

# Because Nutlai Lalbiakkima could surprise a nation unaccustomed to Olympic success.

Source Ezrela Dalidia Fanai

The chief inspiration for a teenage Nutlai Lalbiakkima to become a global boxing sensation and rank among India's best hopes for a medal at the 2020 Olympics was not a champion boxer like Manny Pacquiao. It wasn't a great Indian athlete like Sachin Tendulkar either. It was a singer.

A boy named St. Lalthuthaa from Mizoram, Lalbiakkima's neighborhood won the Mizo Idol singing competition in 2011. He was greeted with a massive crowd upon his return to the town of Siaha, in India's northeastern state of Mizoram, where the district council awarded him with a house and permanent job as a music instructor. A precocious fighter, Lalbiakkima told himself: "If I succeed in sports, I could get a government job, lift my family out of poverty and finally build a house that I've always dreamt of."

The pint-size boxer would soon leave home, at age 15, with 500 rupees (about \$7) in his pocket, to pursue a career with his fists. Seven years later, he would defeat the world's No. 1 light flyweight boxer. Now 23, he's still worried about holding a steady job. It all goes back to where he came from.

Born in 1996 in a small village, Lalbiakkima is the oldest of three children. His father, Nutlai Zomawia, 53, and mother, Zothanpui Khawhring, 43, cultivated a piece of land in the forest and lived in it but they had built. When Lalbiakkima was 2, their hut burned down, and the family moved to town.

Boxing didn't require expensive equipment, and when Lalbiakkima won a gold medal in an interdistrict boxing competition organized by the government-backed PYKAA program, he was hooked. He would practice in the morning, then skip school to rest at a friend's house so he could have enough energy for more boxing practice in the evenings.

White Lalbiakkima was a sharp student who also nurtures a passion for dancing and rapping, he always saw sports as his ticket to "a better life." His math teacher encouraged him to play soccer, but his family couldn't afford cleats. At the time, his father drove a truck, and his mother sold vegetables around the city. A few years later, they managed to get a stall at one of Siaha's markets, where they started selling fish and chicken. His dad fell seriously ill in 2012 and can no longer work, but his mom still runs the shop.

Finally, in 2011, he convinced his parents to let him ditch his studies for boxing once and for all. He moved about 12 hours away to Mara House hostel in Zoltag, Aizawl, with 500 rupees, which was all his father could spare.

It was there that Lalbiakkima met Vultavunga, the coach who shaped him. The coach praises the star pupil as



Nutlai Lalbiakkima (in the black T-shirt), who beat the world's No. 1 light flyweight boxer last year, sits with his family.

"brave, obedient and a hardworking player" who doesn't need extra supervision. "Even in the lightweight category, he is the smallest, be it national or international level," Vultavunga says of the 5-foot-1 fighter. "Despite his size, his courage and hard work have helped him reach where he is today."

Ask Lalbiakkima about his discipline and he talks of his willpower. "I shared a room with addicts and alcoholics, but I was never tempted to try those habits," he says of his days at the Mara House hostel. "When my mates would start their habits in the room, I would sleep outside in the corridor."

It paid off as Lalbiakkima started gaining steam on the regional boxing scene. His first real payday came at age 18 in Mizoram's famous Pro-fight Championship, winning 40,000 rupees (\$575) in cash and bagging a few sponsorships. But the win did not result in a government job, a common reward for top athletes in India. He told his mother that if he did not find consistent success by age 21, he would return to help with the market stall.

He got his break at the Senior National Boxing Championship in February 2015 at Nagpur, where he won the bronze medal and was invited to join the Indian Navy by its boxing coach, Badal Sarkar. With regular training in Mumbai, that post brought

stability. The President's Cup last year in Astana, Kazakhstan, brought Lalbiakkima fame.

His opponent in the quarterfinals was Hasanboy Dusmatov, the Olympic gold medalist and No. 1 boxer in the world in the light flyweight (108-pound) weight class at the time. The bout started with both boxers measuring each other's reach and defense, but soon Lalbiakkima was landing a neat series of punches to Dusmatov's head and body while deflecting the champion's advances. Having watched Dusmatov's fights, Lalbiakkima responded to his moves with "speed, counterpunches and well-judged guard," he told the media after defeating the Uzbek pugilist. Lalbiakkima's first international tournament would end with a bronze medal after he fell in the semis, but he was already a hero in India.

