

Polo grows on you: Col Tarsem

By Wahengbam Tiken

Col Tarsem Singh Warrich, who led the India A side last year, is back again as the captain of the side for the 12th Manipur Polo International 2018. Col Tarsem's association with horses and polo goes back a long way since his father used to play the game at Government college Lahore during pre-partition days. But, it was only after joining the NDA that Tarsem started playing the game seriously.

Before switching to polo, Col Tarsem played for the under-16 Indian hockey team. At NDA, the renowned polo player Pickle Sodhi, who was an equitation officer there spotted his potential and made him play polo. He made quick progress, was picked for IPA junior in 1986 and in 1987, was declared the most promising player of the country by the IPA.

From here on Col Tarsem took a long break from polo as he was on army duty in Sri Lanka, Manipur and Kashmir and resumed playing only in 1995. During this period, he was into show jumping and eventing and in the year 1994, won bronze in national show jumping and eventing.

In 1996, Col Tarsem went to the US as part of the Indian polo team and went on to play polo in different parts of that country. There, he came in contact with Galindo and Leary family who had a polo club in Indios, California and this is where Col Tarsem "picked up the intricacies of high goal polo" and blossomed as a polo player.

According to Col Tarsem, what separates polo from other games is that two



hearts, two bodies and two living beings have to come together to play the game effectively. Polo combines the love of animals, love of sports and ball games together. The sport grows on you and one never stops learning.

Also back again is Mahesh Sharma who was a member of the India A team in 2016. What is more, he has also brought his family – wife Jyoti and son Ishan who studying in 2nd standard along, making it a family outing of sorts. Jyoti says it was her idea to come to Manipur with Mahesh and she is "loving the experience".

Mahesh holds the world record for riding astride two horses for a distance of 15 km in 21 minutes, which is acknowledged by the Limca Books of Records, Asia Books of Records, World India Book of Records, among others.

Like his other teammates, Mahesh finds the polo played on the Manipuri ponies very different from the polo played with other horses. The balance in these ponies, he finds very different and finds it

difficult to ride and turn. But he also added that he is getting used to these ponies as he gets more opportunities to ride them. One of the reasons for the team's heavy losses according to him is because it is a weak team. While other teams are 8 to 10 goals teams, his team is a zero goal team.

As for the tournament, he finds the huge supportive crowd very energizing and says "it is a wonderful experience to be playing in Mapal Kangiebung where the story of polo began". Major Apurva Dabhadre was born in Pune On July 18, 1987. He began riding at the age of 5, as his father Vishnu Dabhadre, had around five horses and used to run the Pune Riders Club. He is also into equestrian sports and eventing and was among the probabilities for the last Asiad in equestrian.

One of the reasons why Dabhadre took up the game of polo late was because, Pune where he grew up did not have any polo playing culture. But after joining the army and seeing others play the game, he became getting attracted to it. Polo according to Apurva, "is a rough game and one

needs to be strong both physically and mentally". Like Mahesh, Major Apurva's family – wife Aditi, sons 3-year old Matriya and 10-month old baby boy are also here with him. Aditi who is a Kathak dancer found the place culturally very rich. She liked the cultural evening organized by MHRPA and was very impressed by the dancers who performed the Ras Leela. "they were so good". Apurva found the people very welcoming, "the hospitality is amazing".

Havildar Rambir Singh, who is with the Remont Veterinary Corp, was born on June 10, 1976. Started to ride at the ripe age of 20, Rambir slowly developed an interest for polo after seeing others play in his corp and finally took the game in 2005. He was taught the game by Brig S S Kashyap who continues to inspire him.

Rambir, a 1-goal player, started playing polo tournaments from 2008 onwards and since then, has been part of his corp's winning team in a

number of tournaments. He won the DGVRSC Cup Delhi 2015 and 2016. He was a member of the Army Commander Cup 2012 winning team as that of the ASC Bangalore Gyan Jyoti Cup winning team in 2014. He has also played in the Awadh Polo Cup Lucknow as also in Bombay.

