



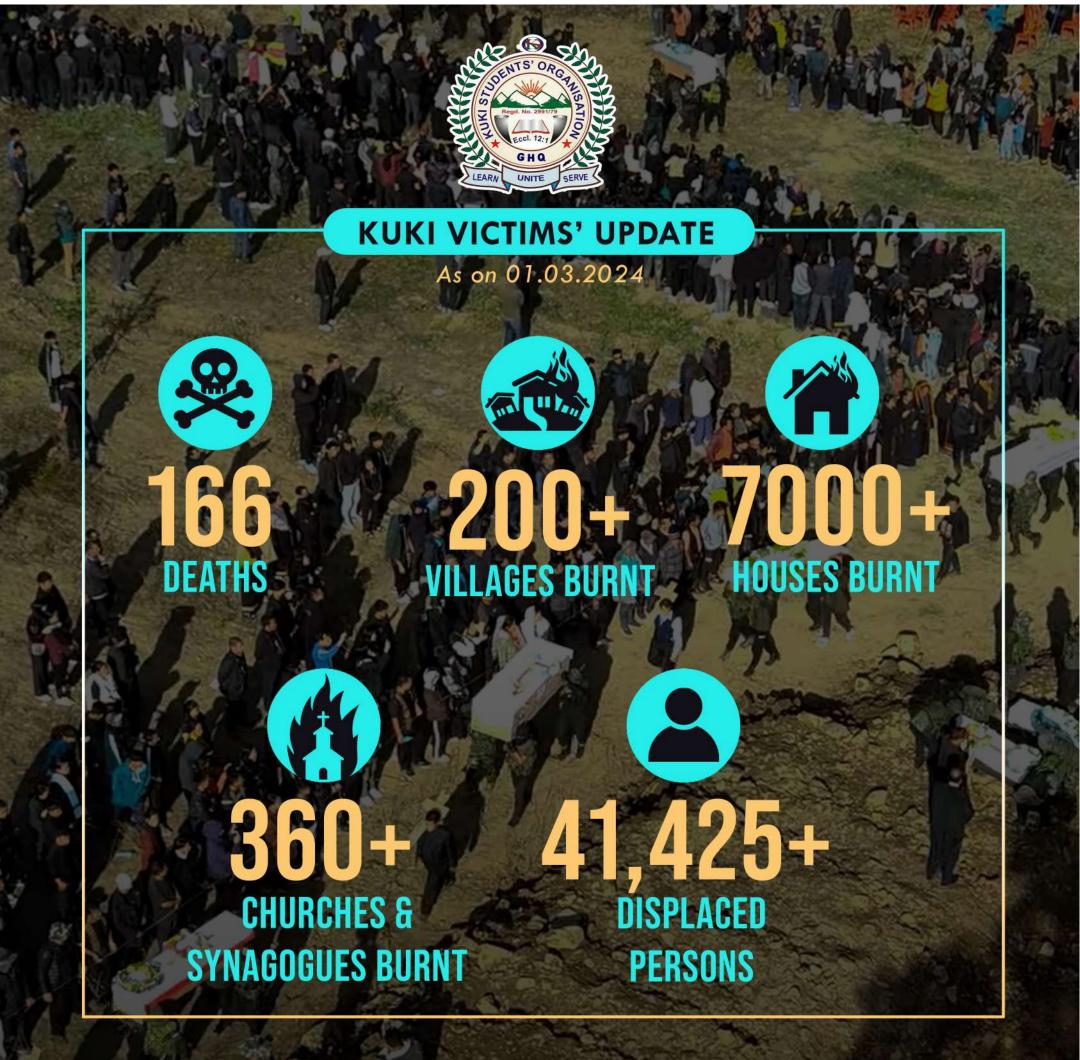
### Songpehjang RELIEF CENTRE

Songpehjang Community Hall, Sadar Hills

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

**Total Inmates Registered: 173** 





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.













### PUBLIC RALLY IN KANGPOKPI ECHOES CALL FOR AFSPA IN VALLEY AND SOO IN HILLS

The Kuki-Zo massive rally in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District today echoed the need for the Armed Forces Special Power Act, or the AFSPA, in the valley districts as much as SoO is needed in the hills.

