

# Thingkho Le Malcha

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 11, 2023



## Tuibong KCC RELIEF CENTRE

Tuibong, Lamka

Managed by Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi (KKL) GHQ

**Total Inmates Registered: 59**

■ Male: 22

■ Female: 37

### VILLAGES COVERED

1. New Keithelmanbi
2. Aigijang, Tengnoupal
3. Jordanphai, Khamenlok Area
4. Natjang, Sadar Hills
5. Saichang, Sadar Hills East
6. Seloijang, Tengnoupal
7. N. Terakhong, Saikul



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 05.10.2023



**143**  
DEATHS



**200+**  
VILLAGES BURNT



**7000+**  
HOUSES BURNT



**360**  
CHURCHES &  
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



**41,425**  
DISPLACED  
PERSONS

**Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli):** A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

## Terrorist Outfits Call Strike Against India: Where is NIA?

In continuation of their secessionist policy of waging war against India, the Coordination Committee (CorCom), a conglomerate of six outlawed Meitei terrorist outfits, has announced a total shutdown of 12 hours in Kangleipak on October 15 starting from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. The CorCom has been observing October 15 every year as its National Black Day.

Notably, even when such activity of anti-India campaign is in full swing under its nose, the National Investigation Agency, which is supposed to deal with terror activities across international boundary, is nowhere to be found in Imphal valley. Instead, its hand is hard on innocent Kuki-Zo civilian who had served as an 'assistant school teacher' and presently engaged as a village volunteer in the wake of the ethnic cleansing pogrom unleashed by the Meitei militia groups. There is also a news report that the NIA would be investigating Kuki-Zo insurgent groups who are in political talks with the Government of India. This is a "contrasting principle/double standard" on the part of the central agency.

The strike against India by the Meiteis' CorCom has been called to protest against the Merger Agreement made on September 21, 1949 between Governor General of India and

the then King of Manipur Maharajah Bodh Chandra Singh, in Shillong, and the princely state of Manipur was later declared as a part of the Indian Union on October 15, 1949.

CorCom alleged that in 2023, the Government of India engineered a communal conflict in Manipur by using the puppet Government and their henchmen. It also blamed the Centre for scheming to ignite bloodshed and internal wars among the ethnic groups to transform the State into a land dominated by the people living in mainland India.

Calling upon all the people of Manipur (Kangleipak) to wake up and see the conspiracies of India, the banned outlawed groups appealed to all the ethnic groups to promote peaceful co-existence and collective development and to wage war against India collectively.

The banned outfits under the CorCom comprised of Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), its Progressive faction (PREPAK-Pro), Revolutionary People's Front (RPF, the political wing of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), and United National Liberation Front (UNLF).

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## Armed Men Loot Private Properties in Imphal: Where is Combing Operation in Imphal?

The Security Advisor to the Government of Manipur, Mr. Kuldeep Singh (Retd) IPS, had announced that mass combing operation for recovery of looted weapons has began. However, there is no progress in sight as armed men with sophisticated weapons are still roaming freely in Imphal valley, thereby looting a private residential home on Tuesday.

However, the combing operation was carried out in Kuki-Zo dominated hills and weapons like "pumpi" (improvised pipe guns) are often recovered. Remember, these Pumpis are neither looted from the Police Stations nor made by the Government of India/Manipur, but Kukis' hand-made guns purely for protecting their villages from eminent Meiteis' terror attacks.

Till date, only one-tenth of looted weapons have been recovered. This means that more than 4000 weapons are still in the hands of Meitei militia groups or in the hands of Meitei terrorists. On Tuesday night in Imphal valley, armed men with sophisticated AK rifles and pistols looted Rs. 4.80 lakhs and

jewelry from a family at Khurai Lairikyengbam Leikai. The incident reportedly happened at around 7:00 pm at the residence of one Ningthoujam Ratan, son of N. Ibochouba

Narrating the incident, Ratan said, "One man first entered our campus and when I enquired him about his visit, he told me to have a talk inside a new building constructed under our premise. The man accused me of indulging in a drug (No.4) business, which I vehemently denied. Later, another man with a gun entered the house and started raiding my house."

