

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Keithelmanbi RELIEF CENTRE

Keithelmanbi Community Hall, Sadar Hills  
(Camp Code: KPI-2-02)

Managed by  
District Administration &  
Kuki CSOs Sadar Hills

**Total Inmates Registered: 379**



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 05.02.2024



**161**  
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.

# ITLF WARNS OF RETALIATION AGAINST MEITEIS' SABOTAGE OF POWERLINE TO CHURACHANDPUR, PHERZAWL

Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum has warned the valley dwellers that the Kuki Zo have reached a point where any further instigation will be met with a befitting reply.

ITLF issued a release on Tuesday in response to the provocation by Meiteis to the Kuki Zo by sabotaging the only power line that supplies electricity to Churachandpur and Pherzawl leading to a complete blackout in the districts for almost a week.

ITLF stated that since May 3, 2023, the Meitei community has blocked all goods from entering Kuki-Zo tribal areas, including essential commodities and life-saving drugs.

The release stated that the Meiteis on Feb 1, 2024, upped their dirty game by sabotaging the only power line that supplies electricity to Lamka (Churachandpur) and Pherzawl, two Kuki-Zo tribal districts, leading to a complete blackout for almost a week. This is a community devoid of humanity, it added.

ITLF reminded the valley areas that power lines for the capital Imphal run through tribal hills; National Highway 2 - the main supply line for all goods entering the valley - goes through Kuki-Zo areas; and most of the source of water for the valley comes from the hills.

“We have not taken any drastic action despite being repeatedly attacked by Meitei militants like Arambai Tenggol and UNLF because of humanitarian considerations and to avoid a further escalation of the conflict which could cause a humanitarian disaster. But we have reached a point where any further instigation will be met with a befitting reply” says ITLF.



There were three lines which supplied power to Lamka (Churachandpur) and Pherzawl, but two were destroyed by Meitei miscreants in June 2023, stated the release and added that the remaining line was also sabotaged on two previous occasions before the Feb 1 incident.

Due to the damage to the 33KV main line near Moirang, the Kuki Zo had recently given an ultimatum to the state to restore the line or they would disrupt the line passing over their dominated area.

It is learnt that the Manipur government is presently repairing the damage and trying to restore electricity in Churachandpur, according to a press release of the Manipur state electricity board.

However, ITLF also cautioned the Meitei radical organisations not to go into the treacherous terrains as the tribal volunteers can cause similar damage to electricity infrastructure in the Imphal valley.

# MEITEI WOMEN PROTEST AGAINST REPLACEMENT OF ASSAM RIFLES LED BY MEITEI CO IN SAGOLMANG

Womenfolk of Sagolmang protested against the attempt to replace the 18 Assam Rifles with the 28 Assam Rifles from Tripura and placed their grievances to the CO of the 18 Assam Rifles, Colonel Akash Oinam.

Demanding that the personnel of 18 AR should not be replaced, the womenfolk staged a protest in front of the 18 AR gate on Tuesday.

One of the lady protesters said that a number of vehicles belonging to the Assam Rifles came from Imphal on Tuesday and when the matter was investigated it was learnt that they had come to replace the 18 Assam Rifles.

The lady protestor demanded that the state forces must be deployed instead of deploying the Assam Rifles.

The Meitei populace have been demanding that the Assam Rifles or the central forces be removed from the valley areas. However, recently it was seen in a video on social media that the Meitei womenfolk have also collected donations from the central forces deployed in the valley in their fund drive for the Meitei armed groups.

The question here arises whether the Meiteis are actually against the central forces when they accept the central forces if it is led by a Meitei man. They have no problem when the Assam Rifles in Sagolmang was led by the Meitei Colonel Akash Oinam but they protest when there are plans to station other battalions of Assam Rifles.

The Assam Rifles has "Duty is supreme" as its motto. Their duty, among others is maintaining law and order. However, CO Colonel Akash Oinam of 18 AR telling the Meitei Paibis that his transfer was in their hand is clear evidence of him instigating the mob to create chaos and disrupt law and order if necessary to prevent his transfer, in direct contradiction of his duty. In their line of work, respect for the hierarchy system works the



best for the nation. Any deviation and disrespect of the system can put national security at risk.