The public rally under the aegis of the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills Kangpokpi was organized to demonstrate the Kuki-Zo's vehement resentment against the alleged "Communalised and one-sided" Manipur State Assembly resolution to abrogate the SoO Agreement with the Kuki groups and demand the reimposition of AFSPA in the 19 Police Stations of the valley.

The massive rally kicked off at Nute Kailhang in Kangpokpi District headquarters and marched till the uptown Kangpokpi bridge near SP Kangpokpi office via the National Highway-2.

The thousand Kuki-Zo rallyists chanted slogans such as, "Democracy not Autocracy", "Manipur State Assembly resolution Meitei Resolution", "Manipur State Assembly not for Kuki-Zo", "Imphal Government Communal Government", "Manipur State Assembly succumbs to 24 January Kangla Arambai Tenggol Diktat", "Re-impose AFSPA in the valley", "SoO not appeasement policy for Meiteis", etc.

The public rally culminated peacefully with Kangpokpi police effectively monitoring the movement of the rally to avoid any untoward and violent incidents.

Meanwhile, the CoTU's 24-hour total shutdown against the state assembly's resolution and demanding the reimposition of AFSPA in the valley began at 10:00 a.m. in the entire Sadar Hills Kangpokpi district while it will culminate on March 5 morning at 10:00 a.m.

All shops and other business establishments, educational institutions, offices and other private institutions in the district remain closed while vehicular movement along the highway has also been restricted except for those exempted from the purview of the total shutdown.

CoTU's Spokesperson, Kaiminlen Sitlhou while addressing the media said that the total shutdown has been imposed



and the public rally organized to show their strong resentment against the communalised one-sided resolution of the Manipur State Assembly to abrogate the SoO agreement with Kuki-Zo UGs in the absence of their 10 MLAs in the people's house.

He also alleged that time and again, the current regime has knowingly misused the state institutions including the house of the people, which is the last straw to misguide the general public in the valley.

He said that the Manipur Legislative Assembly should have focused on the present law and order situation in Imphal rather than focusing on the SoO.

"AFSPA is needed in the valley districts as much as SoO is needed in the hills", he asserted.

He also said that SoO with Kuki groups heralded peace and tranquility and whoever opposes the SoO is not a peace-loving community.

Therefore, the Committee urged the public in the valley not to be fooled by N. Biren Singh who is trying to escape from the present situation in the valley area by talking about Kuki-Zo undergrounds instead of uncontrollable armed militias who are running the government in Imphal, he added.

He also reiterated the demand for the re-imposition of AFSPA in the valley and urged the centre not to hesitate in re-imposition of the Act as it will not only serve in controlling the escalating terror activities in the valley but also serve as a pathway in restoring the constitutional breakdown in the Imphal valley.











# IMPHAL-UKHRUL ROAD TO BE SHUT INDEFINITELY UNTIL MEITEI CSOS STOP ILLEGAL COLLECTION OF TAXES. HAVE MEITEIS FORMED NEW CSOS JUST TO COLLECT ILLEGAL TAX?

Fed up with the illegal tax collection by the Meiteis along Imphal - Ukhrul road, a joint action committee of Trucks, Wingers, DI and other taxi services have decided to indefinitely shut Imphal-Ukhrul road from March 6.

The JAC issued a release on Sunday declaring that Imphal-Ukhrul road will be shut indefinitely from March 6 until valley based civil society organisations stop "illegal collection of taxes in the name of donation."

If the State authorities do not intervene immediately and take concrete measures to halt the "illegal extortion" by valley-based organisations, "we will have no option but to suspend all public transportation services indefinitely with effect from March 6", stated the release.

The JAC stated that the decision to shut the road was taken in a joint meeting of transporters' associations on Sunday.

The release stated that illegal taxes are being collected daily from vehicles within Imphal on Imphal-Ukhrul road by valley based civil society organisations.

The JAC accused CSOs including All Manipur Pony Conservation Forum and All Manipur Youth Welfare Federation of collecting "illegal taxes" in the name of donation from passenger vehicles like buses, wingers and pick-up trucks etc which ferry essential commodities.

The release stated that such relentless extortion has reached intolerable levels, severely impacting the livelihoods of their members and disrupting the essential public transportation services they provide.