The success — including a bronze in Russia a couple of months later — brought him an offer from professional boxing agency MTK Global, which manages the likes of Tyson Fury, Carl Frampton and David Price. Lalbiakkima says the agency offered him a contract for six fights per year. It meant a pathway to qualify for title shots within eight fights, and earnings starting from about \$14,300 per bout. But he's not keen to quit his secure Navy job. Lalbiakkima's mother says she's still worried about him earning a steady income. That's why his focus

has shifted to a job in the Mizoram state government, which would allow Lalbiakkima to pursue a pro career — and his dream of earning the World Boxing Championship title within five years. F. Lalnienga, senior vice president of the Mizoram Boxing Association, says his group will request a spot in government or on the Mizoram police force for its star boxer.

India boasts few Olympic medals in its history — the only individual gold came in men's shooting in 2008 — but it did come home with boxing bronzes in 2008 (Vijender Singh) and 2012 (Mary Kom). Lalbiakkima's spot on the Tokyo 2020 team is by no means assured: He was not selected in the first batch attending National Camp, a key steppingstone to the Olympic team. Though he has moved up to 114 pounds, Asian Games 2018 champion Amit Pangal is considered a prime competitor for Lalbiakkima. But Lalbiakkima's coach Vultavunga remains confident. "There is a very high chance that he will be selected," he says.

To get there, he will continue to work tirelessly, just as his parents did — with a heavy dose of thrift. Lalbiakkima lives on just \$150 per month, out of his roughly \$430 salary. He gives 10 percent away to the Pentecostal Christian Church. The rest he's saving toward a dream house for his family.

# Surgery in the brain blood vessels saves Nepal female her vision and life

By- Sakshi Jaiswal  
New Delhi, May 15,

A 34 year old female patient from Nepal was successfully operated for a life threatening complication in her brain at Artemis Hospital. The surgical procedure was complicated and the team of specialist took over 4 hours to perform the surgery.

The patient who initially had intermittent headaches ignored the symptoms but gradually developed blurry vision in both her eyes. Upon consulting an ophthalmologist, the reports showed that the intraocular pressure was increased to an extent which can damage the eye blood vessels and leave her blind. This also indicated that the pressure in the brain is also increase due to some reason. To identify the root cause of the increased eye pressure, she made a visit to the Artemis Hospital for further investigations.

"Detailed investigations revealed few swollen blood vessels in the brain and were

further investigated by Angiography to identify an abnormal connection between the arteries and veins, a condition known as Arterio-Venous Fistula (AVF). Due to the wrong connections the blood was directly being pushed in to the veins at very high pressure which caused the swelling. The team immediately decided to intervene and close it in the same sitting." Said Dr Vipul Gupta, Director, Neurointervention, Agrim institute for Neuro sciences, Artemis Hospital

She had a particularly large AVF that had caused an increased pressure in the brain which was getting transmitted to her eyes leading to deterioration of her vision. It was very important to close the fistula, but as the fistula was very close to a very large normal vein in the brain, it was important to preserve the blood flow there. "The team decided to go through the leg blood vessels via heart in order to secure the normal veins in the brain

and placed a big balloon using microcatheter. Being a very complicated and a risky procedure, the team successfully injected a material to block off the abnormal connection and preserving the normal veins."

**He added** The material known as onyx is a special liquid material that is like water and solidifies immediately coming in contact with blood. Ballooning was done in the normal vein to restrict the material entering the normal blood vessels.

"Using this technique, we were able to completely close the abnormal network in the brain and achieved complete cure. Within few days the patient vision started to improve and repeated eye examinations revealed that the pressure inside the eye had become less. Our team are very confident that this patient will make good and quick recovery and she will not need any further treatment for this abnormal AVF." Said Dr Gupta.

Contd. from page 2.

# Elections 2019 as a moment of Reckoning for India's.....

In the absence of civil society support and network, the relationships with people dried up and became limited to individual charismatic appeal or state patronage which could be provided only when in power. Gradually, the idea of the Congress, which was more of dynamic open space for diverse interests and ideas, particularly for the marginalised and excluded people and communities, got reduced to the formal party structure(s), which has largely been under the capture of elites and entrenched interests.

