

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



N. Songlung RELIEF CENTRE

N. Songlung Community Hall,
Sadar Hills

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 136



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.03.2024



166
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.

CoTU CONSIDERS RESOLUTION TO ABROGATE SOO AS “AGAINST PEACE”, CALLS FOR TOTAL SHUTDOWN, PUBLIC RALLY

Considering the complete constitutional breakdown in the valley and the recent Manipur State Legislative Assembly’s resolution to abrogate the Suspension of Operations with the two umbrella organizations of the Kuki groups, the United People’s Front (UPF) and the Kuki National Organization (KNO), the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District has termed it as “Communalised and against peace”, and decided to impose a 24-hour total shutdown in the Sadar Hills Kangpokpi district.

The committee also called for a public rally on March 4 to demonstrate resentment over the “derogatory resolution” adopted by the Meitei-centric Government.

The total shutdown in the entire Sadar Hills Kangpokpi district will begin at 10:00 a.m. on March 4 and culminate at 10:00 a.m. on March 5.

Vehemently opposing the “derogatory and communalised” resolution passed by the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly on February 29, CoTU’s Information Secretary, Thangtinlen Haokip stated that this vile attempt in the Manipur Assembly is the creation of N Biren Singh and his cohorts to divert the attention of the general public from the imbroglio prevalent in Imphal by adopting, in particular, a resolution to abrogate Suspension of Operations with the UPF and KNO.

He also said that the assembly’s communal resolution adopted in the interest of one community, the Meitei community, accentuated the irrelevance of the Government vis-a-vis the Kuki-Zo people, while adding that the exclusive attempt to malign the Kuki-Zo not only highlighted the Government’s acquiescence to the unconstitutional diktat of the Arambai Tenggol but categorically presents its communal-centric, pathological nature.



He also said that the Suspension of Operations with the Kuki-Zo groups has heralded peace and tranquility, and this demand for the abrogation of SoO with the Kuki-Zo groups by the Manipur Legislative Assembly clearly indicated that the majority Meitei community and the Meitei-centric Government are not peace-loving, but against peace.

“The untoward development in the state assembly amplified the importance of Kuki-Zo’s demand for Constitutional safeguards to be addressed by the Government of India at the earliest in the interest of communal harmony and peace”, he asserted.

He continued that N Biren Singh has miserably failed to control his secessionist Meitei militants and armed militias from breaching the “Rules of Law”, and has given them a free hand to terrorize the civilians, to openly brandish the looted arms from the state armouries, and has been reluctant to take action against them. Such an unlawful situation calls for an immediate declaration of all valley districts as “Disturbed Areas”, and the imposition of the Armed Forces Special Power Act, or the AFSPA, in all 19 Police Stations in the

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valley districts to curtail terror acts of state-sponsored pogroms, he added.

He further maintained that such policies to placate the majoritarian Meitei community, at the cost of the minority Kuki-Zo community, will be firmly dealt with and such policies only compelled them to impose a 24-hour Total Shutdown in the entire Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District to demonstrate their resentment against the derogatory resolutions adopted by the Meitei Government.

Views of TLM: The Meitei government has already abstained itself from being a part of the SoO agreement with the Kuki groups since March 2023, and as such its

resolution is immaterial to the SoO agreement. As clearly stated by CoTU, this resolution was made for two main reasons:

- 1) the Meitei government is scared of Sanajaoba-Kourounganba led Arambai Tenggol and does not want to offend it,
- 2) the Meitei government wants to hide its inefficiencies in maintaining law and order in the Meitei valley as the UNLF-P and Arambai Tenggol are freely engaging in extortions, beatings and meting out punishments to those they find guilty in their Kangaroo courts.

AFTER 4 MONTHS OF SEARCH, BODY OF SOLDIER'S MOTHER TRACED AT HOSPITAL MORTUARY

After nearly four months of extensive search, the body of the mother of an Indian soldier, alleged to have been abducted by combatants owing allegiance to the Arambai Tenggol in November last year, has been traced and is at present in the mortuary of an Imphal hospital, officials said on Friday.

Officials said the remains of Rifleman H Haokip's mother, identified as Nengkim (60), are in the Imphal hospital and the army is making an all out effort to shift the mortal remains to Leimakhong Military Hospital (LMS) from where it will be sent to Churachandpur for last rites.