"Despite our repeated appeals and efforts to address this issue through proper channels, the State authorities have failed to take effective action to curb this menace," said the JAC.

There are many instances in the recent past wherein videos of Meiteis engaging in illegal donations in imphal

and in highways have been made public in social media platforms.

The forceful illegal donations by the Arambai Tenggol and other Meitei groups in the valley and in the highways during the ongoing crisis is something the Meiteis have not been able to conceal of late.

The forceful donation by the radical group like Arambai Tenggol and other militant groups seems to have started as soon as the violence spread in Manipur.

But the same was not highlighted on social media since there was an internet ban and the public especially the Nagas also agreed to readily give the donations thinking that the forceful donations may be just for a day or two.

However, the Nagas including a few CSOs have recently started to issue statements regarding the illegal donations and the public have also taken to social media to expose the Meiteis since the number of forceful donations has become unbearable.

It is expected or understandable that a radical group like Arambai Tenggol and the Meitei militants will resort to illegal donations to survive.

However, the Meiteis who already have numerous CSOs have formed new associations with a sole motive to collect illegal donations by taking advantage of the crisis in the State.

For instance, Manipur Pony Conservation Forum and All Manipur Youth Welfare Federation whom the JAC had accused of collecting illegal taxes from passenger vehicles have never been heard of in the past.



#### POLICE RESCUE TANGKHUL NAGA ABDUCTED BY MEITEIS

Manipur Police on March 4 rescued one 55-year-old individual along with his vehicle who was abducted by some unknown miscreants from Imphal East on March 2.

Upon receiving the missing report, Manipur Police immediately launched search operations and later rescued the abducted person along with his vehicle from Napetpalli area.

The 55-year-old has been identified as one Kish Sarunao from Nongdam Tangkhul who was abducted along with his vehicle from Imphal East.

Police immediately launched a search operation and successfully rescued both Sarunao and his vehicle in the Napetpalli area.



On 02.03.2024, one individual namely Kish Sarunao, 55 yrs of Nongdam Tangkhul along with his 4-wheeler vehicle was abducted from Imphal East by some unknown miscreants. Manipur Police immediately launched search operations and later rescued the abducted person alongwith his vehicle from Napetpalli area safely. One Lukhram Bikram Singh @ Kuthan 40 yrs of Khurai Ningthoubung Leikai was arrested in connection with the case and further remanded into police custody by the Duty Magistrate.

6:14 AM · Mar 4, 2024 · 1,467 Views

As per preliminary reports, one Lukhram Bikram Singh alias Kuthan, 40 years of Khurai Ningthoubung Leikai was arrested in connection with the case and further remanded into police custody by the Duty Magistrate.

# MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PASSES SIX BILLS IN ITS 5TH SESSION

The Manipur Legislative Assembly passed six bills today on the floor of the 5th session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly.

The bills are "The Manipur Names of Places Bill, 2024"; "The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2023"; "The Manipur Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2024"; "The Manipur Municipalities (11th amendment) Bill, 2024"; "The Manipur Labour Laws (Exemption from Renewal of Registration and Licence by Establishments) Bill, 2023" and "The Manipur Prevention of Malpractices in High School Leaving Certificate and Higher Secondary Examinations Bill, 2024".



Chief Minister N Biren Singh said that the present government takes the renaming of many places in Manipur as a serious concern. Such changes even lead to create much confusion.







# MIZORAM WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO 42,000 PEOPLE FROM MYANMAR, BANGLADESH, MANIPUR: MINISTER

The Mizoram government will continue to provide relief to over 42,000 people from Myanmar, Bangladesh and Manipur who have taken shelter in the state, Home Minister K Sapdanga told the assembly on Monday.

Replying to a question, he said the number of asylum seekers from Myanmar and Bangladesh, and those who have come here from Manipur keep changing, and it was difficult to maintain a record on a daily basis.

According to the latest record of the Home Department, there are 9,248 people from Manipur, 32,161 people from Myanmar and 1,167 from Bangladesh in the state, he said.

"We will continue to provide relief to asylum seekers from Myanmar and Bangladesh, and internally displaced people from Manipur on humanitarian grounds as much as we can," Sapdanga said, replying to the question asked by MNF MLA K Laldawngliana.

