



Most Disturbed Areas Excluded in AFSPA Extension: KIM

Utterly shocked with the Home Department notification regarding extension of AFSPA to the Hill districts for another six months, the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) has said that it was a clear demonstration of suppressive and discriminatory policies of the Manipur government against the tribals in general and the Kuki-Zo people in particular.

The fact of the matter is that the valley area is inarguably the most “disturbed area” in Manipur, said KIM in its press release issued on Saturday.

KIM’s Information and Publicity Secretary, Janghaolun Haokip said, “The recent development with regard to the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Manipur; of excluding the valley areas while AFSPA remain imposed in the Hill Areas is a clear demonstration of the suppressive and discriminatory policies of the Manipur state government against the tribals in general and the Kuki-Zo people in particular.”

Haokip said Imphal area is the only region where there has been continued violence and unrest amidst the ongoing ethnic strife in Manipur. The region has seen Central and State Security forces resort to firing of pellet guns and tear gas shells to control irate mobs as opposed to the tribal areas which are relatively peaceful with zero reports of any form of social unrest recorded in recent days.

He alleged that it was an open secret that more than 4000 guns have deliberately been used to arm the meiteis, especially the Myanmar-based Meitei terrorist groups who have crossed into the valley areas of Manipur to terrorise the Kuki-Zo people. In fact, the security agencies have been warning that banned Meitei terror groups have been forming their bases in and around

Imphal and have recommended for the imposition of AFSPA all over Manipur, he stated.

Haokip recalled the arrest of 12 members of KYKL in East Imphal including self-styled ‘Lt Colonel’ Moirangthem Tamba alias Uttam, which undeniably substantiated the presence of banned Meitei terror groups in the valley.

KIM asked a pertinent question as to why the State government was turning a blind eye to such critical matters that is a threat even to the national security of the country. Why are such critical matters deliberately ignored?

Stating that the imposition of AFSPA in the Hill Areas is therefore a clear demonstration of the continued oppression and suppression of the Kukis, KIM reiterated the Kuki-Zo civil bodies’ constant appeal for imposition of AFSPA in the valley areas to check the continuing attack against tribals’ land and people by the Meitei militants.

Janghaolun Haokip further said that the extension of AFSPA in the Hill areas is least significant as Kuki armed groups are under Suspension of Operation (SoO) Agreement with the central government while the Naga armed groups are under Ceasefire Agreement with the central government.

Strongly condemning the prejudicial political dispensation against the Kuki-Zo community, KIM appealed the Home Ministry, Government of India to conscientiously look into the matter to contain further escalation of the conflict and the attacks on Kuki-Zo people.



Kuki Inpi Resolves Not to Celebrate Kut Festival 2023

An online meeting of the Kuki Inpi alongwith all its constituent units on September 27 has resolved that there will be no large scale celebration of the yearly Kut festival of Kuki Zo communities for the current year due to the prevailing situation of the State.

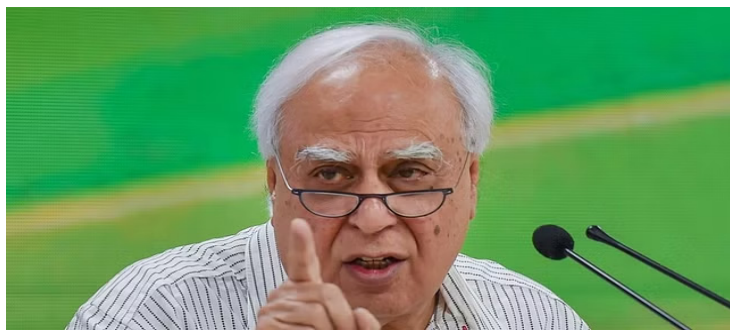
A notification issued by the Kuki Inpi on Saturday stated that since many innocent Kuki Zo people have been mercilessly killed and their bodies still to be recovered at mortuaries in Imphal, the Kuki Inpi

meeting resolved that Kut will not be celebrated in the same manner like the past for the current year.

However, the Kuki Inpi urged every Kuki Zo villages and religious congregations to pay homage to all Kuki Zo people who have sacrificed their lives for their people in the ongoing conflict on the day of Kut festival. It also urged the religious congregations and the Kuki Zo villages to hold a mass prayer for an everlasting peace and unity among the Kuki Zo brethren.



