

## 1. Introduction

### Loktak Development Authority

Government of Manipur constituted Loktak Development Authority (LDA) in 1986 for overall improvement and management of Loktak Lake. The objective of the Authority is to check the deteriorating condition of Loktak Lake and to bring about improvement of the lake ecosystem along with development in the field of fisheries, agriculture, and tourism while conserving the catchment area involving concerned Departments of the State Government.

Loktak Development Authority (LDA) is now a statutory authority constituted by the Government of Manipur under the Act, 'The Manipur Loktak Lake (Protection) Act, 2006 (Manipur Act 3 of 2006) notified in the Manipur Gazette, Imphal, the 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2006, to provide for administration, control, protection, improvement, conservation and development of the natural environment of the Loktak Lake and for matters connected with as incidental thereto. The Chief Minister, Manipur, heads the Authority and Ministers of relevant Departments, MLAs of Assembly Constituencies falling under Loktak catchment, Chief Secretary, Manipur, and Secretaries/Commissioners of relevant Departments, VC (CAU), DCs of Imphal West and Bishnupur Districts, HoDs of relevant Line Departments and NHPC, are members. The Act now provides the basis for lake zonation, regulation of detrimental activities and coordinate developmental works.

The Authority, over the years, has grown to a professional lake management organisation through the experiences gained and a systematic process of capacity building at various levels to effectively respond to the challenges of managing Loktak Lake through integrated lake basin management practices. The organisational structure of LDA has become more multidisciplinary over the years. Establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) in LDA has strengthened its project management and administration capacity.

The Authority is also equipped with advanced equipment and machinery for both land and water management works needed for lake conservation and management.

The Authority has set up a state of art Lake Monitoring Laboratory that monitors the health of Lake Ecosystem on the basis of a set of wide-ranging parameters. A network of hydro-meteorological stations has also been set up to monitor the hydrological regime of the Manipur River Basin as a whole. Remote Sensing and GIS laboratory is also the hallmark of LDA as it has been spearheading monitoring of the wetland regime and the entire Manipur River Basin especially the forest regime of such a large spatial dimension.

## Loktak and Associated wetlands

Manipur valley is blessed with a wealth of shallow lakes of enchanting beauty in the form of Loktak and its associated wetlands like Pumlun, Khoidum and Lamjao, Ikop and Kharung, Loushi, Waithou etc. These wetlands provide critical support to ecological and economic security of the region through provisioning of fisheries and other aquatic resources, serving as habitat of several rare and endangered biodiversity and supporting hydropower generation and irrigation.

These wetlands together covered an area of 340 sq. km as recorded in Survey of India (SoI) Topo Map, 1970. Loktak Lake, the largest, comprises 60% of the wetland regime. The wetland system is drained by Manipur River and its major tributaries namely Iril, Thoubal, Sekami, Khuga etc.

The characteristic feature of Loktak and associated wetlands is the presence of natural floating islands, locally called *phumdi*, occupying almost half the lake area. Southern portion of Loktak Lake forms the Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP), which is the largest floating protected wildlife area in the world. It comprises of a continuous mass of floating *phumdi* occupying an area of about 27 sq km. The park is the natural habitat of the most endangered ungulate species, the brow antlered deer (*Cervus eldi eldi*) locally known as *Sangai*.

Manipur River Basin is very densely populated with 71% population of the state living within the area. 14% of the valley population is located in and around Loktak Lake alone. Overall 45 villages and 29 towns are located in and around these wetland systems. Communities living in and around Loktak and associated wetlands are directly or indirectly dependent upon the lake resources for sustenance. These wetlands play an important role in the management of the surface water resources in the basin. These floodplain wetlands absorb floodwater during monsoon and are used for agriculture during dry seasons. The wetlands support rich biodiversity, particularly fishery resources. Sustenance of the wetland communities is mainly derived through agriculture, fisheries and harvesting of lake vegetation for use as food, fuel, fodder and vegetables.

### Problems & Issues

Analysis of ecological and socio-economic features of wetlands integrating catchment and institutional arrangement reveals the following key issues which need to be addressed in the plan for conservation and management of Loktak and associated wetlands.

- Enhanced soil erosion leading to wetland sedimentation due to shifting cultivation and loss of vegetal cover in the catchment area.
- Reduction in water holding capacity of wetlands as a consequence of siltation, encroachments, and prolific growth of aquatic vegetation.

- Flooding in peripheral areas leading to inundation of agricultural areas and damage to life and property.
- Deterioration of water quality due to inflow of sewage from urbanized and peripheral areas.
- Decline in fish resources thereby affecting the livelihoods of the fisher communities.
- Degradation of phumdis in KLNP affecting the biodiversity of the national park particularly flagship species, *Cervus eldi eldi*.
- Poverty due to resource degradation and limited opportunities of livelihood diversification.
- Encroachment of the lake.

## 2. Physical and Financial Achievements: 2025-26

### 2.1 State Plan (FY: 2025-26)

Demand No: 19 (Environment & Forests)	
2402	- Soil & Water Conservation
00	- Detailed
03	- Development of Loktak Lake
01	- State Share
35	- Grant -in- Aid (Non-Salary)

Achievement made under this component during the year 2025-26 are indicated as under:

Activities/Works	Target (2025-26)		Achievement (2025-26)		Remarks
	Physical	Financial (Rs in lakhs)	Physical	Financial (Rs in lakhs)	
1. Wetland Inventory, Assessment & Monitoring		3.00		3.00	Sanction Order No. ACC-106/6/2021-FE-Dept (For& Eenvt)
2. Water Management		42.33172		42.33172	
3. Communication & Outreach		6.92763		6.92763	
4. Office Maintenance		7.74065		7.74065	
<b>Total</b>		<b>60.00</b>		<b>60.00</b>	

## 2.2 State Plan (FY: 2025-26)

Demand No: 19 (Environment & Forests)  
2402 - Soil & Water Conservation  
00 - Detailed  
102 - Soil Conservation  
03 - Development of Loktak Lake  
01 - State Share  
35 - Grant -in- Aid (Non-Salary)

Achievement made under this component during the year 2025-26 are indicated as under:

Activities/Works	Target (2025-26)		Achievement (2025-26)	
	Physical	Financial (Rs in lakhs)	Physical	Financial (Rs in lakhs)
1. Infrastructure Development		75.59		75.59
<b>Total</b>		<b>75.59</b>		<b>75.59</b>

## 2.3 State Plan (2025-26)

Major Head: 2402-Soil & Water Conservation (Plan)  
Minor: 102 Soil Conservation  
Sub Major: 03 Loktak Development Authority  
Detailed – 01  
Object: 36-Grant – in Aid (Salary)

### Salary & Wages:

Earmarked (2025-26) – Rs. 1382 lakh  
Salary & Wages (up to Dec. 2026) – Rs. 975.26  
No. of Employees :

- Regular 31 nos.
- Works Charged 108 nos.
- Contract 22 nos.

**Forth coming project(s):**

- Name : Integrated Plan for Wise Use of Loktak lake, Manipur
- Component :
  - Institutions & Governance
  - Land and Water Resource Management
  - Species Conservation and Habitat Management
  - Sustainable Resource Development and Livelihoods
- Period : 5 years
- Project Cost : 145.26 crore
- Status :
  - Approved by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India.
  - Affidavit Submitted to H'HC Manipur for 'Leave' to implement New Projects
  - Preparation & Gazette Notification of RRs [Form-8]
  - Recruitment through Deputation/Transfer /Direct
  - Preparation of Service Manual for LDA & Gazette Notification