He said the Centre provided Rs 3 crore to the previous Mizo National Front (MNF) government for the assistance of the people from Myanmar, Bangladesh and Manipur.

Last week, Chief Minister Lalduhoma had said that the state government was handling the influx of people with its available resources.



Those from Myanmar started fleeing to the state after the military junta seized power in February 2021. The Bangladeshis fled to Mizoram in November 2022 after the army of that country began an offensive against an ethnic insurgent group in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The Kuki-Zo people from Manipur took refuge in Mizoram after the ethnic violence began in the neighbouring state in May last year.

The Chin people of Myanmar, the Bawm community of Bangladesh and the Kuki-Zo people of Manipur share ethnic ties with Mizos.

Source: India Today NE



## The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars.

– William Westmoreland





# MANIPULATING MISINFORMATION: MEDIA ROLE IN ESCALATING MANIPUR VIOLENCE

In the ongoing Manipur violence, certain media houses rush to break news, often sensationalizing events without verifying facts. One such example is NorthEast Now, a hyper-regional news portal based in Guwahati, Assam.

They published a news item titled "Manipur CM receives warning from unidentified group in video message." The news report stated that a video message containing "false claims" and a warning to Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, has surfaced, allegedly from a group of armed individuals.

The message, delivered in Manipuri (Meitei language), threatens to capture Kangla, a significant area in Imphal city, within two months.

A video clip showing a group of heavily armed men has surfaced online, purportedly showing Kuki militants in the violence-afflicted northeast Indian state of Manipur. Some Meitei social media users have seized on this misinformation to call for the abrogation of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki militants, further exacerbating tensions.

The video, bearing the hashtag 'AbrogateSoO,' surfaced following the Manipur Assembly's unanimous decision on Thursday to petition the Indian government for the annulment of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with all Kuki-Zo militant groups in Manipur. Signed in August 2008, the SoO, also known as the peace pact, was a collaborative effort between the Indian government and the Manipur government with 25 armed Kuki groups. It has been extended annually since its inception.

However, the viral video is from Myanmar and is unrelated to the ongoing conflict in Manipur. The video is misleading as it is not from Manipur but rather from Myanmar. It is not the Kuki terrorist group addressing Manipur, but rather it is Maui, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) addressing, in light of Myanmar's ongoing civil war. A



The message, delivered in Manipuri (Meitei language), threatens to capture Kangla, a significant area in Imphal city



Manipur CM receives warning from unidentified group in video message

transcription is provided on the Youtube Channel of 'FRANCE 24 English' where it states, "Get ready to die!" posted on February 16, 2024. Marwi is quoted saying that the 'Junta troops and police in Karenni State have a choice: surrender or be annihilated.'

A comparison of the viral clip with the original video indicated that the former contains altered audio. In the viral video, an individual raising his index finger is heard speaking in Meitei, stating, "Chief Minister Biren Singh, take note, we will seize Kangla, the heart of Imphal city (Kangla), within two months."

This has been shared widely by many Meitei social media users calling for abrogation of SoO with Kuki militants. Meiteis have the habit of making false claims to lay blame on the Kukis. This false info mongers are aided by unprincipled media houses like the NorthEast Now, who without verifying or authenticating the viral video published it in their attempt to get more readers.



### NAGALAND ASSEMBLY VOICES CONCERN OVER ASSAM BILL AGAINST 'MAGICAL HEALING'

The Nagaland assembly on Friday voiced concern over the Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024.

Deliberating under Rule 50 on the last day of the fourth session of the 14th Nagaland assembly, deputy chief minister TR Zeliang criticised the bill, alleging it undermines secularism and targets Christian practices.

He flayed the bill's restriction on healing practices by Christian missionaries, saying healing is integral to the Christian faith which is protected under constitutional rights

Zeliang said Assam's diversity mirrors India's secular fabric while emphasizing coexistence among religions in the Northeast.

He condemned alleged religious intolerance incidents in Assam, including detentions of American citizens for alleged Christian preaching and demands to remove Christian symbols from schools.

Zeliang urged the Assam government to revoke the bill, calling it a threat to India's secular principle. Highlighting constitutional guarantees of religious autonomy, he urged the Assam government to respect minority rights and repeal the "contentious bill".