'Uncaring Govt' Must Immediately Remove Manipur CM Biren Singh: Kapil Sibal



Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Saturday hits out at the Centre over the situation in Manipur and said the “uncaring government” must immediately remove Chief Minister N Biren Singh and not let the state “burn” anymore.

In a post on X, Sibal said, “Manipur: An uncaring government must immediately remove CM Biren (Singh) and not let Manipur burn any more.”

“Shutters down on the Internet is no solution. Stop campaigning and deal with Manipur now!” he said.

Sibal, a Union Minister during UPA I and II, quit the Congress in May last year and was elected to the Rajya Sabha as an Independent member with the Samajwadi Party’s support. He has floated a non-electoral platform ‘Insaaf’, aimed at fighting injustice.

A Clue to the Death of Two Teens will be Found Out Soon, says Biren

The Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh, on Saturday said that a clue to the death of two youth who went missing on July 6, would be found out soon.

Biren Singh made the statement while speaking to media persons at Irawat Square, Lilashing Khongnangkong, Thangmeiband, Imphal where his Government observed Jana Neta Hijam Irawat Day. “The CBI teams are in the State and are taking up investigation into the death of the two students,” he said.

While condemning the injuring of student agitators by security forces, Biren said he had provided instant assistance of Rs 50 thousand each to those students in hospitals for medical expenses and added that he would provide additional required expenditure for the injured students.

In his speech during the function, Biren urged the people for collective fight against enemies of the State and its people.

SC Appointed Justice Mittal Committee to Visit Manipur



The Supreme Court appointed all-women Committee headed by Justice Gita Mittal will be visiting the State from October 1-5, 2023 to give a healing touch to the strife-torn Manipur.

In this regard, the Government of Manipur has detailed vehicles and drivers for duty in connection with the visiting team which included the Chairperson, Committee members and Registrar of the Manipur Committee.

The Supreme Court, in the month of August, had appointed an all-women committee of three former High Court judges headed by Justice Gita Mittal, a former Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court, to provide the “healing touch” in violence-torn Manipur.

Other members of the broad-based committee included Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi, a retired Bombay High Court judge, and Justice Asha Menon, a former Delhi High Court judge.

The Justice Mittal Committee was constituted by the apex court to intervene and monitor relief and rehabilitation, restoration of homesteads, religious places of worship, etc, in Manipur. Chief Justice Chandrachud had said the committee, through its work, would endeavour to re-instill the Manipur people’s belief in the rule of law.

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.

War is Yet to Begin, Dissolved Arambai Tenggol's C-in-C warns Kukis

The Commander-in-Chief of so-called dissolved Arambai Tenggol, Korounganba Khuman on Saturday declared, "The war is yet to begin." He encouraged the cadres of his radicalized militia group and the Meitei people to get prepare for the war.

The cadres of Arambai Tenggol are the chief perpetrators of ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur. They are patroned by the chief agents of violence- N. Biren Singh and Leisemba Sanajaoba along with the Meitei Leepun under Pramot Singh.

The so-called dissolution of the notorious Meitei radicalized group- the Arambai Tenggol- was as dramatic as their chief patron Biren Singh's resignation drama. The radicalised militia group was said to have been dissolved on 26 May, 2023 citing certain unwanted developments which had taken place during the last few days in the state of Manipur in the month of May.

Their dissolution drama came a day after an unruly mob attacked the home of Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, RK Ranjan Singh, on May. After the incident, there was a circulation of rumours that the women wing of Arambai Tenggol had organised and instigated the mobs that stormed the residence of the Union Minister's residence. The accusation against the Arambai Tenggol accentuated when four Tangkhul Naga girls were attacked and physically assaulted by a group of agitators in Imphal on May 24.

In a bizarre and comical move, the Arambai Tenggol after its dissolution released a Press Statement on 17 July with the 'dissolved' tag. The press statement was in response to the charge leveled against the Arambai Tenggol over the killing of Ms. Lucy Maring.

The militia is now thought to be the very first organization to function even after its defunctment. Ironically, the now



defunct Arambai Tenggol today organized a mass meeting with attendance of over thousands of its members.

It may be noted that the Arambai Tenggol was dissolved after they came under the security scanner for their many misconducts of violences in the State. Even the Meitei populace began doubting their motive and agenda when they started laying hands on their own people. Their unpopularity aggravated when many evidences of their wrongdoings emerged on social media.

Despite a plethora of evidence of Arambai Tenggol's leading role in the violences such as witness testimonies, social media posts and quotes from security officers deployed in the state, amongst others, the Manipur Government led by Chief Minister did not utter even a single word against the group; thereby, amplifying his patronage.