H Haokip, currently posted in Jammu and Kashmir is at present on leave with his father who escaped the brutal assault that took place on November 7 at Kangchup Chingkhong village in Manipur's Kangpokpi district. The family was on their way to Leimakhong when they were waylaid by a Meitei militants. On the fateful day, Manipur police had tweeted that a vehicle carrying five individuals belonging to the Kuki community (2 women and 3 men) en route from Churachandpur to Leimakhong was confronted by an enraged mob at

Kangchup Chingkhong. The mob forcibly took four of them away, while one escaped.

His father Manglun Haokip, was later located by the army in critical condition and was airlifted to Base Hospital Guwahati after an initial and emergency treatment at Leimakhong Military Hospital (LMS).

Rifleman H Haokip has since been coordinating the transfer of his mother's mortal remains from Imphal to LMS, with further plan to eventually transport the entire family, including himself, to their native place in Churachandpur via an Army helicopter, the officials said.

The father, during his conversation with the security forces, had identified the kidnappers to be members of the Arambai Tenggol, a Meitei radical group, which has been involved in various anti-social activities. The fate of the soldier's aunt Mrs. Neilam (55), brother-in-law Mr. Jamkhothang (40) and cousin Mr. Thangjam Haokip (25) to this day, remains unknown.

KUKI BODY OF TENGNOUNPAL CONDEMNS MISINFORMATION SPREAD BY MEDIA HOUSES OVER RECOVERY OF WAR-LIKE STORES IN MOREH

The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal (KIT) has condemned the false, baseless and concocted news broadcasted in the Meitei state and national media houses a few days ago over the recovery of arms and ammunition in Moreh; the border hill town, and stated that it lacked credibility and accountability.

The news reports said, "5th Assam Rifles, 25th Assam Rifles and Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations) Moreh had recovered arms, ammunition and war like stores in the vicinity of Elora Hotel, Moreh".

Defence Wing of the Kuki apex body of Tegnoupal district said, the piece of news holds no credibility and accountability, but planned, cooked and served by vested Assam Rifles personnel in collusion with the Meitei terrorists to fulfilled their malafide motives against the indiginous tribals of Moreh town within Tegnoupal District. Cautioning that such malafide intentions will not be tolerated by the people at any point of time, the Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal said it was and is against the malafide motives of Meitei terrorists, supported by N. Biren Singh, whom he himself is aware of.

"These cheap broadcasting of baseless propaganda by playing Cat and Mouse drama between themselves like they (Meiteis) are doing in Imphal is not permitted in the Kuki-Zo areas by its bonafide inhabitants", the statement of KIT said and requested the bonafide National Media houses to be aware of such cheap propaganda of the Meiteis of which this is not the first and definitely not the last.

Stressing that such false information trying to destroy the image of Kuki-Zo community would affect peace and normalcy in the region, the Kuki



Office of the
KUKI INPI - TENGNOUNPAL DISTRICT (KIT)
Affiliated to Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM)
(An apex body of the Kuki Tribes of Tegnoupal District)

No. KIT/CD/10-1615

2nd March 2024

CONDEMNATION ON MISINFORMATION REGARDING THE RECOVERY OF ARMS & AMMUNITIONS

The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal (KIT) herewith condemned the false, baseless and concocted News broadcasted in the Meitei State Media Houses and National Medias which stated "5th Assam Rifle, 25th Assam Rifle and Additional Superintendent of Police, Operation Moreh, had recovered arms, ammunitions and war like stores in the vicinity of Elora Hotel, Moreh"

These piece of baseless news holds no credibility and accountability. It is plan, cook and served by the like minded AR personnels & Meitei Terrorists to fulfilled their malafide motive against the Indeginous Tribals of Moreh & Tegnoupal District which is not tolerated by the KIT at any point of time. The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal is against the malafide motives of Meitei Terrorist led by N. Biren Singh which he himself is aware of.

These cheap broadcasting of baseless propaganda by playing Cat and Mouse drama between themselves like they (the Meitei) are doing in Imphal is not permitted in the Kuki-Zo areas by its bonafide inhabitants. And the KIT request the bonafide National Media to be aware of such type of cheap propaganda of the Meitei. This false information will effect peace and normalcy and trying to destroy the image of Kuki-Zo community, it is not acceptable and urges the concern authorities to take a necessary action against those officer who are involve in propagating false information.

The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal also urges the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India to banned and take penal action against Meitei Media houses who propagate false, wrong and concocted and frabricated propaganda which cause unrest to the general population.

Defence Wing
Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal

apex body urged the concerned authorities to take necessary action against the officers involved in propagating such false information.

The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal also urged the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, to ban and take penal actions against Meitei media houses which propagate false, wrong, concocted and frabricated propaganda which could cause unrest to and for the general population.