Thus his instigation of the mob means he disregards and disrespects the high command who gave the authority to transfer him. As personnel working in the para military force, mutual trust, coordination and cooperation with their colleagues are paramount and they should work as touch bearers of unity in the diversity of India, not a communal force that divides. By instigating the mob he has put the credibility of his colleagues and personnel under his command at risk and portrays himself as the only one who could ensure their safety while implying his colleagues as an enemy for the Meitei community.

Thus, it can be concluded that CO Colonel Akash Oinam is misusing his authority for his vested interest even at the cost of putting his colleagues and many Indian para-military personnel at risk. If this act of his is not worth a termination from his service, then India will be sending the wrong message to the paramilitary and other armed forces that coup, disobedience, disrespect for higher command and patriotism for a personal community other than that of India is okay.

# FLOCKING TO NORTH BLOCK IN NEW DELHI BECOMES ROUTINE FOR MANIPUR WITH NO TANGIBLE OUTCOME

The Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi Emerges as a Key Hub for Manipur Residents Amid Ongoing Violence.

Since the outbreak of violence in Manipur on May 3, 2023, the office of the Ministry of Home Affairs, located in the North Block, New Delhi, has witnessed a surge in visitors from Manipur. Political figures and representatives from various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have made frequent visits to this bustling office in efforts to address the unrest.

Individuals and groups from both conflicting communities have hurried to meet the second-highest-ranking official in India, aiming to convey their grievances and seek resolutions. While the specifics of these meetings remain undisclosed, those who attended often expressed optimism upon leaving. However, despite approximately nine months since the onset of the conflict, concrete actions from the ministry have yet to materialize.

Recently, Chief Minister Biren Singh held talks with Home Minister Amit Shah on February 3, amidst a resurgence of violence in the state. Following the meeting, Singh assured the public via social media platform X, stating, "Rest assured, the Government of India is set to take some important decisions in the interests of the people of Manipur."

Against the backdrop of the ongoing tensions, delegates from Zo United are currently in New Delhi, engaging with officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Ginza Vualzong, spokesperson for the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum, a Kuki group based in Churachandpur



district, revealed that nine representatives from Zo United are scheduled to meet with MHA officials to accelerate their demand for a political solution.

In a meeting on August 25, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reportedly urged members of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), a prominent Meitei civil society group, to initiate dialogue with responsible Kuki leaders for "peace-building". However, despite this call to action, the COCOMI delegation has yet to make progress, maintaining silence since then.

Social activist Maheshwar Thounaojam also met with the Union Home Minister to present the state's situation and advocate for measures to restore normalcy. Additionally, various politicians from Manipur have visited the office to present differing perspectives on the situation. Dissenting MLAs, seeking the removal of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, have also made appearances, yet concrete action or serious engagement from the Centre remains elusive after nine months.

## NPF MP LORHO S PFOZE URGES CENTRE TO ADDRESS MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Naga People's Front (NPF) MP Lorho S Pfoze called for urgent government attention to the ethnic strife in Manipur during a parliamentary session on Monday. Expressing disappointment over the absence of any mention of the Manipur violence in the President's Address, Pfoze highlighted the severity of the situation.

Since May 2023, over 180 lives have been lost and hundreds more injured in clashes sparked by a Tribal Solidarity March protesting the Meitei community's push for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

With Meiteis comprising 53% of Manipur's population primarily residing in the Imphal Valley, Nagas and Kukis, constituting just over 40%, inhabit the hill districts. TMC's Pratima Mondal echoed concerns about the omission of the Manipur crisis from the president's address.

Pfoze emphasized the imperative for the government to address the root causes of the violence, advocating for an end to the bloodshed, restoration of rule of law, and the return of peace to Manipur.



BRS's Nama Nageswara Rao joined the discussion, urging an increase in the PM KISAN scheme benefits from Rs 6,000 to Rs 10,000 annually to uplift the farming community and contribute to India's development goals by 2047.

However, N K Premchandran of the RSP expressed deep disappointment with the President's Address, criticizing it for lacking acknowledgment of minority atrocities and the struggles faced by the working class.

---

## KCP CADRES INVOLVED IN EXTORTION ARRESTED

Manipur Police on Tuesday arrested three men whom the police said are active cadres of proscribed KCP (PWG) from Bishnupur District.

According to police, the arrested persons were involved in extortion of money from the general public and government officials. Police recovered one 9mm pistol with four live rounds, one demand letter of KCP (PWG), three mobile phones, Rs. 5,820 in cash and 2 two-wheeler vehicles from their possession.

A case has been registered at the relevant police station and investigation is ongoing.