**A new initiative**  
On September 17, 2018, the Congress president Rahul

Gandhi announced the formation of a new front organisation, Civic and Social Outreach Congress, under the leadership of Madhusudan Mistry. Mistry, currently a member of Rajya Sabha and a former trade unionist and civil society leader, has been tasked to build bridges between the civil society and the Congress structure while mobilising the former for direct political action for foregrounding peoples' issues. This news has largely gone unnoticed but has transformative potential for the Congress party if it achieves its true potential and intent.

There is a deep crisis brewing

and reflects a structural imbalance in electoral politics in India, which might not directly affect the outcome of specific elections but has serious implications in the long run for the polity of this country.

On the one hand, we have the powerful electoral machinery of the BJP-propelled NDA, backed by a solid network of civil society groups spread across the county from grassroots to the national level, working under the broad umbrella of Sangh parivar.

On the other, the progressive civil society working on issues of rights and human dignity has been powerful in raising peoples' issues and defending the core ideals of Indian republic even when the opposition voices have been feeble, but it has largely remained disengaged with electoral processes with the exception of few. Given the historic nature of the 2019 parliamentary elections, it can be seen as the moment of reckoning for the progressive civil society, particularly, vis-à-vis its role in electoral politics.

## Name Change

I, Alice Kanghujam of Grace Colony, Tarung, p.o. Lamphel, p.s. Imphal west District, Manipur, declare here that my parents name, 'Kanghujam Rajmohon Meetei' (Father) and Kanghujam Geetarani Devi (Mother) are change to Kanghujam Rajmohon and Kanghujam Geetarani as all my academic documents bear the correct name.

So hereafter, my new passport and document's will bear the correct names of parents Kanghujam Rajmohon and Kanghujam Geetarani.

Sd/-  
Alice Kanghujam

## Declaration

I, Laikangbam Basanta Singh, Army No. 14666965L, Rank : CFN, Trade : Autotech A vehicle, S/o L. Nabachandra Singh, a resident of Naoremthong Khumanthem Leikai, P.O. Imphal, P.Lamphel, Tehsil : Imphal, Imphal West District, Manipur 795001, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1 That, my wife's name is recorded as "L. Serina Devi" in my Service Book/Record instead of "Serina Irom", whereas, my son's name is recorded as "L. Justin Singh" instead of "Laikangbam Justin Singh" as recorded in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8973 0473 1121. This is true to the best of my knowledge.

2 That, whereas my wife's name is recorded as "Serina Irom" in her educational document as well as Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5982 1193 3516. This is true to the best of my knowledge.

3 That, the two names of my wife i.e L. Serina Devi and Serina Irom as well as my son's name i.e Laikangbam Justin Singh and L. Justin Singh refers to one and same person. This is true to the best of my knowledge. 4; That, I desire to rectify my wife's name as Serina Irom and her Date of Birth as 17-031986 and my son's name as Laikangbam Justin Singh along with his Date of Birth 06-05-2010 if my said Service Book/Record in order to avoid any complicity in future. This is true to the best of my knowledge.

Sd/-  
Laikangbam Basanta Singh

# Roopa Barua's 'Daughters of the Polo God' Wins Best Documentary Award

Agency  
Imphal/May 15,

The 19th Annual New York Indian Film Festival announced the winning filmmakers and actors at this year's awards ceremony. Roopa Barua's Daughter of Polo God won the 'Best Documentary' Award in this event.

Daughters of the Polo God is a beautifully shot and heart-warming narration of young Manipuri women in the state's polo sport along with the plight of the ponies in the state due to ecological disruptions.

The shimmering emerald state of Manipur, India is the birthplace of modern polo with men having played there for several hundred years. Now it's the turn for the young maidens



to charge forward. A young polo sisterhood is developing in Manipur that ploughs on in spite of adversity and political turmoil. They are intensely connected to their sacred Manipuri pony and play an international tournament every year. Roopa Barua film is a tribute to these polo players and the modern Manipuri women

Here is of NYIFF winners for 2019:

Best Film: Sir (Director: Rohena Gera)

Best Director: Ritesh Batra (Photograph)

Best Actor: Adinath Kothare (Paani) Best Actress: Tillotama Shome (Sir)

Best Child Actor: Sunny Pawar (Chippa)

Best Screenplay: Baggage (Roopa Rao)

Best Documentary Feature: Sindhustan (Director: Sapna Bhavnani)

Best Documentary Short: Daughters of Polo God (Director: Roopa Barua)

Best Short (Narrative): Bebaak (Director: Shazia Iqbal).

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