He also proposed conveying the Nagaland assembly's opposition to the bill to the Assam assembly.

Participating in the discussion, tourism and higher education minister Temjen Imna Along said it is within the Nagaland legislature's rights to appeal to the Assam government to convey its concern over the bill and assert faith-based practices.

He also asked whether this legislation targets a specific minority community.



Along urged his fellow legislators to critically examine the intentions of the bill and inquire if it unjustly discriminates against any particular religious group.

MLA Dr Sukhato Sema said the bill negates the secular ideals enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution.

He added that secularism in India not only implies the existence of diverse religious communities but also the separation of religion from state power.

"If the state infringes on religious freedom of citizens through controversial laws then the fate of secularism is at stake," Sema said.

Adviser Kudecho Khamo called the terms used in the bill 2024 as incorrect and misleading. He said the bill is a direct violation and infringement of the Constitution and against the fundamental principles of secularism.

Khamo also said instead of bringing out such a bill, the Assam government should appreciate the contributions of the Christians.





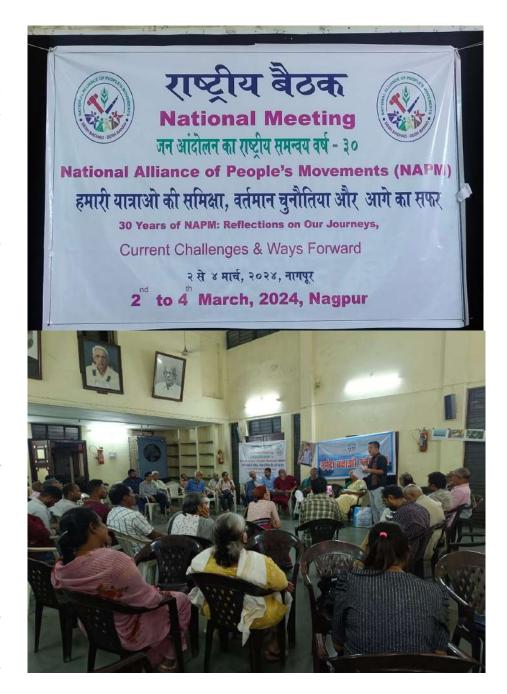
### KSO REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESSES NATIONAL ALLIANCE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT MEETING, HIGHLIGHTS CHALLENGES FACED BY KUKIS IN MANIPUR

The National Alliance People's Movement, a conglomerate of various social activists and organizations in India, convened for a significant meeting in Nagpur, Maharashtra from March 2nd to 4th, 2024. The objective of the meeting was to address pressing issues facing marginalized communities across the country and to devise strategies for collective action.

Mr. Goulungmon Haokip represented the Kuki Students Organisation (KSO) at the gathering and delivered a poignant address on the ongoing challenges confronted by the Kukis in Manipur. He shed light on the plight of the Kuki community, particularly emphasizing the demographic separation between the Kukis and the valley-based Meiteis following sustained ethnic violence perpetrated against the Kukis by the Meiteis. Mr. Haokip's presentation provided crucial insights into the complex socio-political dynamics prevailing in Manipur and underscored the urgent need for intervention to safeguard the rights and well-being of the Kuki people.

Renowned social activist Medha Patkar also participated in the meeting and delivered a powerful discourse on the ethnic violence faced by the Kukis in Manipur. Her impassioned plea for justice and equality resonated deeply with the attendees, highlighting the gravity of the situation and the imperative for concerted action to address the underlying causes of conflict and discrimination.

The meeting attracted delegates from various states across India, including West Bengal, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and several others. These representatives expressed unwavering solidarity with the Kukis and re-affirmed their commitment to supporting efforts aimed at redressing injustices and promoting inclusivity and social harmony.



In conclusion, the National Alliance People's Movement meeting in Nagpur served as a platform for constructive dialogue, solidarity, and collective action in support of the Kuki community in Manipur. The commitment demonstrated by participants underscores the urgency and importance of addressing systemic inequalities and injustices to ensure a more equitable and inclusive society for all.





On the evening of February 28, hundreds of personnel of the Manipur Police, including commandos and senior officers from the rank of superintendent of police, marched from the police headquarters in Imphal to other parts of the valley, including Wangkhei and Sekmai, a distance of around 20 km.

