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khongji

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Khongji O khongji! The fittest of the standard;

The worthy savior; the choice of the mothers' mother;
I wonder, you the intimate 'a friend' of all children;
Boy and girl; girl and boy, you familiar them;
You the one, you the chosen; you're dear to all
understanding;
You twist and you turn; you fold and you're pliable;
You're silver; you're forgiving; you're accommodating;
You neither blame nor excuse; you're a unity;
Gendering you forget; you're unique amalgamation;
You adore merging; you beautify blending;
Jing jing jing! Jing jing jing! Jing jing jing!
You run holding inviting with those feet, softer;
So sacred and too pleasing; you're one brother;
You're too ornamental passionate; one protector.

Khongji O khongji! The fittest of the standard;

The worthy savior; the choice of the mothers' mother;
You're supreme decorative jewelry; one lucky costume;
Doesn't matter what price you tag?
Doesn't matter how heavy you weight?
You're one emotion; you're body itself;
You're one love adoring warmth; so loyally guarding;
Rich and poor; you consider and you're a uniform;
Doesn't matter how you shape? Twisting and buckling;
Scratching and fastening; securing and tightening;
Certain and sounding; fixing and bonding;
Jing jing jing! Jing jing jing! Jing jing jing!
Those kicking blessed foot: white and soft witnessing
watch;
A smile to hold on; contemplating Mother's pride;
You're each child's possession; you age and you retire;
You aren't too strange dubious; still you're a promise.

India in control despite lower-order collapse as Australia chase 323

Agency
Adelaide, Dec 9

India remained in driver's seat despite lower-order collapse as Australia lost opener Aaron Finch's wicket at the stroke of tea in pursuit of a stiff target of 323 on the fourth day of the first Test on Sunday.

Aaron Finch (11), survived a loud leg before appeal on zero off Ishant Sharma's second ball of the second innings. He went for DRS review and the decision was turned because it was a no ball.

Ashwin however nabbed just before tea as the ball brushed his gloves before looping up for keeper Rishabh Pant to claim an easy catch. Marcus Harris (14 batting) was unbeaten at the other end.

Earlier, India lost five wickets for 25 runs after lunch to get bowled out for 307 in their second innings riding on half-centuries from Cheteshwar Pujara (71) and Ajinkya Rahane (70).

India only added 47 runs for their last five wickets after resumption of play post lunch. Rishabh Pant (28) continued attacking Nathan Lyon (6-122) but didn't last long as a wild swing found the fielder at deep cover. It started the Indian slide.

Ashwin (5) and Ajinkya Rahane (70) played uncharacteristic

strokes, indicating that a declaration was forthcoming. But India never got to that point.

Ashwin was caught pulling in the deep off Mitchell Starc (3-40) while Rahane was out caught reverse sweeping. Mohammed Shami (0) was out caught first ball, wildly swinging at Lyon.

Ishant Sharma (0) was bounced out as India were bowled out in just 11.5 overs after lunch. Their last seven wickets cost only 73 runs. Earlier, Pujara and Rahane took India to 260 for five at lunch.

Starting from overnight 151 for 3, India made good progress through the first session as Pujara and Rahane ground down the Australian attack with an 87-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

Pujara started on a positive note with successive fours early in the day's play. India's main threat came from Nathan Lyon (3-92), who was using the rough on the pitch to trouble the batsmen.

Rahane survived an appeal for a catch in the 74th over via DRS when replays showed that the bat was nowhere near the ball.

India's 200 had come up in the 77th over while their 50-partnership came off 103 balls. Pujara reached his 20th Test half-century off 140 balls.

(Courtesy)

By:-Jiten Yumnam

The rivers meandering through forests and lush green terrains are one of the outstanding natural heritages of Manipur. Unfortunately, these rivers are being targeted for power generation by multinational corporations. The lead in such destructive venture is undertaken by India's leading dam building companies such as National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO).

The above mentioned companies find stronghold by taking advantage of Manipur Hydro Power Policy, 2012 (MHPP). Perhaps, Government of Manipur has chosen hydro power sector as an important sector of development.