After four months of its dismemberment, the group is back again with their own usual agenda – to wage war against the Kukis. Their involvement in the war is a secret known to all. However, under the patronage of the state chief minister, they will be let loose once again. No action will be taken to arrest their members or curb their activities.



Only a fool wants war, but once a war starts then it cannot be fought half-heartedly. It cannot even be fought with regret, but must be waged with a savage joy in defeating the enemy, and it is that savage joy that inspires our bards to write their greatest songs about love and war.

-Bernard Cornwell, *Excalibur*

MANIPUR BURNING: A FOREST DRIED UP BY DESIGN AND IGNITED

The ongoing violence in Manipur, which began on May 3rd, remains unabated and has now reached 150 days. On May 3rd, the Anglo-Kuki War Centenary gate at Leisang, Lamka was burnt by Meitei miscreants which was followed by stone pelting and attacks on the Kukis returning from the peace rally at Torbung by the Meiteis who were enforcing violent counter blockades to the peaceful rally. The attacks at Torbung later spread to nearby Kangvai where the Meiteis burnt Kuki houses and later spread to Imphal and other areas like a wildfire. To an unassuming eye, it may seem that the ongoing violence in Manipur is simply a chain reaction of retaliation over the incidents of May 3rd. However, it has complex and deep-rooted issues. The Manipur violence is now reported and largely acknowledged to be a pre-planned and well engineered state sponsored pogrom on the Kukis spearheaded by the meitei Chief Minister Biren Singh.

The Meiteis have a long history of oppressing the Kukis, under their successive governments. Mr. Paolenlal Haokip, a Kuki MLA, in an interview with Mr. Karan Thapar on The Wire pointed out that successive Meitei governments have been violating constitutional provisions such as the bypassing of the HAC by successive governments led by the majority Meitei community. Another instance was the introduction of the infamous “3 bills” in 2015 by the meitei Government which was a sinister design to grab tribal lands. The 3 bills were later withdrawn, but not before eight Kuki-Zo civilians laid down their lives.

The disparity in allocation of the state budget between the hills and the valleys is another example of the historical oppression. The disparity in infrastructure between the hills and valley is clearly visible, with the valley crowded with government offices, institutions and good roads, while many parts of the hills still remain un-motorable.

This historical oppression got intensified during Meitei Chief Minister Biren’s second tenure. Mr. Biren has infected the meitei populace with chauvinistic, communal agendas and divisive ideas. The CM was caught on video claiming that the whole land in Manipur belongs to the Government, completely disrespecting and disregarding the history and sentiments of the hill people who have owned the hills since time immemorial. In another video he claimed that he will declare war on “this (Kuki)” people. Over the years, Biren has successfully created the “us versus them” narrative between the Meiteis and the Kukis, and has successfully fooled the Meitei community to further his agenda.

Incidentally, during the Meitei Biren Singh second tenure, many Kukis were regularly harassed by the meiteis over their lands. Many Kuki Chiefs were served notices by the meitei government alleging that they were staying within the reserved forests. Many Kukis villagers were forcibly removed by the Meitei government. There is also the meteoric rise in hatred and abuse against the Kukis by the Meiteis through the misuse and selective application of FIRs. Kukis expressing dissent over the biased Government polices were silenced with FIRs while the Meiteis abusing and threatening Kukis were deliberately ignored. The biased environment has birthed and harboured radical elements in Meitei society, furthering the divide and the hatred towards the Kukis. These historical oppressions provide a context to the ongoing unrest in Manipur.

Another instance of the neglect shown towards the Kukis is the disrespect for their history. Today, Meiteis’ history is highly promoted in public spaces, museums, and statues. In 1972, the Martyr’s Memorial column was erected at Khongjom. To this was added a large “open air theatre” in 1996, and a huge statue of Paona in 2000. In 1980, the Martyr’s Memorial pillar was erected near the Pologround, Imphal. A beautiful gateway with an elaborate park was added in 2006. The Bir Tikendrajit tomb complex was erected in 2006 at Hicham Yaicham Pat, Imphal, and a large statue of Thangal General was also erected at Palace Gate, Imphal in 2009. At the foot of the Paona statue at Khongjom (2000) a bronze plate reads, “Major General Paona Brajabasi, aged 58, the valiant hero of Manipur died for (his) fatherland on Thursday the 23rd April 1891. Superhuman in battle devoted unto death.” 23 April and 13 August are annually observed as “Khongjom Day” and “Patriot’s Day” respectively with statewide commemoration and a public holiday.