After the miscreants left the house, Ratan went inside his house to check his belongings. He found that a sum of Rs. 4 lakh 80 thousand which he kept was looted.

Ratan told media persons that three of the miscreants were armed with AK rifles and another one with 9 mm pistol. They also covered their faces to hide their identities, he added.

## ZCSC Writes to PM Modi for Hastening Political Talks with UPF/KN0

The Zomi Council Steering Committee (ZCSC) has written a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India today expressing its concern at the continuous attempts made by numerous Meitei civil society organizations as well as the majoritarian Manipur Government to suit Meitei communal interests while conveniently ignoring the historical facts.

The letter mentioned the representation submitted earlier by the Ojha Sanajaoba Memorial Trust (OSMT) by explaining how the Memorial Trust's demand for the insertion of protective clause under Article 3 and amendment of Article 371C (1) & (2) of the Indian Constitution was myopic and communal, which portrayed the exclusive mindset of the Meitei community at large.

The ZCSC memorandum described how the OSMT's representation was a direct challenge to the very spirit and propriety of the Constitution of India and an attempt to further their selfish interest and also undermine the clear intent of the legislature.

While stating that the tribal people in general and the Zo people in particular were never integrated completely with Manipur and Meitei society at any historical point in time, the ZCSC highlighted the independent existence of the Meitei Maharaja and the Zo King/Ukpiipa upto British colonial times by citing the Treaty of Sanjenthong and the Treaty of Kaparang signed between Zo Ukpiipa Sumkam and Maharaja Chandrakirti in 1873, where dealings between them happened as equal partners.

The memorandum also included how a series of treaties were executed and boundary commissions formed to carve out large chunks of hill lands from the hitherto independent Burma (1826), Naga Hills (1842), Chin Hills (1894) and Lushai Hills (1901) to be administered by the British Political Agent stationed at Imphal all done for the sake of administrative convenience - which eventually led to the formation of present-day Manipur.

The ZCSC also wrote how it felt that the Meitei community and the State Government have an obligation to admit their failure to create an emotional integration with the hill tribes within 76 years of togetherness under the State of Manipur.



Stating its conviction that emotional integration must precede territorial integration, the ZCSC memorandum also mentioned that forceful attempts to maintain geographical integration is meaningless and can only spell unending trouble as is widely evident in present-day Manipur.

The memorandum to the Prime Minister also highlighted on the apparent ambiguous position of the Meitei community on national integration as the radical Meiteis, and increasingly the Meitei community at large as well, continues to challenge the Merger Agreement, 1949. It also described how the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971 and Article 371C of the Constitution meant for the tribal areas of Manipur were time-tested toothless provisions manipulated time and again by the majoritarian Manipur Government to suit the Meitei community's vested interests.

Having a firm view that a Separate Administration within the Indian Union is inevitable in view of the total separation - emotional, social, physical, and geographical - already starkly exhibited between the minority Zo ethnic tribes and the majority Meitei community, the ZCSC appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for hastening the Political Talks with the United Peoples' Front and the Kuki National Organisation for a sustainable solution for the Zo people in the form of Union Territory with Legislature before the Meitei community's plan to "completely annihilate the Zo people from Manipur" becomes a reality.

## Judge Who Passed Order that Triggered the Manipur Violence Transferred to Calcutta High Court

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the transfer of Justice M.V. Muralidaran from the Manipur High Court to the Calcutta High Court.

The decision to this effect was taken by the Supreme Court Collegium comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant today.

The collegium rejected the request of Justice Muralidaran to transfer him to his parent high court, that is, the Madras High Court, or let him continue to function at the Manipur High Court.

On March 23, 2023, Justice Muralidaran ordered the Manipur government to consider the case of the Meitei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list, expeditiously, and preferably within a period of four weeks. This Order resulted in unrest in the state which is still ongoing.

The CJI had orally remarked during a special leave petition (SLP) hearing challenging the Order that many Constitution Bench judgments clearly state that judicial Orders cannot be passed to change the Scheduled Tribes list.

Recently, a CJI-led Bench expressed its displeasure at Justice Muralidaran for admitting a public interest litigation seeking to quash a report produced by the



Acting Chief Justice MV Muralidharan

Editors Guild of India on the Manipur violence. The CJI was of the view that the high court should have better things to do.