The policy envisages proposed generation of more than 2,000 MW power in near future. NHPC and others openly jump in to accrue profit out of it. NHPC, in addition to its major stake in a controversial project (105 MW Loktak Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project), is making efforts to add more mega hydel projects under its grips. NHPC, on 28th April 2010 and reaffirmed on 22nd October 2011, signed an agreement with Government of Manipur to construct the controversial 1500 MW Tipaimukh Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project. In the meanwhile, NEEPCO is making efforts to build 190 MW Pabram Dam, 67 MW Khongnem Chakha Dam and 60 MW Irang Dam on Barak and Irang rivers.

Rules for the Management of the State of Manipur (1935) under the advice of the President of the Darbar, who was also the Political Agent. On the other hand, the Krishi Sammelan (Farmers' Collective), established in 1936,

quickly emerged as a strong political force for Manipur's self-determination. This second movement eventually gave birth to a democratic struggle for the full independence of Manipur in 1948 - 1949 against the metropolitan government, a constitutional monarchy that had become an associate state of the new Dominion of India and the imminent merging of Manipur with India. 70, 93. During the period from 1947 to 1948, the British paramountcy in South Asia was terminated. In mid-1947, the Political Agent in Manipur was designated Dominion Agent for a brief interim period, in preparation of the succession by a colonial British style Dominion Government of India in favour of which the British Plenipotentiary, Mountbatten had negotiated. His powers and authority remained intact in accordance with the Sanad establishing British control over Manipur.

2 beyond the horizon March 2018 March 2018 beyond the horizon 3 It is now revealed that NHPC is aggressively pursuing construction of 66 MW Loktak Downstream project over Leimatak River. Some years ago, on 26th September, 2008, an agreement was signed between Government of Manipur and NHPC. Subsequently, Loktak Downstream Hydroelectric

Corporation Limited (LDHCL) was formed as a joint venture company of NHPC Limited (stake 74%) and Government of Manipur (stake 26%) for implementation of the project in Tamenglong District. To speed up the process, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC met Chief Minister of Manipur Mr N. Biren on 14th December 2017.

The project is a run of river scheme in which tail race discharge of upstream commissioned Loktak 105 MW powerhouse along with inflow of Leimatak River will be used for power generation. The project envisages construction of 28 metres high barrage on river Leimatak, to generate 66 MW of hydro power. The tail race tunnel of 71 metres long will be opened into Irang River. The project is estimated at a total cost of Rs 867.77 crores on October 2006. NHPC's latest revision of cost of the project, at the price index of 2015, stands at Rs. 1250 crore.

The 59th meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of Union Ministry of Environment and Forest, held on 20th and 21st July, 2012 recommended grant of environmental clearance for the project. The project was earlier considered in the 53rd meeting of EAC on 11th and 12th November, 2011. Stage - I Forest Clearance was accorded on 3rd March 2011 for diversion of 211.50 hectares of forest land. It was accorded without adhering to Forest Rights Act, 2006.

'TEC' was accorded on 15th November 2006 by the CEA. Earlier, Union Power Minister asked Government of Manipur and NHPC to reduce power tariff to Rs 5.30 per unit as Rs 400 crore would be given as grant. Due to this disagreement, the power purchase agreement was delayed.

Project authorities have detailed that total catchment area of the project would span over 554 Sq.km and total land requirement would be 211.50 hectares, including wet paddy fields on river bed, community land, Jhum land and unclassified forest land. Project authorities have also outlined that at least 705 families were likely to be affected due to loss of their right over forest land. However, detailed environment and social impact assessments are concealed from general public. They do not detail larger negative implications that would occur on the rich flora and faunal diversity of Tamenglong areas and on indigenous peoples.

In the past, an environment public hearing in respect to the project was conducted on 7th June 2011, at Longjang (Thangal) village in Tamenglong District. Representatives of villagers and civil societies, who attended it expressed concerns against the project. They expressed apprehension about negative impacts on their land and economic livelihood.

They were doubtful that NHPC could ever fulfil their promises of growth and facilities. Chairman of Zeliangrong Students' Union, attorney powered Khunbu and land owners of Touthang Village, Chairman of Soubang village

authority, representatives of Chakanglong Peidai, Khullakpa of Taoshang village authority court and others submitted written representations against the project.