ARMED MEITEIS SEIZE SUV OWNED BY INTENDING MP CANDIDATE ALYSON ABONMAI AT GUNPOINT IN IMPHAL, NAGA CSOs STILL SILENT

Armed meitei miscreants forcibly seized an SUV Toyota Fortuner belonging to an intending candidate for the 18th Lok Sabha election(outer) Dr. Alyson Abonmai near Manipur University, Imphal on February 29.

Even though a couple of days have passed since the incident had been reported, there is neither a condemnation nor a statement issued by the Naga CSOs or the student bodies or even the Meiteis till date.

Reactions to the incident could have otherwise taken a centre stage had it been a Kuki group engaging in such activities against the so-called neutral community in the ongoing conflict. The Meiteis without any invitation will take the initiative to condemn the incident, stage protests and the likes while the Naga CSOs would have competed each other to issue letters of condemnation if the said crime or act was committed by the Kukis.

Furthermore, the valley based Meitei media houses would also report heavily on the incident and sensationalise the news and hold panel discussions regarding the incident. In addition, meitei facebook pages and other social media handles would waste no time to share reports of incident.

However, none of those have happened and CSOs from the two community has not raised their voice regarding the incident. The matter came to light only after the media cell of Dr. Alyson Abonmai issued a press release in connection with the incident through its facebook page.



In the release, the media cell of Dr. Alyson Abonmai stated, “In a shocking act of aggression, a Toyota Fortuner belonging to Dr. Alyson Abonmai was forcibly seized by unknown armed miscreants near MU. The driver endured this brazen attack at gunpoint, resulting in disruption and distress amidst the pivotal phase of the crucial time”.

The media cell stated that the incident not only jeopardized the safety and security of those involved but also undermined the democratic process and its fundamental principles of fairness and freedom.

The disruption of the official work, aimed at amplifying the voices of the people and advocating their interests, is not only regrettable but also appears to be politically motivated and executed with a malicious intent, stated the release.



Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

ECI TO SET UP SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS AT RELIEF CAMPS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS: CEO MANIPUR PRADEEP KUMAR JHA

The Election Commission of India has stated that special polling stations will be established at relief camps to facilitate voting for individuals displaced by the ethnic conflict in Manipur for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

A statement issued by the State Chief Electoral Officer Pradeep Kumar Jha on Friday said, "The ECI, after due consultation with the central and state governments, has directed that all such displaced persons who had to leave their native places during the conflict shall continue to be borne on the electoral rolls of the assembly and parliamentary constituencies concerned in the state".

"As per past precedent of similar nature, the internally displaced electors shall be provided with the facility to vote at special polling stations to be set up in relief

camps. Voting in such special polling stations "shall be conducted using separate EVMs for each parliamentary constituency". it added.

The statement further specified that all rules and directives governing the conduct of polls at the original polling stations will also be applicable at these special polling stations.

The counting of votes casted at the special polling stations will be overseen by designated Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) at dedicated counting centres, which will be established specifically for this purpose and approved by the Commission in advance.

TIPRASA ACCORD SIGNED, HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH SAYS TURNING POINT FOR TRIPURA

In a landmark event hailed as a pivotal moment for Tripura's future, the signing of the TIPRASA Accord has garnered praise from Home Minister Amit Shah, who lauded the efforts of all stakeholders involved, including Pradyot Debbarma, in achieving this historic agreement.

During the ceremony, Home Minister Amit Shah stated the significance of the accord, highlighting its role in acknowledging past mistakes while paving the way for a brighter future. "Today, with this accord, we have respected history and rectified our mistakes, charting a course for progress," stated Shah.

The accord, a tripartite agreement among the Government of India, the Government of Tripura, and the Tipra Motha, marks a significant step towards addressing longstanding tribal grievances and ensuring their rights. Shah commended the constructive role played by Tipra Motha, tribal parties and organizations in the success of the accord, acknowledging their contribution to the peace-building process.

Reflecting on the broader context of northeastern

development, Shah credited the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in fostering peace and prosperity in the region. He highlighted the series of accords signed under the Modi government's tenure, including the recent TIPRASA Accord, which brings the total to eleven agreements aimed at fostering peace and development in the Northeast.

Under the provisions of the TIPRASA Accord, a tripartite committee will be established to oversee its implementation, ensuring the effective realization of its objectives. Key dignitaries present at the signing ceremony included Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, Member of Parliament Biplab Deb, and Tripura's Chief Secretary.