On Monday, the Union government had informed the Supreme Court that the file related to the appointment of Delhi High Court's Justice Siddharth Mridul as Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court had been cleared and a formal notification to appoint him as chief justice of the state was likely to be issued shortly.

The office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur fell vacant in February 2023 consequent upon the elevation of Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar to the Supreme Court of India. (Source: The Leaflet)

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## Bomb Culture in Imphal: Unknown Miscreants Target YOM

Unknown miscreants placed a bomb at the residence of one of the members of Youth of Manipur at Singjamei Sapam Leikai, Imphal, on Wednesday.

The Youth of Manipur, a newly formed group based in Imphal, claimed that the bomb was placed at the gate of YOM member's residence earlier in the day amidst many security personnel from Manipur Police present around the area. Fortunately, the bomb was taken away before its explosion.

Regarding the incident, huge number of members from Youth of Manipur gathered at the place and

expressed their displeasure at the police personnel who went to the locality to oversee the situation.

On its facebook page, YOM stated that they got the news while returning back home after a meeting with their titular king and MP, Leishemba Sanajaoba, at Palace Compound, Imphal.

It may be mentioned that a hand grenade was lobbed at the residence of a Minister, Yumnam Khemchand, on October 7. The Minister's house is also located at Singjamei Yumnam Leikai.

## UNION TERRITORY WITH LEGISLATURE: ONLY WAY TO PERMANENT PEACE!



With the violence between the Hill (Kukis) and Valley (Meiteis) in Manipur showing no sign of abatement, the demand for Separate Administration from the Kuki ethnic group grows louder and steadfast. Any attempt from the State and Centre for peace and dialogue at this point seems impractical. Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) and Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU) declaration that it will not endorse any move from the government as long as N. Biren Singh remains the Chief Minister, and President's Rule is invoked in the State, is a clear message that the Kukis have lost all faith in the present regime. Vesna Pešića, Professor, at the University of Belgrade observed that "Ethnic conflict is caused by the fear of the future lived through the past." The majority Valley-Meitei's fear of their future under the pressure of land, which they claimed would imperil their life, is the primary cause of the present-day violence. But why a specific tribe was singled out, is a question shrouded in mystery, and must be scrutinised.

The current spate of violence has left 115 or more dead, around 3000 injured and displaced more than 50,000 people. Experts have argued that the present hate campaign and the violence meted out towards the Kukis is akin to ethnic cleansing. All attempts to mediate peace

between the warring communities fail to yield any results. For instance, the outright rejection of the constitution of 51-member Peace Committee by all stakeholders was a tipping point. The persistent violence and the deep ethnic schisms between the two ethnic groups, conjoin with rampant rumours and false allegation testify that the time is pregnant, to part ways and remain good neighbours than stay under one roof with suspicion and kill one other.

### **Demand for Separate Administration**

The demand for autonomy by the Kukis is not of recent origin. It began way back in the 1980's through an arm movement under the conglomerate of two Kuki armed groups—United People's Front (UPF) and Kuki National Organisation (KNO). The groundwork for a Tripartite Talk with the Centre, State was laid with the signing of the Suspension of Operation (SoO) in 2008, with the laying down of arms by the Kuki Armed Groups. The negotiation, hitherto, revolve around creating an Autonomous Territorial Council within the state of Manipur; but the severity of the violence today and the ripple effect of the intense animosity have forced the Kukis to ameliorate their demand for total separation from Manipur.

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The Kuki leaders' unequivocal demand for a Separate Administration should be appreciated as well as taken with seriousness. Separation would only serve to strengthen the notion of national cohesion rather than pose a threat to national security as purported by certain people. Furthermore, separation will result in national integration into the larger Indian State rather than the dissolution of the Union of India. A typical example is the separation of the Khasi, Jiantia, and Garo hills as the State of Meghalaya from Assam in 1971. Today, these Tribes are thriving under the protection of the Constitution, and they stand as a testament of the wisdom of the then government.

