

Editorial

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The changing concept of patriotism: Manipur's perspective

In the beginning of the 19th Century, different forces swept Manipur. The fear that forces which had swept Manipur would destroy the very foundation of the civilisation started to grow. The seven year devastation which occurred between 1819-1826 damaged the political as well as the socio political structure of Manipur and significantly depleted the population. This severely affected Manipur Nation and its nationalism which was developed during the 18th century. Manipur faced the domination of Awa and it started feeling the heat of British colonialism during this time. Large number of people from Manipur were taken as war captives and many ran to the neighbouring countries to take refuge as the Burmese wrecked havoc in Manipur. Manipur lost its pride and political status during this time. For the first time in the history we see that wars, which were fought historically to defend the kings, transformed into wars to defend the country in the 19th century. The war fought to restore the political order during the seven years devastation, the revolt under the leadership of King Chinglen Nongdren Khomba (Gambhir Singh) and the guerrilla warfare waged by Herachandra became the foundation of modern national liberation movement. These wars fought against colonialism inspired the people of Manipur. This is the first time the conception that the nation belongs to the people and people should participate in struggle for the country and for their freedom started emerging.

Chinglen Nongdren Khomba (Gambhir Singh) and Nar Singh built a people's movement by bringing in various ethnic communities together at this dire juncture. Their contribution is significant in the history of Manipur. They are the leaders who fought for a free Manipur and inspired not just a new ideal but dispel the fears that people had at that time. As a significant achievement, the feuds between princes were resolved during this time. A new thinking that we should be proud people of a free nation was developed at this crucial juncture. This thinking gave a new understanding on war in this country. Given this, this very day in January has been remembered as the day of seven years devastation as on this day 186 years ago Iningthou Chinglen Nongdrenkhomba passed away. On this day, a treaty was signed between Awa and British on Kobo Valley. Manipur was ignored at this treaty and people felt that it was a humiliation to the erstwhile country of Manipur.

Manipur is now wrecked by storms today. The storm we face now is different from what we saw in the 19th century. The enemy is also different. The disunity which we have now is different from the disunity that existed in the 19th century. The only similarity if we do not get united, we would be unable to contain the challenges. So the path we must take is difficult. We must face the challenges as we are the majority community. We should not sell the interest of the whole at the behest of others and we must remember this.

The most important matter is which path the Meiteis should take given the present situation in Manipur. We should not ignore the responsibilities Meiteis have taken in building a united Manipur. Ignoring this historic responsibility of Meiteis is what our enemies want. The encouragement that Meiteis should give up the idea of united Manipur and only think about its own community is part of a big political game. Given this, inserting the agenda of just the Meiteis is similar to selling the foundation of the movement which is based on the idea of a united Manipur. We should remember and learn from Chinglen Nongdren Khomba that we will not listen to anything which sells the prestige of united Manipur.

We should never agree to live a degraded existence under India for some benefits. Some Meiteis are trying to pull down the Meiteis at the level of ST for some benefits of the community. This should be looked at keeping in the political game plan mentioned above. Meiteis have not been part of the tribal politics since two thousand years. We must face and challenge everything which restricts the development of Manipur.

Writer- Sh. Ajit

A R Organises Career Guidance Program Under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat

HQ IGAR
Imphal Jan 8

Mantripukhri Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR(S) organised a Career Guidance Programme under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat for the youth and locals of Leikinthabi village in Imphal East District on 06th January 2020. The aim of Awareness Programme was to generate awareness about the Indian Armed Forces. The event commenced with comprehensive brief on "Indian Armed Forces" which was followed by an interactive session. The gathering was informed about the glorious history and the timeless traditions of the Indian Army and the

Assam Rifles as well as the types of entries to enroll and obtain commission in the Indian Armed Forces.

The team of the Battalion shared their experiences and gave details of the upcoming recruitment rallies. The youth were highly inspired by the life style, thrill, adventure, job security as well respect of the Forces. Having enthused by the glorious history of the Indian Armed Forces, students were highly motivated to join the Forces and serve the motherland. The event concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees. The event provided a platform for reaching out to the youth of the area and maintain the bond of mutual trust and understanding.

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By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwar Singh
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Loktak is the largest fresh water lake in Northeast India and is famous for phumdis (heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil and organic matter at various stages of decomposition) floating over it. The lake is located at Moirang (Bishnupur District) around 40km from the capital city, Imphal of Manipur. The etymology of Loktak is Lok= stream and tak=end. The largest of all the phumdis covers an area of 40 sq. km and is situated on the southern shore of the lake. Located on this phumdi, Keibullamjao National park is the only floating national park in the world. The park is the last natural refuge of the endangered Sangai (State animal) the brow-antlered deer (Cervus eldii). This ancient lake play an important role to maintain the mild climatic condition and hydrological cycle as well as economy of Manipur. It also serves a source of water for hydropower generation, irrigation and drinking water supply. The lake is also a source of livelihood for the rural fisherman who live in the surrounding areas and on phumdis, also known as phumsangs. Human activities has led to serve pressure on the lake ecosystem. 55 rural and urban hamlets around the lake have a population of about 100,000 people. Considering the ecological status and biodiversity values, the lake was initially designated as wetland of International importance under Ramsar Convention on 23rd March 1990. It was also listed under the Montreux Record on 16th June 1993, a record of Ramsar where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or likely to occur.