Central to the accord are measures aimed at addressing tribal land and language rights, crucial steps towards ensuring the political and financial autonomy of tribal communities in Tripura.

Source: [India Today NE](#)

CONTROVERSIAL MEITEI MLA RAKES UP CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT FOR KILLING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

The controversial MLA from Keirao Assembly Constituency and one of the patron members of the militia group-Arambai Tenggol, Lourembam Rameshwar Meetei, has proposed a controversial statement of “shoot at sight” policy against illegal immigrants from Myanmar.

Even after the communally filled Meitei dominated assembly reaffirmed a resolution for effective implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and stricter surveillance measures to curb the issue, the MLA proposed an inhumane and controversial measure – granting security forces the authority to use “shoot at sight” tactic against illegal immigrants.

As per convention and several international laws, any illegal immigrants might be identified and deported back to their Country of Origin without inflicting any harm to the person(s). It is unfortunate that the Meitei MLA raked up such a controversial proposal without understanding the humanitarian issues that might ensue. Such a controversial statement is unbecoming of a person elected as a representative of the people. No wonder, the majority of the Meitei community from top of their leaders including L. Rameshwar Meetei to the lowest level, humanity is absent in their thoughts and minds, especially when their malafide intention is against the Chin-Kuki communities.

Keirao MLA, Rameshwar is known for his communal mindset, filled with hatred towards the Chin-Kuki communities. In the wake of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom, he along with the communal Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and the Meiteis’ titular king and the lone Rajya Sabha member Leisemba Sanajaoba nurtured the Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and the valley-based militant groups to carry out the allegedly pre-planned ethnic cleansing act against the Kuki community.

All of him and his fellow companions’ allegations against the Kukis are hallowed and lacked substances, without facts and figures. The fact of the matter is that as per the data of the Government of Manipur, the number of illegal immigrants identified are just a meagre number of about 2000 individuals. These illegal



immigrants are forced to flee their home towards India due to the humanitarian crisis in their country.

The controversial MLA also called on the indigenous communities and fellow MLAs to play an active role in preventing illegal immigration and land encroachment. Speaking of land encroachment, it is rather the Meiteis and the Government of Manipur who encroached upon the tribal lands without due processes and consent of the land owners, in the form of Reserved Forests, for their selfish gain. History is testament to the fact that the Kukis are the indigenous land owners in most of the hill areas of state. Several British records and writings stand to prove this fact.

The Meitei MLA also suggested that the influx of undocumented immigrants could strain resources and disrupt the demographic balance of the state. On demography, L. Maheshwar must undertake a proper research and do his homework better by studying the official decadal census records of the Government of India. As per the latest census of 2011, the Kukis constitute only 14-15 percent of the total population of Manipur. Adding the few identified immigrants numbering about 2000 who fled for their lives to that number, still doesn’t hold enough grounds to affect neither the state resources nor cause a demographic imbalance to the state’s population. It is rather a disingenuous attempt to stain the Kuki community and point fingers at them to try and justify the heinous crimes committed in the name of protecting Kangleipak.

ARAMBAI TENGGOL KEEPS DONNING MANIPUR POLICE'S CDO UNIFORMS; AFSPA STRONGLY NEEDED IN THE VALLEY TO REIN IN MEITEI MILITIAS

A WhatsApp message purportedly from the militia group, Arambai Tenggol (AT), went viral on Saturday. The message directed all units of the armed group to collect Manipur Police Commando's (MP) camouflage uniforms to be worn by them while attacking the Kukis.

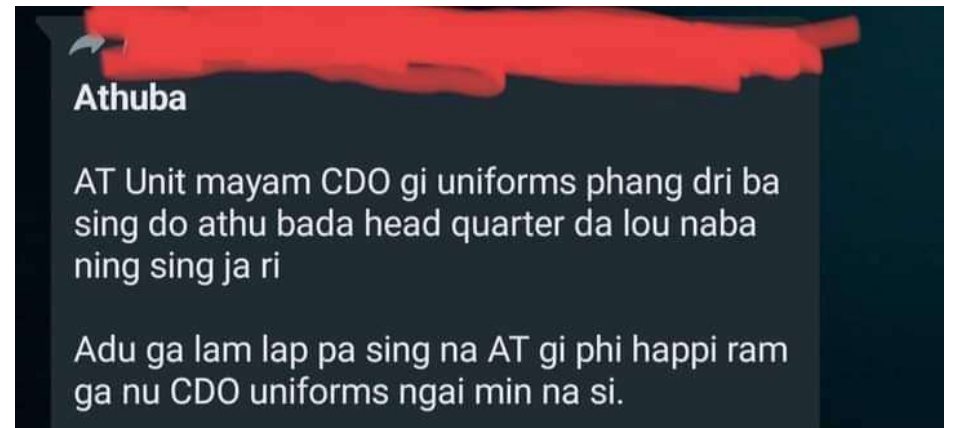
The information (in meitei) stated, "AT unit that doesn't get CDO uniforms can come and claim at Headquarters. AT members who are far away from the Headquarters and cannot collect the CDO uniforms should not wear AT uniforms, but should wait for CDO uniforms to reach them."