He thinks polo is a very tough game and training the horse to be polo ready is not an easy thing. One of the reasons why he plays polo is to keep alive the legacies of the past when kings and maharajas used to play the game. He believes steps should be taken to popularize the game and take it to the masses.

The last member of the team Nadim Ali was born in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan on August 30, 1986. In 2004, he shifted to Jaipur but has not left his ancestral home altogether and shuttles between the two. A naik in the 61 cavalry, Nadim Ali started riding in 2004. Nadim Ali also got interested in polo after watching others play. Nadim feels that to play good polo there should be good understanding between horse and man, "they should be in perfect sync and a polo player should be a tough rider". Nadim has a -2-goal handicap and played number of tournaments in Delhi, Jaipur, Lucknow, Bangalore, Patiala among other places. He was part winning team of the Army Commander Cup 2017, Armoured Trophy 2017.

Talking about his experience in Manipur, Nadim said that they have been treated very well, with lot of respect, "beyond expectations". If given a chance, he would love to come back again here.

JFA welcomes court verdict on retrenched PTI employees

IT News
Guwahati, Nov 29,

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) welcomes the verdict of Delhi High Court staying the retrenchment of 297 employees of Press Trust of India (PTI) and congratulates the employees for the historic legal success.

It may be noted that the higher court on 27 November 2018 passed an order to stay retrenchment of those PTI employees pointing out that the arbitrary policy of

management didn't follow the concerned rules.

Earlier the management of India's most trusted news agency had sacked 297 employees (out of total 530 workers across the country) in a single day (29 September) arguing that there was no work for them. Most of the sacked employees were engaged in transmission, IT and messenger department. Later the federation of PTI employees union challenged the management in the higher court and now it terms the

outcome a victory. Indian Federation of Working Journalist, Brihanmumbai Union of Journalists with many other organizations hailed the court order.

"Technical upgradations of any organization are always welcome but that should not pave the way for shrinking space for employees. Those termed as worthless employees should have been given adequate opportunities for improvement to perform better," said a statement issued by JFA.

Guwahati scribes to interact with Survival International

IT News
Guwahati, Nov 29,

Survival International, a London based tribal rights' protection platform, will be available for interaction with member-journalists of Guwahati Press Club tomorrow (30 November 2018). Sophie Grig, senior research and advocacy officer of the global forum will answer

various media queries through the video conferencing during the Friday program starting at 3 pm.

Founded in 1969, the nonprofit & non-government organization campaigns for the rights of indigenous tribal people across the globe. Its campaigns generally focus on tribal peoples' desires to keep their ancestral lands. The

influential organization calls these peoples some of the most vulnerable on Earth and aims to eradicate what it calls misconceptions used to justify violations of human rights.

Survival International aims to help foster tribal people's self-determination. To ensure freedom of action, the forum does not accept government funding.

India's top female racer Mira Erda, Sneha Sharma earn call-ups for W Series trials

By a correspondent
New Delhi, Nov 29,

India's foremost female racer Mira Erda is set to create history, making the list of over 50 elite drivers who will get a shot at the ambitious W Series next year.

At 18, the organisers revealed on Wednesday, she was among the youngest girls to be selected from 30 different countries to fight for a place in the final grid of 18 in the world's only all-women racing championship, starting in May 2019.

Mira broke the glass ceiling in 2017 when she entered the Euro JK category of India's premier racing event, the JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship. Another JK Tyre stalwart, Sneha Sharma, who competes in the LGB-4 class, has also been invited from a pool of 100 applicants.

The W Series boasts of a total prize fund of \$1.5 million, with the overall winner taking home a cool \$500,000. It will also take care of travel and subsistence costs of all the drivers, giving a unique opportunity to racers from all economic background.



Female racer Mira Erda

"We are thrilled by the response to our initiative," Catherine Bond Muir, W Series CEO, said. "Even today there is a massive gender imbalance in motorsport and W Series is making the first step to correct that," she added. The shortlisted ladies have two months to prepare for the next step in the selection process – a three-day on-and-off-track trial, including fitness tests and psychometric profiling, as

well as multiple driving skill tests. Former F1 stars David Coulthard and Alex Wurz will be among the judges, alongside Dave Ryan, W Series Racing Director.