At the Ithai barrage outlet of the lake, the direct catchment area draining into the lake is 980 sq.km out of which 430 sq.km is under paddy cultivation, 150 sq.km habitation and 400sq.km under forest cover. The area of the lake is 236.21 sq.km comprising large pockets of open water and marshy land formed at the southern part of the Imphal valley up to the confluence

of Manipur River and Khuga River. The lake is divided into two zones, namely the "Core Zones", which is the no development zone or totally protected zone comprising 70.3 sq.km and balance area is called the "Buffer Zone". Within the lake and on its periphery there are 14 hills of varying size and elevation. In the southern part of the lake are the Sendra, Ithing, Thanga and Karang Islands. Geographically, in terms of biodiversity and human activities pressure, the lake is broadly divided into northern, central and southern zones. The northern zone extends from eastern side of Nambol river near

Khuga River by the Ungamel channel. The Imphal River is also linked with this zone by the Khordak channel. The western catchment drained by Kangsoibi River flows into this zone. Proliferation of phumdis has been observed near the mouth of Ungamel channel, Kumbi Pat, Nongmaikhong and Khordak area. Loktak Lake is fed by the Manipur River and several tributaries and Ungamel Channel (Ithai Barrage) is the only outlet now. The origin of the Manipur river system and its tributaries which flows in a north-south direction and drains into the lake is from the hill ranges immediately to the west of the lake.



Ngaikhong Khunou to Phoubakchao, including Maibam Phumlok, has five main streams/ rivers i.e Manipur, Nambol, Yangoi, Nambol and Thongaorok rivers flowing into the lake. The zone is separated from the central zone by large Phumdis (varying thickness of 0.4 to 4.5 m) that stretches from northwest to the southeast. During January to March Phumdis in this area are usually burnt for construction of fish cum paddy farms; many large fish farms with raised levees have been built. The central zone extending from Awang Lai soi Pat (western part of Nambol river near Ngaikhong Kullen) to Laphupat (between Khordak Channel and Imphal river) encloses prominent islands of Thanga, Karang and Ithing. It has some sub-zones viz. Lai soi, Awangsoi, Yennapat, Thorapat etc. It is the main open water zone of the lake which was relatively free from phumdis in the past but over the years athaphums (artificially created phumdis for fishing) constructed by the villagers for fishing have proliferated choking the entire lake. The state fisheries Department has established a fisheries center within this at Takmu pat for fisheries development. The southern zone encompasses the Keibullamjao National park, Ungamel and Kumbi Pat at the southern part of the lake and the zone is linked with

Five major rivers with indirect catchment area 7157 sq.km are the Imphal (also called Manipur river), the Iril, the Thoubal, the Sekmat and Khuga. The other major streams which drains into the Lake and which bring in lot of silt are the Thongaorok, the Nambol, the Nambol, the Awang Khujairok, the Awang Kharok, the Ningthoukhong, the Potsangbam, the Onam, the Keinou and Irulok. The Lake located on the southern side of the Manipur river basin is at the lowest elevation in the valley and other major river flows into the lake except a few rivulets. Several water resources development projects have been developed in the Manipur river basin to meet the growing demands for irrigation and drinking water. The most discussed project is the Loktak Multipurpose project which provides hydropower, irrigation and water supply benefits but has attracted adverse criticism for the drastic alteration caused by the project to the hydrological regime of the Loktak Lake and associated wetlands.

A rich biodiversity with habitat heterogeneity has been recorded during a scientific survey carried out between January 2000 and December 2002 in different habitat patches of the Lake. The lake's rich biological diversity comprises 233 species of aquatic macrophytes of emergent, sub

emergent free floating and rooted leaf types. But declining trend of vegetation and important flora are recorded. 57 species of water birds and another 14 species of wetland associated birds have been noted in the lake including 28 species of migratory water fowl. Also recorded were 425 species of animals-249 vertebrates and 176 invertebrates. The list includes rare animals such as the Indian Python, Sambar and barking deer. Keibullamjao National Park is the natural habitat of one of the most endangered deer the brow -antlered deer (Sangai) which was once thought to be extinct. The avifauna recorded in different habitats of the Lake is reported to be declining. In the central part of the Lake water fowl including dabbling duck and diving ducks are reported but their numbers are declining due to proliferation of phumdis. In the habitat part of the rooted plants and others were reported abundant but now show a declining trend. Small hillock (though showing degraded condition) in the lake show big trees and birds of prey such as Milvus migrans, Icthyophaga and Circus aeruginosus have been recorded on these trees. Fish yield from the Lake is reported to be about 1500 tons every year. Natural capture without the requirement of any lease or license was also in vogue in the Lake. The lake fishing is now a mixture of capture and culture system. The old varieties of the local fishes like Ngamu, Ukabi, ngaril, Pangba, tharak and ngasep stated to be under serious decline and some of them appeared to be extinct in the lake.