AT members donning the MP Commando uniform is nothing new. Hundreds of images in the social media showed them wearing the MP Commando's uniforms while attacking the Kukis located in the buffer zones. The AT members and for that matter the UNLF(P) are usually supplied with the MP Commando's uniforms so that they can easily bypass the security checkpoints by pretending to be MP Commandos, and that they can easily attack the Kukis.

This viral message came after tension is brewing high between the MP commandos and the militia group, over the attack of an MP officer by the latter on February 27th. As a result of the fierce fight between the two armed groups, the Police issued a stern warning to the militia goons, including "shoot at sight".

Leisemba Sanajaoba, head of AT, posted in social media that "Misunderstandings between SF & AT should be resolved at the earliest in the interest of our people." At present it appears that the AT and MP have resolved their differences and are now United in their common hatred against the Kukis.

It is the responsibility of the Government of India to protect the minorities, including the Kukis, and bring normalcy in the region, by formalising the already separated two warring communities, in the form of "separate administration" for the Kukis, and separate Administration for the Meiteis.



The Government of India also needs to rein in the unlawful activities of the Arambai Tenggol. The current situation demands bold actions from the Centre, which should immediately impose the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in the seven districts of the valley.

Currently, the AFSPA is in force in the hill districts. Last October, the state government extended the AFSPA in the hill districts for another six months. There were demands from the Army too for the imposition of the Act in the districts of the valley too. According to the Army, the absence of AFSPA had hampered operations against the insurgent forces of the valley. Surprisingly, this view of the Army is not accepted yet for reasons unknown.

Views of TLM:

Section 6 of "The Official Secrets Act, 1923" prohibits the non-Police personnel from using or wearing of Police Uniform to falsely represent himself as a Police personnel. And such persons are to be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years, or with fine, or with both.

Despite such a stringent act, the Meitei Police has decided to turn a blind eye on such activities of the AT, and in this regard it is surprising that the Security Advisor of Manipur, and the DGP of Manipur Police has not yet taken cognisance of such rampant misuse of Manipur Police Commando's uniforms by the AT.



FEATURED ANALYSIS

Manipur Governor Data Raises Serious Questions Over the Mayhem the 'Double-Engine' Govt Has Unleashed

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty

Manipur governor Anusuiya Uikey's speech on February 28 put out official data on the damage and destruction in Manipur since ethnic strife broke out on May 3, 2023.

Uikey presented the figures as a sign of 'good governance' by the 'double-engine sarkar' of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Official data

1. The governor said that 219 persons have so far lost lives in the state due to the violence.
2. At least 187,143 persons have been rounded up so far under preventive detention. They were released after legal formalities were carried out.
3. At least 10,000 FIRs till date have been lodged in connection with the ongoing violence.
4. The N. Biren Singh government has so far handed over 29 cases to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Four other FIRs are in the process of being transferred to the central agency.
5. Five other FIRs have been transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
6. An ex-gratia payment of Rs 10 lakh is being disbursed to the affected families, "after due verification and mortal remains of victims have been handed over to the next of kins and last rites performed," wrote Imphal Free Press.
7. "To cater to clothing and other needs of the displaced persons, till date, she asserted that an amount of Rs 1,000 had been distributed twice to every displaced individual and the third time distribution has also begun," the news report said.

8. Till date, the state government has spent Rs 200 crore on relief operations and is hoping that the Ministry of Home Affairs would reimburse the amount to the cash-starved state.

9. The governor also said that aside from the state security forces, 198 companies of the CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) and 140 columns of the Army have been deployed in Manipur to assist "in area domination, sanitisation and maintenance of law and order situation."

Manipur versus Kashmir

To comprehend better what these figures cited by the governor say about the law and order situation in Manipur, let's look at similar figures drawn from some other states which are considered disturbed, or, have seen disturbance of considerable gamut in the recent past. Better still, let's look at some corresponding official figures from Kashmir which is oft-considered the benchmark of internal disturbance in the country.