Senior police officers Scroll spoke to described it as an "area dominating exercise" – and a message to Arambai Tenggol, an armed Meitei militia alleged to be at the forefront of the violence against the Kuki-Zo community in the 10-month-old ethnic conflict in the state.

But it was not violence against Kuki-Zos that had provoked the police. It was an attack on one of their own.

On February 27, cadres of the radical armed group allegedly abducted a senior police officer in Imphal, vandalised his home and left him with a broken nose, triggering a sharp response from the police in the valley.

In a protest against the attack, police officers laid down arms the day after. On the same evening, all valley districts police chiefs, commanders of armed battalions, senior officers from the rank of superintendent of police and above, met the state director general of police and chief minister N Biren Singh, to raise their concerns. "All the superintendents of police and commanders took a resolution that if they [Arambai Tenggol] do it again, every police person will retaliate," an official of the rank of superintendent of police, who was present at the meeting, told Scroll.

This was followed by the march, in which most of the participating police personnel were Meiteis. There are almost no Kuki police personnel left in the Meitei-majority Imphal valley, as the discord in the state has unofficially partitioned it into ethnic enclaves.

The protests were also a message to the N Biren Singh government, which has been accused, at best, of tacitly endorsing the radical Meitei group and, at worst, of abjectly surrendering to it.

Once a shadowy fringe group, the Arambai Tenggol has grown in popularity and power in the Meitei areas of the state since the conflict. It claims to have 60,000 recruits and several of its members are armed. The group recently made headlines when they summoned all the Meitei legislators of the state to a meeting and made them take an oath to defend Meitei interests.

Contd.

Click to Follow





#### Contd.

The senior officials Scroll spoke to expressed their frustration at not being given orders to take action against the Arambai Tenggol men responsible of assaulting one of their own.

"The order should come from the top," said a second officer of the rank of the superintendent of police, who was recently posted as district police chief of a valley district. "Once he was kidnapped, there should have been large-scale operations against them. That order was missing. And then once he was rescued, we should have attacked the [Arambai Tenggol] camps. But that order did not come."

"What is the use of holding guns when we are not getting the orders to defend ourselves also?" he asked.

In a statement released on February 29, the Manipur police blamed Arambai Tenggol for the attack on the senior police officer and for the first time officially accused the Meitei militia of "engaging in anti-social activities like assaulting civilians, snatching vehicles from public/government officials".

Observers say the protests point to the extent to which the state's writ has been undermined by the growing legitimacy of a non-state player like the Arambai Tenggol. But, they add, it also highlights the limited wriggle room for the Manipur police, whose special commandos have been accused of working in tandem with Meitei mobs and armed gangs like the Arambai Tenggol in unleashing violence against Kuki-Zos.

#### A growing impunity

On February 27, around 200 armed members of Arambai Tenggol allegedly stormed the residence of Imphal West additional superintendent of police, Moirangthem Amit Singh.

They also attacked Singh and inspector P. Achouba Meitei – two officials who had gone in pursuit of and arrested an Arambai Tenggol member accused of stealing vehicles from a government oil depot in Imphal on February 27.

The police said Singh's wife, parents and his child were home during the attack, when Arambai Tenggol members fired bullets, and vandalised the house.

The growing impunity of the Arambai Tenggol is not surprising, since it enjoys widespread support from Meitei society, say police officials.

For example, a day after the attack on the police official, a large number of Meitei civilians staged protests in support of the Arambai Tenggol, who they said have "defended" Manipur against "Kuki aggression" since the outbreak of violence in May last year.

The radical group also faces little resistance from the state, pointed out police officials.

"Arambai Tenggol members are overflowing in the valley area," said a valley-based police inspector. "They move around freely with arms, there is no restriction."

The second SP rank-officer said the Arambai Tenggol has been emboldened by the state government's silence.

"They beat up some MLAs and the government kept quiet," the officer said, referring to the assault on three Meitei MLAs at the Kangla Fort in January this year.

All the Meitei legislators of the state had been "summoned" by the Arambai Tenggol to the fort and made to swear an oath to defend Meitei interests. "So they thought if they hit the police also, we will simply keep quiet," the officer said.