The final grid will be determined following a series of track tests in the W Series race car – a 2019 Tatuus T-318 – ahead of the season's first race, at Hockenheim in Germany on May 3.

"We designed W Series to shine a light on female talent right around the world. I can't wait to be part of the next stage and to see some of that talent in action," David Coulthard said.

Vadodara's Mira began her journey as one of the youngest in national karting; she then graduated to the LGB Formula 4, even winning the Formula 4 Rookie Champion of the Year in 2017.



Sneha Sharma

Mizoram assembly polls held without any violence, counting on December 11

Courtesy the Wire
Aizawl, Nov 29,

Voting in all the eight districts of Mizoram ended peacefully yesterday at 4 pm. But voters were seen standing in queue inside many of the polling stations after the gates were closed.

At 1,179 polling booths across the state, 75% turnout was recorded – 8% less compared to the 2013 assembly elections.

"No report of violence has come in. At the end of it, I want to congratulate the people of Mizoram for continuing to be a shining example of democracy to the rest of India. I also thank our team, all the district officials, and a special thanks to the Young Mizo Association (YMA, the state's largest civil society group) for this partnership," state chief electoral officer Ashish Kundra told reporters at a press meet in Aizawl after voting ended.

He said there were reports of VVPAT machines malfunctioning in some areas, leading to suspension of voting for some time. On being asked how many VVPAT

machines were replaced, he said the details were awaited.

As many as 6,284 of the total 11,987 voters belonging to the six Bru refugees camps in North Tripura crossed over to the nearest village of Mizoram, Kanmun, to cast their vote by 3 pm. "It translates to 52%, which, I would say, was a success of the arrangement as just a week ago, when I visited the area, the refugees were demanding a provision to vote in the camps. A few days later, we see so many people taking part in the voting," Kundra said. The local chapter of the YMA put up a welcome banner for the Bru voters near the bridge demarcating the border between Tripura and Mizoram.

Alighting from buses organised by the Tripura office of the ECI along with the government of Tripura, the voters walked about 600 metres to cast their ballots for candidates belonging to Mamit, Lunglei and Kolashib districts. The YMA also provided volunteers to the district officials to manage the rush of the voters in the polling booths of

Kanmun, nine of which were specially meant for Bru voters.

As many as 7.7 lakh voters were to cast their ballot from 7 am to 4 pm to choose 40 candidates out of a total 209 contestants belonging to eight political parties besides Independents. Among them are 16 women candidates, the highest recorded in the state's electoral history. About 3.93 lakh voters are women.

As per the ECI, 4,800 officials were deployed across the state to man the polling stations. For the first time in an assembly election in Mizoram, 40 companies of security forces were bought to oversee a smooth conduct of the polls. Besides, 24 companies of the Mizoram Armed Police Force and 19 companies of the Mizoram Police (unarmed) were also deployed. Two of the 40 companies of Central forces were deployed in the Kanmun village. About 179 polling stations were marked 'sensitive'. The state also saw provisions made for voters to cast their ballots through braille electronic voting machines (EVMs) for the first time besides polling

booths meant only for women voters in many areas.

Among the first to cast vote at 7 am was former two-time chief minister and president of the Mizo National Front (MNF), Zoramthanga. His party is giving a stiff fight to the ruling Congress. Two-time chief minister and state Congress chief Lal Thanhawla is seeking a third term in these elections. Besides Lal Thanhawla and Zoramthanga, yet another contender for the chief ministerial post is Lalduhoma, president of the Zoram Nationalist Party and the consensus candidate of the six-party regional alliance, Zoram People's Movement (ZPM).

Name Changed

I, the undersigned, Ngahan Zimik (New Name) previously called Kachuinao Ngahan Zimik, residence of Sinakeithel Village, Ykhrl, that I, expressly authorised and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular, at all time hereafter to designate and address me and remitter issued by such assumed name Ngahan Zimik.

Sd/- Ngahan Zimik
Sinakeithel Village, Ukhrl