### How Plausible is the Demand?

It is the centre's discretion under Article 3 of the Constitution to put an end to this enigma. And the most plausible way to bring permanent solution to this perpetual problem and ensure lasting peace is Separate Administration. What sort of Separate Administration could possibly be considered—Autonomy under the Sixth Schedule; Autonomous Territorial Council, and Union Territory with Legislature? Out of the three, the most appropriate and durable solution for the is a Union Territory with legislature, if not a full-fledged State. Let us consider the following criteria to address this proposal.

### Population Component:

Manipur is the 25 th most populous State in India (Handbook of Statistics on Indian States). The total population of Manipur as per 2011 Census is 28,55,794. Of this, the rural population is 17,36,236 and the urban population 8,34,154. In absolute numbers, out of the total increase of 403,602 added in the last decade, the contribution of rural is 1,45,416 and urban area is 2,58,186. 3. The growth rate of population in Manipur in the last decade is 18.6 per cent (Rural 9.1%; Urban 44.8%). So, the allegations of exponential growth rate of the Kukis with 22 per cent as claimed by the valley-based Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and others is illogical. Most importantly, the Census for 2021 is put on hold as of now. Any statistics cited outside 2011 Census as a point of reference is irrelevant.

With 53 per cent, the Meitei population stands at 15,13,570 lakhs while the Tribals comprised of around 10 lakhs which is 35 per cent of the total population as per 2011 Census. Out of this the Kukis and its cognate tribes roughly comprises of around 6 lakhs. With a decadal growth rate of 21.8 per cent for Manipur, the population is expected to rise for

all communities. Hence, a decade later (2011-2021) the population of the Kukis would ideally be between 7-8 lakhs. Hence, in terms of population, the Kukis stands identical to that of Sikkim's population—a full-fledged State which stands at 6,10,577 as per 2011 census.

Furthermore, the population of the Kukis is larger than that of the Union territory of Ladakh (3,01,000 Lakhs), Andaman and Nicobar Island (3,80,581), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (3,43,709), Lakshadweep (64,473), Daman and Diu (2,43,247), and even more than the archipelagic state and country in South Asia—the Maldives (3,80,492).

### Land Factor

Manipur is the 23rd largest State in India in terms of physical/geographical size with a total area of 22,327 sq. km. 90 per cent of this total geographical area comprises of the Hills inhabited by the Hill Tribes—Kukis and Nagas, which constitute around 20,094.3 Sq. Km. Of this, the areas inhabited by the Kukis comprises of hill districts such as Pherzawl, Churachandpur, Chandel, Tengnoupal, Kangpokpi districts with a total area of approximately 12,641 Sq. Km. The sizable presence of the Naga population in the above-mentioned districts commensurate with the sizable Kuki population in the Naga dominated hill districts such as Ukhrul, Kamjong, Senapati, Tamenglong and Jiribam.

The total area inhabited by the Kukis and its cognate tribes is even larger than the total size of States like Tripura (10,491 Sq. Km.), Sikkim (7,096 Sq. Km.) Goa (3,702 Sq. Km.); and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Island (8,249 Sq. Km.), Delhi (1,483 Sq. Km.), Puducherry (479 Sq. Km.), Chandigarh (114 Sq. Km.), Daman & Diu (112 Sq. Km.), and Lakshadweep (32 Sq. Km). Hence, in terms of area size the community in absolute sense of the term qualifies to be UT, if not a full-fledged State.

### Cultural and Ethnic Elements:

In India, the establishment of States based on cultural and ethnic considerations is not new. The establishment of Linguistic States represented our nation's first big democratic political test. In 1953, Andhra Pradesh became the first state to be established on the basis of a language. Punjab, Assam, Kerala, Orissa, and Maharashtra are additional states formed on linguistic

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grounds. To guarantee that speakers of the same language resided in the same State was the aim behind this. In addition, rather than recognising language disparities, certain states, such Nagaland, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand, were established in recognition of cultural, ethnic, or geographic diversity.