In sharp contrast, Kuki’s history and historical figures are largely ignored and neglected. The Kuki people of Northeast India had fought against the occupying British colonial state in 1917-1919. It was known in colonial account as “Kuki Rebellion”, which is known to be the largest, the most serious, and the most formidable war the British had fought in the entire Northeastern region of India. This is known to Kukis

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as the Anglo Kuki War (AKW). In 2019, the Kukis decided to erect memorial stones in all the Kuki villages so that the memory of the valiant sacrifice of their forefathers for freedom remain immortal in their memory, and decided to inscribe “In Defense of our Ancestral Land and Freedom” on all the memorial stones. However, in contrast to the Government of India’s policy of promoting the contributions of tribal people in India’s freedom movement, and in direct insult to the Kuki community, the Government of Manipur has issued an illegal and unconstitutional order No. 2/8(1)/2016-H (L&O) dated 13/10/2019, instructing all the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police of the Districts to “remove immediately” all the “memorial stones with inscription of these words”.

rainforest with green and moist vegetation is less likely to catch fire, a dry forest with dry vegetation is a recipe for forest fire. Who dried the forest that is Manipur? Chief Minister Biren has already dried the forest that is Manipur by May 3rd. The radicalized meiteis were only waiting for the spark to light the fire. They pre-planned the spark which came in the form of the May 3rd incidents. Since Manipur was already a forest dried up by design by the Meitei radicals (brainwashed by the Meitei intellectuals and the Meitei CM), and the Meiteis being the dried up vegetation, it only required one spark to be lighted by the Meitei miscreants (tutored by Meitei radicals) on May 3rd to see how the ethnic pogrom, they designed, plays out.

It takes a spark to light a forest fire, says an old adage. But not all forests are equally prone to catch fire. While a

HILLS VERSUS VALLEY: THE DISPARITY-1

Medical Colleges	Name of Institute	Year of Inception	Seats	Views of TLM
Meitei Area	RIMS, Imphal	1972	125	3 medical colleges having capacity of 375 seats for Meitei area, and only 100 for the tribal area. Tribals constitute 42.8 %, and only 100 seats in tribal areas, and 375 seats in the Meitei dominated area.
	JNIMS, Imphal	2010	100	
	Shija Academy of Health Sciences, Imphal	2021	150	
Hill	CCPur Medical College, Lamka	2022	100	

Technical Colleges	Name of Institute	Year of Inception	Views of TLM
Meitei Area	Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology – CIPET, Imphal	1988	All technical colleges are located in Meitei areas. For namesake, IIIT is based in Senapati, but for all practical purposes it functions from Mantripukhri, Imphal. NIELIT’s campuses at Lamka and Senapati are controlled from Imphal campus, and hence no autonomy.
	MTU, Imphal	2016	
	MIT, Imphal	1998	
	NIT Manipur, Imphal	2021	
	IIIT Manipur, Imphal	2015	
	NIELIT, Imphal (with extension centres at Senapati & Lamka)	1989	

IN OTHER NEWS

Manglenthang's Brilliance Helps India secure the SAFF U-19 C'ship Trophy

Tahchapa Manglenthang Kipgen's stunning display of talent and composure helped the Blue Colts U-19 Boys in claiming the SAFF U-19 Championship Trophy at Kathmandu, Nepal, on Saturday.