Another police official told Scroll that the Arambai Tenggol has warned the police of taking action

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against them. "They have been saying that if you arrest us, we will attack you, attack your houses," the official said.

"They are trying to become a parallel power centre, even above the government," said the second SP-rank officer.

#### Friendly fire?

Security officials in the state point out that the Manipur police force and the Arambai Tenggol have not always been at loggerheads.

Both are connected to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party government, an Assam Rifles officer pointed out. "One is the uniformed and constitutional wing and the other is the goonda and unconstitutional wing of the same state government," the official said.

For instance, one of those named in the first information report filed in the assault of additional superintendent of police Singh is a head constable in the Manipur police department, A Kanan Singh. He is suspected to be working as an active member of the Arambai Tenggol, said the Assam Rifles official and other local journalists, and has been placed under suspension.

"One can be jailed for assaulting a government servant on duty," the Assam Rifles official said. "But since they know no action would be taken against the unofficial wing of the state, the frustration must have gotten to the Manipur police."

The official said that there have been lots of allegations against the police of acting as a partisan Meitei force. During the violence in May last year, the police did little to protect Kuki-Zos and their properties, including state ministers and top police officials. "Their own snake has come back to bite them now," said the official.

A Kuki-Zo activist said that the state police have chosen to speak up against the Arambai Tenggol only when they have caused disruption in the Imphal Valley. "They want the Arambai Tenggol to be a fighting force but only against Kuki-Zos," the activist said.

The Manipur police's stand against the Arambai Tenggol has come in for criticism from the Meiteis too. In an editorial, titled "Has Manipur Police stature diminished due to its own doing?, the Imphal Times asked, "Why is the police condemning and commenting as if it is a civil society organisation instead of acting through lawful means to arrest those involved in these illegal activities?"

"We have been arresting the insurgents," another district police chief told Scroll. "But whenever we try to take down Arambai Tenggol, we face [issues] from their support base. They claim that they are the guardians of the Meitei heartland. But it is not that."

Many of the Arambai Tenggol cadre are young men, between the ages of 17 and 25, all radicalised by the leaders of the group, the police official said. "They are being misguided by the so-called leaders who are making money through extorting common people. What we have to do is we have to do proper counter-radicalisation."

The official's concerns were echoed in the police statement on February 29. "They [Arambai Tenggol] are garnering false support in the garb of protecting the public but they are committing many antisocial activities and criminal acts."

However, observers point out that it is evident that the Manipur police is struggling to enforce the law against an ethnic militia with popular and political support. Since the protests, no arrests have been made in the case of the assault against the additional SP.

First published by **The Quint** 



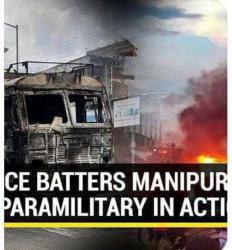




#Manipur, you voted BJP back to power. And yet he doesn't consider you as part of #ModiJiKaParivaar!

Wonder why 🤔





9:24 pm · 04 Mar 24 · 45 Views





#Manipur assembly resolution is not even worth the paper which it is written on. Their unilateral withdrawal from SoO talks makes them a non party. They've reduced themselves to a bunch of cry babies led by some nincompoops as they surrendered to the whims of #Arambai\_Militants



1:12 pm · 04 Mar 24 · 992 Views



THE **KUKIPHOBIC ASSEMBLY SESSION** 















(Kuki Volunteers)

- Benito Singson

Into the fray, where shadows dance, Courage meets its daring chance, Where warriors brave, In fearless stance, Forge their path with every glance.

Beneath the canopy of starlit night, They march, their spirits burning bright, Each step a testament to might, As they embrace the call to fight.

Through tumult, chaos, and the storm, Their souls are steadfast, firm and warm, In the crucible, their valor born, Into the fray, they are reborn.

With swords of honor and shields of grace, They charge ahead, to meet the chase, In every battle, they find their place, With steadfast hearts, they leave no trace.

Though dangers loom and shadows fall, They heed the clarion, heed the call, For in the fray, they stand tall, Bound by duty, they give their all.

So into the fray, they boldly tread, Where heroes live, and legends spread, Their courage shines, a beacon-led, In the tumultuous dance, they're ahead,