Taking into consideration the circumstances under which the aforementioned States were established, the Kukis and their cognate tribes primarily speak and interact in the same dialect unlike their neighbour tribal Nagas in Manipur, where a certain Naga dialect is alien to the other. The Kukis also share affinal and consanguineal ties, and they belong to the same kindred tribes. They also share the same cultural and traditional practises that are integral to their way of life—music, folktales, dance, food, dialects, etc. Hence, by any relevant yardstick of measurement the Kukis qualify all relevant standards for a Separate Administration.

#### **Compensating the Kukis:**

The contribution made by the Kukis, who battled the British in what is known historically as the Anglo-Kuki War of 1917–1919, has not received enough acknowledgment from India. No community that fought the powerful British for three years in a row to defend their territory is known to exist. Because no son of the soil would be steadfast enough to battle until their last breath for something that doesn't belong to them; this testament disproves the allegations that the Kukis are "illegal immigrants." Any doubts about the veracity of the Kukis and the wars they waged are only based on their scant understanding of their rich history.

In addition, it is important to acknowledge the role of Kukis in India's independence movement. By far they made up the largest contingent—159 fighting men out of the 188 freedom fighters—that fought alongside the INA against the colonial British are etched in the INA-Memorial Complex at Moirang, in Manipur. In actuality, India owes the Kukis a debt for the supreme sacrifice they made for India's independence. It would be injustice to grant them anything less than a Separate Administration. Furthermore, placing them at the mercy of their neighbours is nothing less than a criminal conduct that must be put an end to.

#### **Conclusion**

According to Karan Thapar of 'The Wire,' "Sometimes when differences run so deep and last for so long, maybe it is best to separate." Any future attempts by the Centre and State to form any Peace Committee to resolve the current crisis will inevitably fail. In other words, it will be much simpler to permanently divide the two ethnic groups than to convince them to coexist. In essence, Separate Administration is now the only choice the Kukis have considering the circumstances they have endured. The centre must hasten, but handle this delicate crisis with utmost caution to prevent any spillover effects. At this crucial juncture, the Centre must avoid picking short-term remedies over long-term solutions. The Kukis have absolute faith in the wisdom of the Centre to right the colonial wrongs once and for all. The best possible tribute the Indian Government could provide would be to grant the Kukis a Separate Administration and cement permanent peace in the region.



**The bedrock of our democracy is the rule of law and that means we have to have an independent judiciary, judges who can make decisions independent of the political winds that are blowing.**

**-Caroline Kennedy**



## 30 Kuki Girls From Riot-Hit Manipur Joins School in Kerala



As many as 30 girls belonging to the Kuki community in Manipur, where staying alive has taken precedence over learning, have resumed their schooling in Thiruvalla, thanks to an initiative by the Malankara Mar Thoma Church. Hailing from the riot-hit towns of Kangpokpi and Churachandpur, they will now continue their studies at the Nicholson Syrian School in Thiruvalla, Kerala. "These girls were among the worst affected by the ongoing riots in Manipur. We have identified them with the support of an organisation of Kuki students," said George Abraham, former additional secretary to the Governor of Nagaland, who led the initiative.

According to the Church authorities, the religious institution will also be taking care of the education and accommodation expenses of the hapless Kuki girls till they complete their studies at the school here. The project is being initiated as part of an educational assistance scheme launched in connection with the golden jubilee celebrations of the priestly ordination of Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan. The Mar Thoma Church learned about the plight of children in the riot-hit areas of Manipur during a recent visit by its delegation to the State. Upon arranging their admission to the school here, the church also facilitated their travel journey to Kerala.



# THINGKHO LE MALCHA

100 YEARS HAD PASSED  
EVERY KUKI VILLAGE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA  
VISITED BY THINGKHO LE MALCHA,  
DECLARED ANGLO-KUKI WAR.

THE SMELL OF IRON  
FROM THE BLOOD OF OUR ANCESTORS  
FIGHTING THE BRITISHERS  
STILL LINGERS ON THIS LAND.

WE WILL WATER THESE LAND  
WITH THE BLOOD OF THOUSANDS MORE  
FOR THINGKHO LE MALCHA  
VISITS US ONCE AGAIN

FOR THIS LAND AND PEOPLE  
NEVER UNDER ANY OTHER MAN,  
WE CALL HER ZALENGAM  
THE LAND OF FREEDOM.

*-SG Haakip*