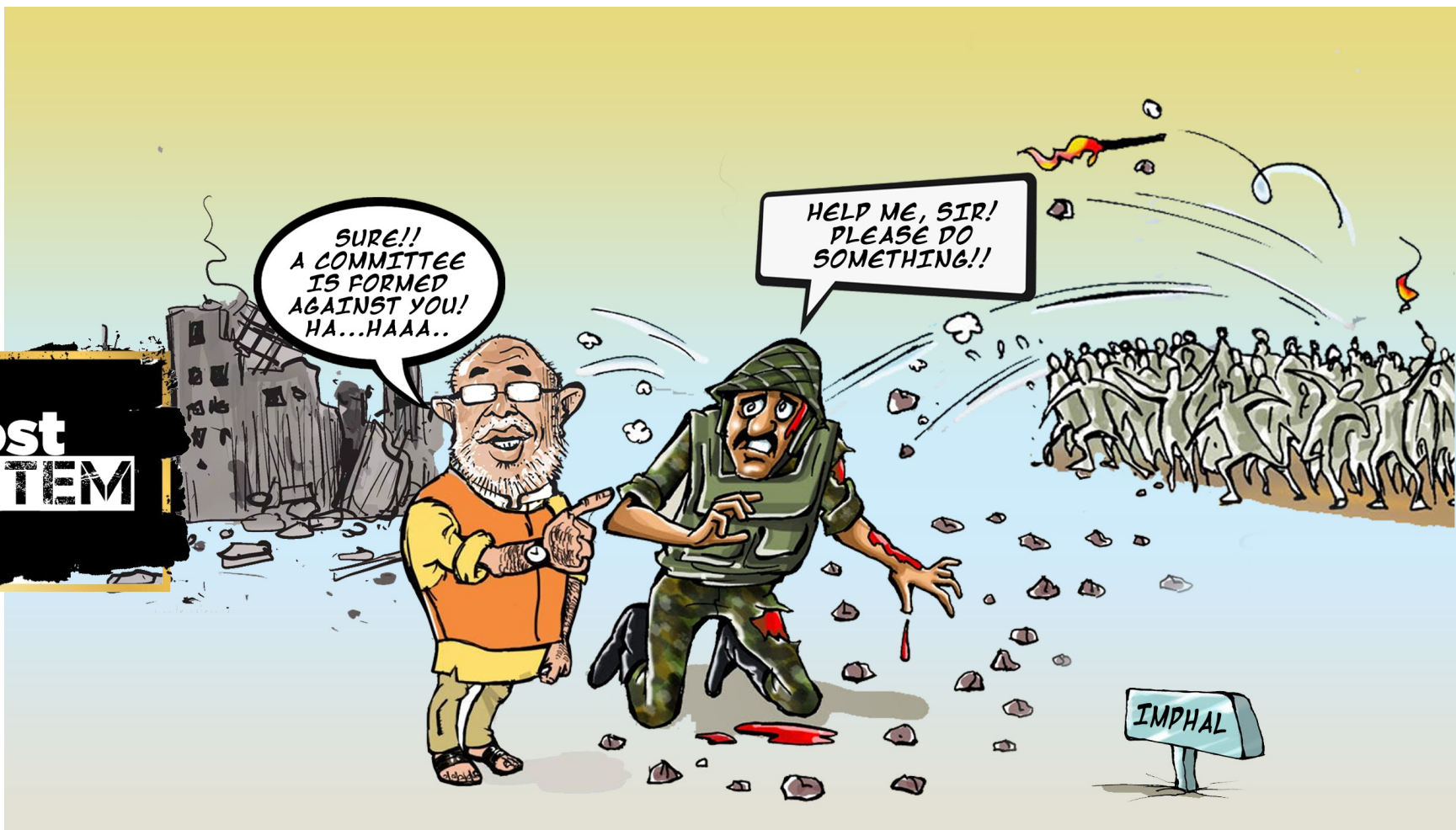
Substitute Manglenthang Kipgen was lively throughout the second half after coming off the bench, scoring twice and assisting the other in India's 3-0 rout against Pakistan in the final.

A nerve-wrecking display in the semi-final and a flash of brilliance in the final earned him the **Most Valuable Player** of the Tournament.

A native of T. Zalenphai village in Sadar Hills, Kipgen is one of the most promising young footballing talents in the country.



Post MORTEM



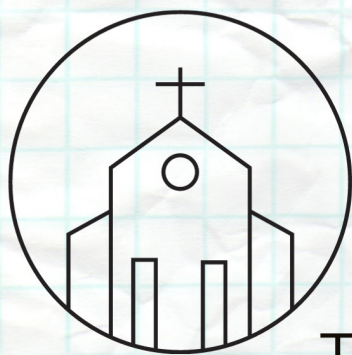


WHERE IS YOUR GOD?

(Psalms 42)



Then I woke up a Sunday morning
No hello from humans with no birds chirping
Hmm! Church doors shut with no hymns and no bells ringing
Bizarre feelings to hear gunshots firing
Oh! Out I peeped and saw a church still burning



“Surely the work of the Devil’s gents
The ferocious exertion of the evil hands
The devilish slog to God’s own churches and lands
God sees our indescribable pains
Never will He forsake us” said a friend tensed

How do we give them the answers Lord
If and when they ridicule us “Where is your God?”
When they deride us and mock us “Where is your God?”
Oh! If they taunt me “Where is your God?”
And when they keep mocking me “Where is your God?”

Letginmang Singnit