**ANALYSIS****Attacks on Power Infrastructure, Meiteis' Newest War Tactics to Oppress the Kukis, in Their Genocide Pogrom to Ethnic Cleansing**

If science has given us many innovations, electricity is the best of them. Human civilization has become very modern, and electricity is needed everywhere.

The dependency of mankind on appliances and technology which in turn depends on electricity elevates the importance of electricity in an individual's life from the status to that of food and clothes to men. From household to economic activities, from the education sector to the healthcare sector, from freedom of expression to holding the government accountable, from providing information to being informed, the role of electricity directly or as a medium in modern men is salient. Men thus become handicapped and their daily activities grind to a standstill with its absence.

Thus, countries that can't provide 100 per cent to their citizens' electrification are considered underdeveloped or developing but never a developed country due to the immense role it plays in easing, enhancing and nurturing an individual's life and creativity and the growth and development of a nation. The Indian government's effort for 100% electrification aligns with its goal of becoming a developed country too. But is the Gol aware that thousands of its citizens are deprived of their rights to electricity by Meitei mobs attacking the electricity infrastructure? If so, will it hold the government of Manipur responsible this time for its inefficiency and failure?

Through technology, the world is truly becoming a global village. But electricity is the oxygen for this technology, for without it modern technology is as good as a broken machine. Thus one can say an attack on electricity is an attack on its developmental process, its human capital investments and its communications. Men are social beings who can't develop to their optimal potential without an interaction with others in the society and a society to the world. Isolation of a community from being in contact with the outside world is basically oppressing one like how Kim's family in North Korea is oppressing their citizens. This is exactly How the Meiteis oppressed the Kukis by attacking their electricity supply.

The attack on electrical infrastructure by the Meitei community amounts to war crimes for its unnecessary attacks on civilians' basic human rights who bore no threats to anyone. Be it education or healthcare, for employees whose work depends on electricity like those working in the IT sector, private hospitals and diagnostic clinics or daily wage earners like those working in steel/iron smelting etc, they are putting thousands of lives at risk like patients in ICU or in surgical operations, denying them the basic right to education and

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

health, and the human right to livelihood. The poor who don't have the monetary resources to study in cities depend on online classes or free quality classes provided on different platforms like YouTube, and with board exams knocking at the door, their life without electricity means nights without studying unless they are expected to study under the stars and moon. So are for other students preparing for different competitive examinations. With the intense level of competition, even an hour lost a day could impact their future and make them lag behind their peers. Attacking innocent civilians who do no harm to them can be done only by monsters who camouflage themselves as humans

Recognizing the importance of electricity, the Supreme Court thereby held that electricity being a basic necessity, is an integral part of the right to life as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Attacking electrical infrastructure that affects vast areas is not only an attack on one's right to electricity, but it has a spillover effect and attacks other fundamental rights under the right to life of Article 21 such as the Right to live with human dignity, Right to decent environment, Right to livelihood, right to health, Right against inhumane treatment and Right to timely treatment in government hospitals. Thus, shouting about the integrity of Manipur alone won't save the integrity of Manipur, but your words and actions have to be liveable enough to co-exist.

You can't treat your neighbours like an enemy and expect their co-operation in times of need. As a

community that proclaims itself as Hindu, it is expected on their part to at least be well versed with Karmic Laws. All mankind except for the Meitei community knows that for every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction as any retaliation against their own actions is still an unjust, not karma for them. We Kukis too, can cut the lifeline of those staying in the valley, but maintaining the war ethics we refrain from committing it. But one should not always make an effort to wake the sleeping lion, just to stage a sumang Leela later.

We might be tribals but we deserve to avail the benefits of men's innovation like all humans do, we don't need authorisation from the megalomaniac Meitei community. It is thus important for the central government to take cognizance of these inhuman and evil acts of the Meitei community. As for the atrocities and heinous crimes against the Kukis by the Meitei, this is not their first time nor will it be their last time. It shall last as long as the Kukis are kept in the political territory of Manipur. Since our welfare and basic rights can no longer be protected under the government dominated by the Meitei community, the Kukis have the moral and democratic rights to ask for a Separate Administration and it will only be morally right to grant us one. Our injustices need a redressal and it's the duty and responsibility on the part of the central government to give us the social and political justice we deserve.



**Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win .**

*– Sun Tzu*





FEATURED INTERVIEW

## The Tuesday Interview | 'Fencing the Border With Myanmar Not a Solution to Manipur Conflict'

Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement about fencing the border with Myanmar and ending the decades-old Free Movement Regime (FMR) left the Kukis, Mizos, and Nagas upset and angry. Although this step is among the major demands of the majority Meitei community and the BJP government in Manipur for ending the conflict continuing since May last year, Sominthang Doungel, a leader of Kuki Inpi Manipur, an apex body of the Kukis in Manipur, tells DH's Sumir Karmakar that fencing would "further divide" the ethnic communities living on both sides.

### **Do you see any connection between the ongoing violence in Manipur and the Centre's decision to fence the border with Myanmar and end the FMR?**

The situation in Myanmar is a matter of concern to the Government of India. The activities of the Myanmar Army on one side and the ethnic armed organisations and the pro-democracy People's Defence Force, who are feeling the pressure to come to the Indian side of the border in Manipur, on the other, could be among the reasons why the centre decided to fence the border. I don't think the Centre's decision to fence the border has any connection with the violence in Manipur. Even if it has, it is never going to solve the violence in Manipur. After all, constructing fences along the border is not a solution to the violence in Manipur. There will be peace

in Manipur once the Meiteis stop attacking the Kukis and a separate administration by way of a Union Territory with the legislature is granted to the Kukis.

### **Why are the Kuki-Zo-Naga people opposed to the move to fence the border?**

The Kuki people have been living in the northwestern part of Myanmar and the northeastern part of India much before there was an international boundary. There were no Manipur, Nagaland, or Mizoram in those days. The Kukis are the first inhabitants of the land they occupy today. The land was not offered by anyone out of sympathy. The international boundary line between India and Myanmar was created by the British government without consulting the Kukis. Building fences along the India-Myanmar border will divide the Kuki people who are living in India and Myanmar and also deprive them of all connection and cooperation between them.

### **But many in Manipur, including the government, say that the open border is being misused for anti-India activities.**

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

The Meiteis should accept the bitter truth that the border is being misused for anti-India activities by Meitei secessionist groups, who carry out illegal drug trafficking and attacks on the Central forces. They should have the courage and honesty to admit that the Meitei secessionist groups maintain camps in Myanmar, from which they infiltrate into India and launch deadly attacks against the central forces.

The government of India termed these Meitei armed groups “terrorist organisations” under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967. Many of these outfits were formed with the assistance and support of hostile powers like China and Pakistan, and they continue to receive financial support and arms from these countries, particularly China. Former Indian Army chief M M Naravane once suggested that there is a Chinese hand behind the current Manipur violence. These Meitei terror outfits were formed with the goal of setting up a sovereign Manipur and are, therefore, a threat to the territorial integrity of India.

Manipur CM N Biren Singh also talks about the illegal migration of the Kukis, drug trafficking, and the influx of militants from Myanmar.

The false narrative of massive illegal immigration from Myanmar has been created with the sole intention of supporting the narrative that Kukis are ‘foreigners’ and illegal migrants, that they don’t belong to Manipur, but the truth is that the Kukis have inhabited Manipur for ages, and the free movement regime has been working well not only for the Kukis and Nagas but for all communities, including the Meiteis, who have benefited from it commercially more than any other communities.

The drug menace in the state cannot thrive without police connivance, and there cannot be a drug business without the connivance of the police and political leaders. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who went extra vocal in his campaign for the war against

drugs, has been accused by a senior officer of the state Narcotics and Affairs of Border Bureau (NAB) of allegedly putting pressure on the department to drop the case against a person accused in a drug seizure raid that took place in June 2018.

Associating only the Kuki community with the poppy plantations in Manipur is unfair; all communities, including Meiteis and Nagas, are equally involved.

### **What do you think should be the way forward?**

Every political problem in Manipur is related to the land issue in some way. The crux of the matter is overlapping claims over land rights by both Kukis, Meiteis, and Nagas. The best way forward is to set up a boundary commission to be led by central leaders with equal representation from Kukis, Nagas, and the Meiteis.

### **Do you think it’s possible to check illegal migration and drug trafficking by keeping the border open?**

Checking illegal migration and drug trafficking is a great challenge. But it’s also possible to check illegal migration and drug trafficking by keeping the border open. Nationality verification at the border checkpoint continuously for identification of illegal migrants and their deportation from India, heightened presence of border patrol agents along the border, and using detection technology with genuine dedication and sincerity on the part of the border security officers should also be taken into account.

