day which saved Manipur. In 1976, the birthday of the 52-year old communist who called for the protest, was declared a state holiday and in 2018, the Government of Manipur gave the observation of the Jana Neta Irabot Day, the status of a State Function.

Hijam Irabot Singh, was an incredible person. He was an anti-colonial fighter, noted for his involvement in the second Nupi Lan (women's war)

in 1939 which saw women protest the famine-like situation caused by the export of rice by the British. He was a communist political activist, and worked with peasants and tea garden workers. He was a poet, a playwright, an author and an editor - with many published and unpublished works. He was a keen actor and participated in many theatre performances. He was active as a sports person playing a number of sports and was also interested in and encouraged the spread of satja - the Manipuri style of martial arts. Jananeta Irabot's multi-faceted personality was not just limited to his individual interest and pursuits, he emphasized on the need to spread sports and cultural activities in the He initiated the organization of various sports tournaments in football, hockey and cricket, many of which were the first of its kinds in Manipur. He also promoted the idea of celebrating Holi (Yaoshang) through local youth clubs by organising sports and cultural meets within the community for children,



young and senior citizens. The activities are organised in the community ground of each village. It is natural that his popularity as a leader beloved by the people of Manipur grew even after his death. His vision for an egalitarian and independent society in Manipur, continues to capture the imagination of all people of Manipur. Many are of the opinion that merely meeting once a year to talk about him is not enough. The need of the hour is to think and act with the same zeal today and deal with the problems that the present society is facing. It is no surprise then that on Jananeta Irabot Day all across the state of Manipur the youth of the state come forward to do social service works for the community. It has become customary for young people to organise programmes to clean up the common areas and set up paper lanterns to be lit later in the evening. This is the day that across villages the community comes together to

clean up the public ponds that are used by everybody throughout the year.

Volunteerism through these social service campaigns means much more than the mere act of cleaning up a common area or a public pond, it brings together all people to work together for a common cause, promoting an environment of amicable conversation and healthy. For all societies seeking to improve the feeling of togetherness and oneness such occasions of community activity and an informal public interaction is the best starting point to build inclusive and harmonious living. This practice of promoting public associations and healthy exchange should be encouraged for the welfare and prosperity of the state of Manipur and the whole country.

Photo Caption: A bust of Jananeta Irabot on the main highway in Bishnupur district, Manipur. Photo Credit: Joseph Mathai/ActionAid

[Monika Ingudam Devi is a development professional working with ActionAid Association. She was recently awarded the National Youth Icon Award 2019, by the International Youth Committee. She can be reached at : monika.ingudam09@gmail.com]

World River Day, 2019

By - N. Munal Meitei

"Rivers are the arteries of our planet; they are lifelines in the truest sense." This is the word by the founder of world river day, Mark Angelo. Every river is unique in terms of its flow patterns, the landscapes, the species it supports and on its associated ecosystems. Rivers have no political boundaries; they treat different nations with various people having different language, culture and religions as loving mother along its entire course. Rivers are the most beautiful objects seen from the outer space. In 2005, the United Nations launched the "Water for life decade" to create a greater awareness and care for our water resources. With this, the World Rivers Day was started in a proposal initiated by internationally renowned river advocate, Mark Angelo, a Canadian conservationist.

World river day is celebrated 4th Sunday of September and in India we are celebrating on last Sunday, the 29th September, 2019. Now everyone should join hand to strengthen the movement for rivers and water. Together, we have to raise our voices to bring the attention to the urgent needs and threats facing with our rivers, and stood for hope and solidarity as we are to find the solutions to protect our rivers.

Rivers are a part of our communities. We cannot ignore our local river systems without ultimately impacting our own health and well-being. These issues are not solely river issues; they are issues for human communities and for the future generations.

World Rivers Day highlights many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and hopefully encourage the improved stewardship of rivers around the world. Rivers in every country face an array of threats, and only our active involvement will ensure their health in the years ahead. Most of the rivers in Indian cities have changed their dresses with plastics. With celebration of World Rivers Day, it encourage us to come out and participate to make the rivers as the world's most pristine, scenic, and free-flowing streams.

Many of the world's rivers are endangered. Pollution, deforestation in catchments, water extraction, drought, dams and invasive aquatic species threaten the health and future of our rivers.

In Manipur basin, Imphal river valley occupies 28.4%, Barak valley 40.5% and Eastern catchment drain to Chindwin 31.1% with many river systems and their tributaries. The

scintillating rivers of Manipur make an important part of our topography. We may call Manipur a land of many rivers, and the beauties of these streams adorn the state even more. Some of the rivers in Manipur also form the natural boundaries both domestic and international for the state. Rivers in Manipur are also an important source of food, irrigation and electricity along with a hub of adventure sports like whitewater river rafting.

Rivers have served as socio-economic-political lifeline of Manipur and Rivers were used strategically as the boundaries by the then kings of Manipur. Rivers are considered sacred by the people of Manipur. Hence if we have any pride of being a Manipuri, then we should not throw any wastes, dirt's and especially plastics into our rivers and otherwise our river will be choked and may become to death. Amongst the rivers in Manipur, the Barak River and Manipur River are most popular. Manipur River has many major rivers with its tributaries like Imphal River, Iri River, Thoubal River, Sengmai River and Kuga River etc. The Ithai barrage is really a very important point of talk for bring a big change in all our aquatic Biodiversity. Almost all the fishes which are saline water life cycle have been extinct from our soil due to the dam. When a river has been dammed, one of the most obvious changes is the disruption to the amount and timing of its flow. "Environmental flows" is a system for managing the quantity, timing, and quality of water flows below a dam, with the goal of sustaining freshwater and estuarine ecosystems and the human livelihoods that depend on them.