First, the figures on civilian deaths in Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir. In less than a year's time, while Manipur had seen 219 deaths (almost all, civilian deaths), Jammu and Kashmir — between January and November 15, 2023 — saw 13 civilian killings. The data on Kashmir was supplied to Parliament by the minister of state for home affairs Nityanand Rai in December 2023.

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Just to set the record straight here, in the 2020 Delhi violence, 53 lives were lost.

As per the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), prior to the reading down of Article 370 in Kashmir, 126 civilian deaths were counted in three years cumulatively. After August 5, 2019, that number dropped to 116.

The official figure of arrests since May 3, 2023 stands at 1,87,143 persons. That the violence seen during the Delhi riots led to 2,174 arrests gives us a clue, not just about the scale of the violence in Manipur but also the duration of the time it lasted.

As per the governor's speech, a whopping 10,000 FIRs related to the ethnic violence were lodged in Manipur in the last nine months. The Delhi riots with a total of 785 FIRs clearly pale in comparison.

Also, FIRs are only about filing of FIRs by the police, not delivery of justice to the victims.

Glass half full or half empty?

Add to this colossal figure of FIRs in Manipur the governor's data that 33 cases in all (after adding the four FIRs in process) are to be probed by the CBI, and five others by the NIA. It makes a total of 38 cases – all linked to arms-related violence – transferred by the state government in less than a year's time, a record of sorts.

Had the governor acted only as the constitutional authority as the governors are supposed to, analysts ask if the Raj Bhawan at Imphal would have likely recommended Manipur as 'a fit case' for implementing Article 356 to the President of India, or dismissing the state government.

These sets of data can be seen through two prisms.

One, that lodging such a large number of FIRs on the ongoing strife, and transfer of such a record-breaking number of cases to the central agencies, only indicate that the state machinery is ticking.

Two, that the state machinery was first of all not functioning sufficiently enough for such a spike in cases, and civilian deaths. Mind you, Manipur is a state where the MHA had partially lifted the Armed Forces

(Special Powers) Act or AFSPA to hammer on the point that peace has come to the state under the Modi regime. The latest official data certainly counters the illusion of having restored 'normalcy' in the beleaguered state.

On February 28, the Manipur governor chose to see the official data only from the first prism.

Unfortunately though, with hundreds of innocents dead, and thousands having lost their property and livelihood, with violence and public unrest continuing, it is no more a situation where one has the choice to look at the glass half full or half empty, particularly if one is a constitutional authority. Only time will judge her action, and that of the Centre in the still unfolding Manipur story.

About the transfer of cases to the central agencies, it is also worth noting here what the Supreme Court had said in January 2024. A bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, while hearing a plea on January 3 to transfer the investigation into Hindenburg Research's allegations against the Adani group from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to the CBI, had stated that such a power should be exercised sparingly and in extraordinary situations.

It is then an extraordinary situation in Manipur as such a fat bundle of cases have been transferred to the CBI in such a short time.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court, in August, had also allowed the CBI to transfer a bulk of the cases related to the ethnic strife from Manipur to Assam so that the poor law and order situation doesn't come in its way to carry out the pre-trial investigations. That permission was due to a prayer to the apex court by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Manipur government, saying that there were "certain concerns" about judges in the state belonging to specific communities. It indicates a situation where public trust even in the judiciary is at a sub-zero level.

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“Mehta also highlighted security risks in bringing the witnesses and accused to the courts in Manipur,” reported India Today.

Here is another data set to help fathom the precarious situation in Manipur. While in J&K, only three cases were registered by the NIA during 2023, in just last nine months, five cases have been transferred to the agency by the Manipur government.

When we observe that the Union government, despite claiming an improved situation in J&K through data, has refrained from announcing elections there, the Manipur story which has poorer data than Kashmir on some counts, becomes more conspicuous. It begs the question, why no President’s Rule in Manipur then? But we are not going there anyway.

What the governor didn’t say

On February 28, while governor Ukey was delivering her speech at the House, additional superintendent of police for the Imphal West district, Moirangthem Amit Singh, was barely recovering from an attack launched on him and his family by a pack of 200 armed men. The state police had to launch a special operation to free Singh from the clutches of those non-state actors under the banner of a radical outfit, Arambai Tenggol. Singh’s house was also set on fire. The attack was because Singh dared to arrest some of the Arambai Tenggol men.