Source: [Deccan Herald](#)

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

**Kuki Inpi Manipur** @Kuki\_Inpi

Kuki Inpi Manipur is resolute in its stand for the rights and privileges of the Kuki People. It will continue to fight against any form of injustice meted out against our people in any manner so demanded. The Kukis as equal citizens of India must be equally protected by the constitution of India. It is our inherent right to demand equality before law; equality of opportunity, and safeguard against any form of suppression, oppression or exploitation. God bless the Kukis, God bless our country India. Jai Hind!  
@PTI\_News @PMOIndia @TribalAffairsIn

8:57 pm · 06 Feb 24 · 1,108 Views

**Greeshma Kuthar** @jeegujja

Churachandpur and Pherzawl are under a total blackout for the past five days, which I'm sure NDTV knows pretty well. Yet here is a piece on the basis of 'powerful drone footage' from guess when? So COOL how pro-establishment dudes can be so out in the open no? Journalism bro!

**Debanish Achom** @debanishachom · 3d

Cross Installed Atop Manipur's "Sacred" Hill Threatens Fragile Peace

ndtv.com/india-news/cro... #Manipur #Thangjing

11:54 am · 05 Feb 24 · 13.8K Views

Post MORTEM

COMMON MAN VERSUS POLITICIAN





# THE BEATING MAY

the bullet holes behind my aunt's humble  
thatched roof,  
the broken glass at my church's corridor,  
Are all frozen now.

The blood on the streets must be to.

I.  
In December,  
in an alleyway,  
the earth is dry with mist.  
A creak in the attic,  
touched by a small leak of the cold sun  
Gives light to old wounds and shadowed pains.

there are no twinkling lights,  
no golden stars  
to wrap around the tree this Christmas.  
So instead I'll hang the names of our dead,  
and count their years.

A million verses,  
A thousand songs,  
Could never do justice  
To the night of the 3rd,  
Nor could any poem bring back  
the innocence of humanity  
Before the Beating May.

Overcast by dark politics  
Of men in suits,  
in grey pants and office chairs,  
Our lives are mere numbers,  
Not precious enough to bargain with,  
Collateral damage, written away on paper.

II.  
In December,  
In disparity,  
the earth is sprouting green peas  
A child strides along to pluck them away,  
To sell them at the winter market later this noon.  
For her, this is enough of a sanctuary  
For she must hurry,  
For she has a family to feed.

Her only crime was being born,  
Of having a heart big enough to believe in kindness,  
And a soul full enough to kiss away ruins.

Skyfall,  
In the valley  
that shunned us out,  
their men and women  
of acclaimed status and mortified belief,  
blame all but their state,  
repeating the easy lies  
over fires, identity and culture  
they know nothing of.

*Contd.*



*Contd.*

the eerie touch of saints and chauvinists  
on talkshows where valley-men justify  
the groping of hill-women and ethnic assaults,  
the castastrophe of hypocrites,  
where dishonest truths are plentiful,  
draw their lines on pleasant words.  
And for monsters like them,  
I shall hope hell is ever-unpleasant.

III.

In Winter,  
up my hill,  
must i forget this summer?  
no  
i will hold on  
for a little while longer  
to the shared tears,  
and broken laughs,  
maybe until next Christmas.

And until next Christmas,  
all i can do is  
hope against hope,  
for our children to play again  
under twinkling tree-lights,  
in the lands of their heroes.

In Winter,  
down the river,  
we will store firewood  
to warm our hearts this cold December,  
and although words may not ease away  
the trembling thunderstorms,  
these lines mustn't corrode,  
they must travel far and wide.

Until next Christmas,  
If and when we're able,  
I hope,once again that-  
we're building bonfires,  
dancing to the tunes of folksongs,  
putting on our best stripes of tradition,  
Warming the benches of our Churches.

Until next Christmas, i must remember.

"All I have is a voice  
To undo the folded lie,  
The romantic lie in the brain  
Of the sensual man in the street  
And the lie of Authority  
Whose buildings grope the sky:  
There is no such thing as the State  
And no one exists alone;  
Hunger allows no choice  
To the citizen or the police;  
We must love one another or die."  
WH Auden- Of Eros,1939

To write, is to be etched into history,  
To write well and right in the age of war,  
Is a duty.  
The year will end,  
The new year will come,  
But these words will stop time,  
Forever.

*- Abigail Misao*