Environmental flows can restore to improve water quality, sediment deposition, addressing the life-cycle needed of fish and wildlife, and restoring the livelihoods of river-based communities. In a candid concession, besides heavy rain and discharge, the urban and rural encroachments in the river basin - including infrastructure such as buildings, roads, expressways and other business facilities, played a negative role in creating bottlenecks, which exacerbated the floods to the tune of 15 to 20%. Nambal and many other rivers in our state are also facing the same acute problems. It is therefore emphasizes the need for better infrastructural planning in the floodplain instead of encroaching and building on the river banks which are natural sponge for floodwaters.

A river's flow is its heartbeat. Freshwater plants and animals have evolved with, and intimately depend upon, natural patterns of hydrological variability. Naturally high and low water levels create habitat conditions essential to reproduction and growth, and drive ecological processes required for ecosystem health. Flood pulses move sediment that maintains the form and function of rivers. Seasonal inundation of floodplains and wetlands supports groundwater recharge. And the flow of freshwater to estuaries prevents saline intrusion into coastal aquifers. Hence it all depends on healthy river flows. Healthy rivers are the lifelines of our planet. Rivers and their watersheds - and the rich variety of life they sustain - provide people with water, food, medicines, building materials, land-replenishing silts, and more. They mitigate floods and droughts, support forests, recharge groundwater supplies, sustain fisheries, and provide byways for travel. We cannot do without the goods and services that aquatic ecosystems provide, and we cannot replicate them. Protecting our rivers is therefore the health insurance policy for all of us.

A river is much more than the flowing water. Its ever-shifting bed and banks, the groundwater below, its surrounding forests, marshes and floodplain are all parts of river life. A river carries not just water, but more importantly nutrient-rich sediments and dissolved minerals that replenish the land. The river's estuary, where fresh water mixes with the ocean's salt, is one of the most biologically productive parts of the river - and of

the planet.

Although the planet's rivers are in crisis, overtime, we can take comfort that rivers have a natural ability to self-heal. As Richard Bangs, wrote in his book River Gods, "Wild rivers are earth's renegades, defying gravity, dancing to their own tunes, resisting the authority of humans, always chipping away, and eventually always winning." We all win when rivers are allowed to flow freely.

Now, almost all the Rivers of the world are under threat and thus celebration of World Rivers Day has the immense meanings. Our development is moving fast, the population is exploding, pollutions are maximizing, climate change is erupting, global warming intensified, scanty rainfalls frequently repeated, melting of glaciers accelerated, extraction of construction materials from riverbeds overloaded, mushrooming the number of dams for irrigation and hydro-electricity on every lengths and draining of a huge quantity of harmful industrial waste in the Rivers have made our all Rivers on earth to death. But it seems, we are always forgetting that the Rivers are also the living entities and they support our entire environment and ecosystems. Therefore, with the objectives of World Rivers Day, celebration, "Join in and celebrate a river near you," let's ensure that everyone is aware of the importance of river stewardship and let's promise not to do any harm, threat and endanger to our Rivers from today onwards for the sack of future generations.

(The writer can be reached at Email: mnumal@vahoo.in)

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE (ND&PS) (FTC), MANIPUR AT CHEIRAP COURT COMPLEX

ANNEXTURE-1

Schedule I VIII, Form No. 100
High Court Criminal Process No. 4

CASE NO. :- SPECIAL TRIAL NO. 47 OF 2019
FIR No. 04(01)2001 NAB-PS
U/S 18 ND&PS Act.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF THE ACCUSED (Section 82 of th Code of Criminal Procedure)

1) Name, Description and address of the accused / witness :

Mr. Seikhohal Haokip (29 years), S/o. Tongsei Haokip of Hita Heingzawl Village, CCPR District. A/P Haokip Veng.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that Mr. Seikhohal Haokip has committed the offence punishable Under Section 18 ND&PS Act (FIR No. 04(01)2001 NAB-PS) and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon stating that Mr. Seikhohal Haokip cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Mr. Seikhohal Haokip has absconded to avoid the execution of the said warrant.

2) Name of the accused/witness: Mr. Seikhohal Haokip

Police station is thereby made that the said Mr. Seikhohal Haokip is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on the 4th Oct. 2019.

3) Place : Imphal
Dated this 09th September, 2019

Sd/-
S. Tara Devi
Special Judge (ND&PS) (FTC)
Manipur

Adv. D. Das

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Voter ID- Card lost

I, the undersigned, Suraj Huidrom, do hereby declare that I have lost my Voter ID Card (EPIC No. FHS0354746), issued by the Election Commission of India on the way between Khagempalli to Paona Bazar on 7/08/2019.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Suraj Huidrom
S/o H. Chaoba Singh
Khagempalli Huidrom Leikai, Imphal

Document Lost

I have lost my original B.Sc.IIIrd year Marksheet bearing Roll no.112255 with Registration number 813 of the year 2000 on the way between my home to Nambol Bazar. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Chingbam Sadananda Singh
S/o. Ch.Jugeshor Singh
Sagolband Heinoupok, Langjing Achouba, Phn. No.9022217612