The Loktak Lake and its precincts faced serious problem due to loss of vegetal cover in the catchment area and construction of Ithai barrage at the outlet of the lake for multipurpose development of water resources. The degradation of the catchment area has occurred. Deforestation and shifting cultivation in the catchment areas have accelerated the process of soil erosion resulting in the lake's shrinkage due to siltation. The annual silt flow into the lake is estimated to be 336,350 tons. The nutrients from the catchment area and domestic sewage from Imphal City carried by Nambol River are discharged into the lake affecting its water quality thus encouraging the growth of water hyacinth and phumdis. All these activities have direct bearing on the ecological stability of the lake. Interfere in navigation and overall aesthetic value of the lake are other reported adverse effects. **Writer can be reached to: sjugheswar7@gmail.com**

5th season of PBL will see 24 ties in 21 days played in 4 cities with opening match on January 20

By Correspondent
New Delhi, Jan.8

Reigning world champion PV Sindhu will look to give a rollicking start when the Hyderabad Hunters take on Chennai Superstars on January 20 in Chennai as the Premier Badminton League (PBL) celebrates its fifth year of high-quality action. While Sindhu will be the star attraction for former champions Hyderabad Hunters, all eyes will be on Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Lakshya Sen from the Chennai franchise, both of whom had stellar seasons last year.

Organised by Sportzive under the aegis of Badminton Association of India (BAI), PBL 5 will be hosted by Chennai for the first five days of the league before it moves to Lucknow on January 25, followed by seven days of badminton extravaganza in Hyderabad while the semi-finals and the grand finale will be staged in Bangalore.

The 21-day event will witness 24 ties being played, including three double headers, all of which are to take place in Hyderabad. With one of the double headers being scheduled in the weekend on February 1 that will see Pune 7 Aces take on North East Warriors and Awadhe Warriors clash with Chennai Superstars, lots of thrilling matches are in store for badminton

aficionados.

"With badminton being a sport whose biggest events are primarily played abroad, PBL gives Indian badminton lovers a unique opportunity to see their favourite stars perform live in front of them. In an Olympic year, this season of PBL will definitely be a bit more special not just for the players but for the fans as well," said **Atul Pande, Managing Director, SportzLive**.

While PV Sindhu picked the high-voltage World Championships quarter-final match between her and former World No. 1 Tai Tzu Ying as her best match of 2019, it will be a repeat of that marquee clash when the two meet each other on January 31. The much-awaited showdown comes in the third leg in Hyderabad when Sindhu's Hunters lock horns with Tai's Bengaluru Raptors. With the two representing the champion teams of the last two editions, there is no doubt that a highly exciting affair is on the cards.

"I had a great time playing in PBL last time. The format of the league is very exciting, and that is why I like to play in the league. I am very excited to join the Bengaluru Raptors team for the PBL season 5. I hope lot of fans will come to the stadiums to

watch the matches and my fans around the world will follow it on TV and online. I look forward to playing against all teams, especially against P V Sindhu," said **the Chinese Taipei ace Tai Tzu**.

As the PBL returns to Chennai after two years, badminton lovers in the city would be blessed to watch Tai's wizardry when the Raptors square off against the North East Warriors on January 21. With Chennai Superstars and Bengaluru Raptors meeting in the same leg, it would be interesting to see Lakshya Sen and Sai Praneeth going head to head after their fabulous results last year.

The fifth edition of the most popular badminton league in the world will see competition of the highest level as 5 Olympic medalists and 15 World Championships medalists will look to mesmerize fans with a Hyderabad clash between former Olympic champions Hendra Setiawan of Pune 7 Aces and Lee Yong Dae of North East Warriors being the top draw. Another marquee clash that has all the ingredients to be a blockbuster is the one between Sindhu and Awadhe Warriors take on each other on Republic Day in Lucknow. After

the enthralling final the two played at the India Open in 2018, where Zhang saved match points to deny Sindhu the title, this match is not to be missed.

2014 Commonwealth Games champion and 2019 Canada Open finalist Parupalli Kashyap will be leading the charge of two-time runners-up Mumbai Rockets when they lock horns with Sai Praneeth's Bengaluru Raptors in Hyderabad on February 2, enabling fans to see an exhilarating match between two of India's best men's singles shuttlers.

"With major chunk of the matches being played in south of India in the fifth edition of PBL, we are really looking forward to great crowd turnout and huge support as badminton is a very popular sport in this part of the country," said **Prasad Mangipudi, Executive Director, SportzLive**.

Seven teams – Awadhe Warriors, Bengaluru Raptors, Mumbai Rockets, Hyderabad Hunters, Chennai Superstars, North Eastern Warriors and Pune 7 Aces will slug it out for a prize purse of Rs 6 crore in four cities this time.

The PBL Season 5 will be telecast Live on Star Sports and streamed live on Hotstar.