What went unmentioned by the governor in her speech was also that a number of attacks and kidnappings of student leaders, journalists and others had been carried out by armed non-state actors from the capital city itself in the run-up to the assembly session. Offices of several Meitei civil society groups were also burned down. No one has been identified for those acts of arson and kidnappings. The kidnapping of a senior police officer from the capital city itself sends out a message to the public that not police but an armed radical group with a strength of 50,000 men is more powerful in Imphal valley.

Add to it the burning down last week of the Churachandpur deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police’s offices (also the DC’s residence) by an angry mob from the Kuki community for action taken against a Kuki police personnel by the

state administration. This happened after a video clip of him hobnobbing with armed non-state actors went viral. These incidents give a clearer picture of the dreary Manipur story.

What is perhaps not noted even in Kashmir recently is also a day like this: barely hours after the governor’s speech, Manipur Police commando personnel across five districts laid down their arms as part of a strike against ASP Singh’s kidnapping by Arambai Tenggol.

In January, the Meitei nationalist outfit had commanded all the 37 Meitei MLAs and two MPs to reach the Kangla Fort in Imphal to take an oath to maintain Manipur’s territorial integrity. Their leaders also physically assaulted two of the MLAs. The Fort was the seat of the Manipur kings till 1891.

Significantly, the chief of the outfit came to the Fort that day in a police vehicle. How did he access a police vehicle? Does it indicate that the outfit enjoys the backing of the chief minister who is also the state home minister?

An MP who took part in that act of a ‘parallel state’ set up by Arambai Tenggol from within the Kangla Fort (a news report showed that it also guards the fort) was Raj Kumar Ranjan Singh, minister of state for external affairs in the Modi government.

The other MP, L. Sanajouba, who is the titular head of Manipur and resides within the Kangla Fort premises, was sent to the Rajya Sabha in 2020 with BJP’s support. Sanajouba is the founding leader of Arambai Tenggol. In January, a Ministry of Home Affairs team had two meetings with the radical outfit at Sanajouba’s residence, underlining the close links the MP has with the armed outfit engaged in kidnapping and assault of a senior police official.

In effect, missing parts from the governor’s speech at the assembly Wednesday say as much a story as the data she gave out.

First published by [The Wire](#)

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Sushant Singh
@SushantSin

This is the person who was abducted last November. How did her body end in an Imphal hospital?

{ IN MANIPUR } AFTER FOUR MONTHS OF SEARCH

Body of soldier's mother found in mortuary

Press Trust of India
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IMPHAL: After nearly four months of extensive search, the body of the mother of an Indian soldier, alleged to have been abducted by cadres owing allegiance to Arambhai Tenggol in November last year, has been traced and is at present in the mortuary of an Imphal hospital, officials said here on Friday.

The officials said the remains of Rifleman H Hoakip's mother, identified as Nengkim (60), are in the Imphal hospital and the army is making all out efforts to



Manipur has been gripped by violence since May last year.

shift it to Leimakhing Military Hospital (LMS) from where it would be shifted to Churachandpur for last rites.

Hoakip, who was posted in Jammu & Kashmir sector, is at

present on leave with his father, who escaped the brutal assault that took place on November 7 at Kangchup Chingkhong village in Manipur's Kangpokpi district. The family was going to Leimakhong.

On that day, Manipur police had tweeted that a vehicle carrying five individuals belonging to the Kuki community (two women and three men) en route from Churachandpur to Leimakhong was confronted by an enraged mob at Kangchup Chingkhong.

The mob forcibly took away four of them, while one escaped.

Implement NRC: House to Centre

IMPHAL: The Manipur assembly on Friday passed a resolution urging the Centre to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state. Speaker ThSatyabrata said, "The House resolves to reaffirm its previous resolution... and also to urge the Centre to implement NRC in Manipur..." PTI

8:43 am · 02 Mar 24 · 7,997 Views



R Lungleng
@rlungleng

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Arambai Tenggol losing a sense of purpose? Their 52 Unit has been closed down and the men left for home to go "rest and sleep peacefully". Once the BJP is out of power in Centre, Biren belongs to prison. It will haunt him for the rest of his life. No one's above the law.

