**Quadrant II- Transcript and Related Materials**

Programme : **Bachelor of Arts (Third Year)**

Subject : **English**

Course Code : **END 103**

Course Title : **Modern Indian Writing in English**

**Translation**

Unit  **: III**

Module Name : **Poem- “The Land of the Half-**

**Humans” by Thangjam Ibopishak**

**Singh**

Presenter : **Dr. Lopamudra Banerjee**

**Notes**

* **Thangjam Ibopishak Singh** (Manipuri; b. 1948) is among the leading and most popular poets of the Northeast of India.
* Based in Imphal, he writes in Manipuri, the language of the indigenous Meitei community.
* Ibopishak won many awards including the Sahitya Akademi Award for poetry in 1997.
* Thangjam Ibopishak speaks of his homeland as the land of the half-humans.
* The image of 'half-humans', conveys a picture of the degradation that has crept into a society that is now described as the land of "perpetual internal strife" hitting the headlines almost everyday.
* He suggests that Manipur is a sort of ‘the Land of the Half- human’ populated by people who are ‘just head without body for six months, just body without head for another six months’.
* There is no connection between the two halves of the body.
* The head keeps on talking, eating and drinking, while the body keeps on working, labouring and shitting.
* It has a democratic form of government and election is held every five years.
* ‘But for the people in this land, there are no names. So for the nameless citizens, the nameless representative govern the land of the half-humans.’ So, democracy exists as name only.
* “The Land of The Half- Humans’’ is a bleak portrait of a damaged society that spawns a race tragically unable to constitute body and mind.
* The poem powerfully captures misery, hardship of common people caused by the rotten and corrupt system and evil nature of man resulting in moral bankruptcy.
* Ibopishak points out the inherent strains of voices of protest and politics of dissonance.
* In the eye of the poet, the new Manipur is simply a portrait full of despair, impoverishment and inhumanity.