Ningthadai of Thangal village regretted that Government of Manipur signed an MOU with NHPC without clearly stipulating rehabilitation and resettlement plans of would be affected communities. Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plans were not furnished in advance despite the fact that the project area is a high seismic risk zone. He requested for re-conduct of public hearing at Touthang village as they were not informed in advance and in proper manner with full detail of the project and its implications.

Tingenglung of Thangal village also demanded several public hearings before commencing the project. According to him the manner of conducting the public hearing did not correspond to the prescribed norms. A proper and detail information had to be circulated beforehand to ensure free, prior and informed consent of affected communities. Without this, the villagers could not take any constructive decision. Martha Pamei of Leishok village complaint that her village had been deprived of electricity from Loktak project. According to her, promises made by NHPC were never fulfilled. She expressed that NHPC had to make promises in legally liable written forms. Jangamlung Panmei, a leader from Tamenglong expressed concern that the purpose of NHPC and Manipur Government was just to earn quick profits. He was unhappy that lands in hills were often projected as a no man's area and compensation offered by corporate bodies was unjust. He suggested that indigenous peoples should not allow their land and way of life to be destroyed.

NHPC's push for Loktak Downstream Project came at a time, when indigenous peoples were intensifying call and voices for review and decommissioning of controversial Ithai Barrage. NHPC's push for Loktak Downstream project is occurring in full speed, notwithstanding appraisal by Chief Minister of Manipur to Prime Minister of India on 2nd August 2017 to decommission the Ithai Barrage to prevent recurrent and worsening flooding situation. Considering destructive tendencies of Loktak beyond the horizon March 2018 March 2018 beyond the horizon Project, the incumbent Governor of Manipur had recently called for decommission of Ithai Barrage. Loktak Project, which was commissioned in 1983 is passing through almost four (4) decades without any clear agreement or guidelines on the functioning of the project. NHPC's ongoing insistence to construct and operate another 60 MW Loktak Downstream Project, that envisages utilization of water discharged from Loktak Project, at Leimatak Power Station, makes clear its adamant intention to continue with the controversial Loktak Project for another fifty (50) years or more without an agreement and operation guideline.

It becomes clear that NHPC is least bothered about untold suffering and miseries faced by people. But Manipur is bearing the burden of extensive devastation and destruction for about forty years. Manipur cannot afford to have the destructive project operating for another 100 years. There are no holistic and detailed impact assessment for the continued operation of both 105 MW Loktak HEP Project and 66 MW Loktak Downstream Project. NHPC seems to be enjoying a free rein to destroy Loktak wetlands.

There is neither an agreement nor a regulatory mechanism to ensure rights and ecology of Loktak wetlands and to monitor accountability of NHPC.

This is unacceptable. NHPC is simply milking Loktak to the latter's pathetic demise and extinction.

Loktak Project, instead of irrigating 50,000 hectares of agriculture land had submerged similar area of land. Such destruction of land had undermined Manipur's food sovereignty and we had to depend on imports. NHPC, instead of hailing responsibility for such destructions, insists on construction of additional mega dams. Such attitude of NHPC exposes the highest form of disrespect and insensitivity to the concerns, plights and rights of the people of Manipur. NHPC, as it stands, therefore, is a perfect symbol of corporate unaccountability, disregard of peoples' voices and arbitration of all human rights norms. Entrusting rivers, lands and forests to an unaccountable corporate body like National Hydroelectric Power Corporation to build more dams would simply be suicidal for people and environment.

NHPC is aggressively pushing for construction of Loktak Downstream Project. This project, in its current configuration will continue with operation of the controversial 105 MW Loktak Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project. This will in turn adds to complication, woes and suffering of communities. It will lead to complete devastation of Loktak wetlands.

Therefore, the MoU signed between Government of Manipur and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, signed in 2008, should be revoked.

Government should stop wasting public money for a 'failed' project like Loktak downstream project and the proposed 66 MW Loktak Downstream Project.

NHPC, Government of Manipur and Government of India should urgently concede to the prolong demands of the people to decommission Ithai Barrage. Any developmental project that creates enormous inconveniences to communities and imposed without provision of redress mechanism cannot be considered sustainable. The project has become a symbol of exploitation, loot and plunder. Any project in the name of development should not be pursued without free, prior and informed consent of people. Respecting the voices and aspirations of communities would be crucial for fostering true democracy in Manipur.

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