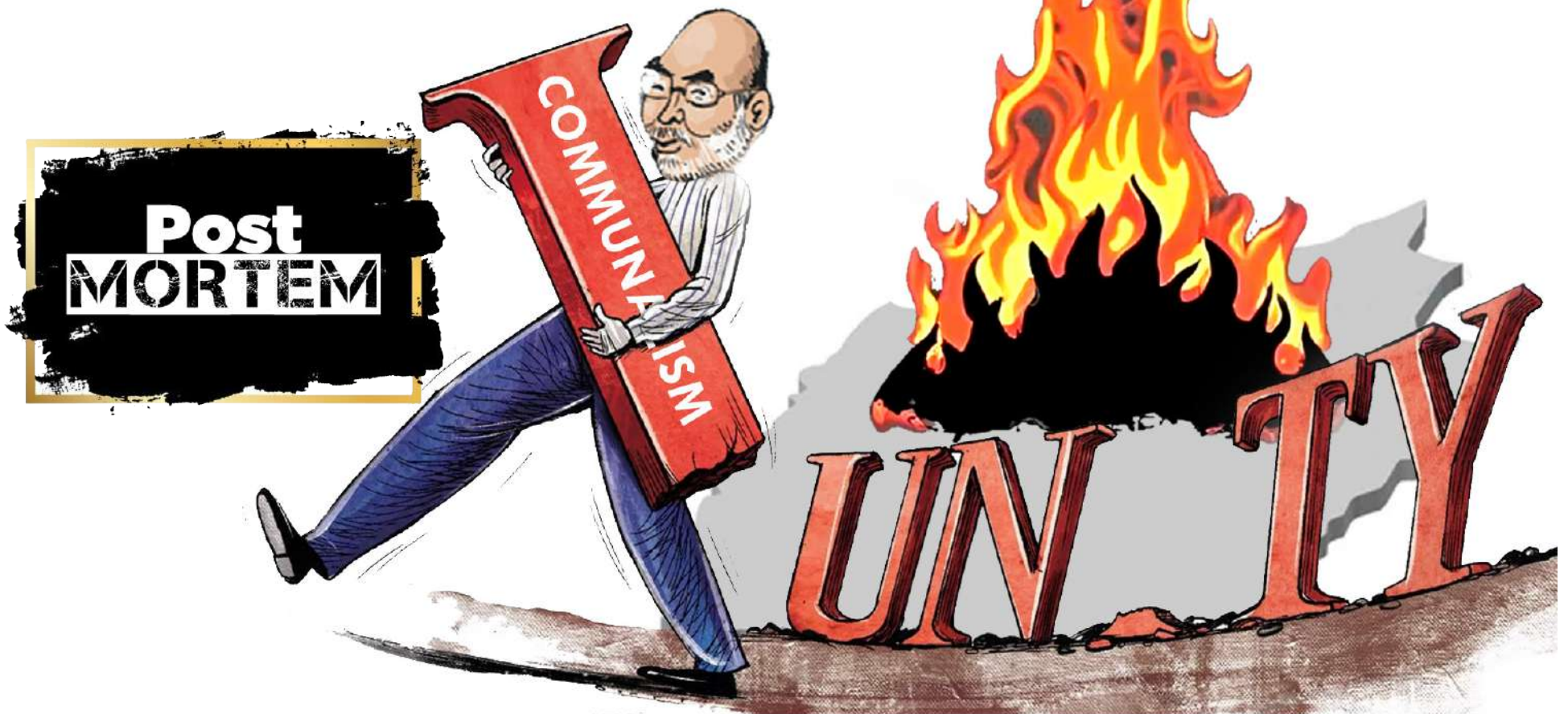


Auztynn @auztynn_shimray · 1d

What is happening in #Manipur ? Also with the #Arambai_Tenggol Earlier MPS officers and police commandos deployed in five districts surrendered the weapons issued to them in protest on Wednesday...



8:43 am · 01 Mar 24 · 7,386 Views



THE MASTER OF CHAOS



A Decade's Dance

- Ch. Roberth Mate

In the hills of friendship, Meitei and Kuki,
For a decade strong, bonds held so true.
Through laughter and tears, side by side,
But when violence struck, compassion seemed to hide.

In the depths of despair, I faced my plight,
A silent struggle, lost in the night.
Meitei friends, once so close and near,
Turned away, indifference in their cheer.

The bonds we cherished, now strained and frayed,
As violence unfolded, leaving scars unaided.
Ten years of comradeship, swept away,
In the storm of silence, where shadows play.

Yet, in the echoes of despair, resilience found,
A Kuki spirit, rising from the ground.
Though abandoned, strength within me grew,
For true friendships endure, the old and the new.

In the tapestry of life, threads may break,
But the heart's resilience, no force can shake.
As Meitei winds blew cold and bitter,
A Kuki heart found warmth, a courage glitter.

For in the face of neglect, a strength unearthed,
Friendship tested, yet my spirit surged.
Through the valleys of pain and betrayal,
I found solace in self, a resilient portrayal.