TIESDAY | AUGUST 06, 2024

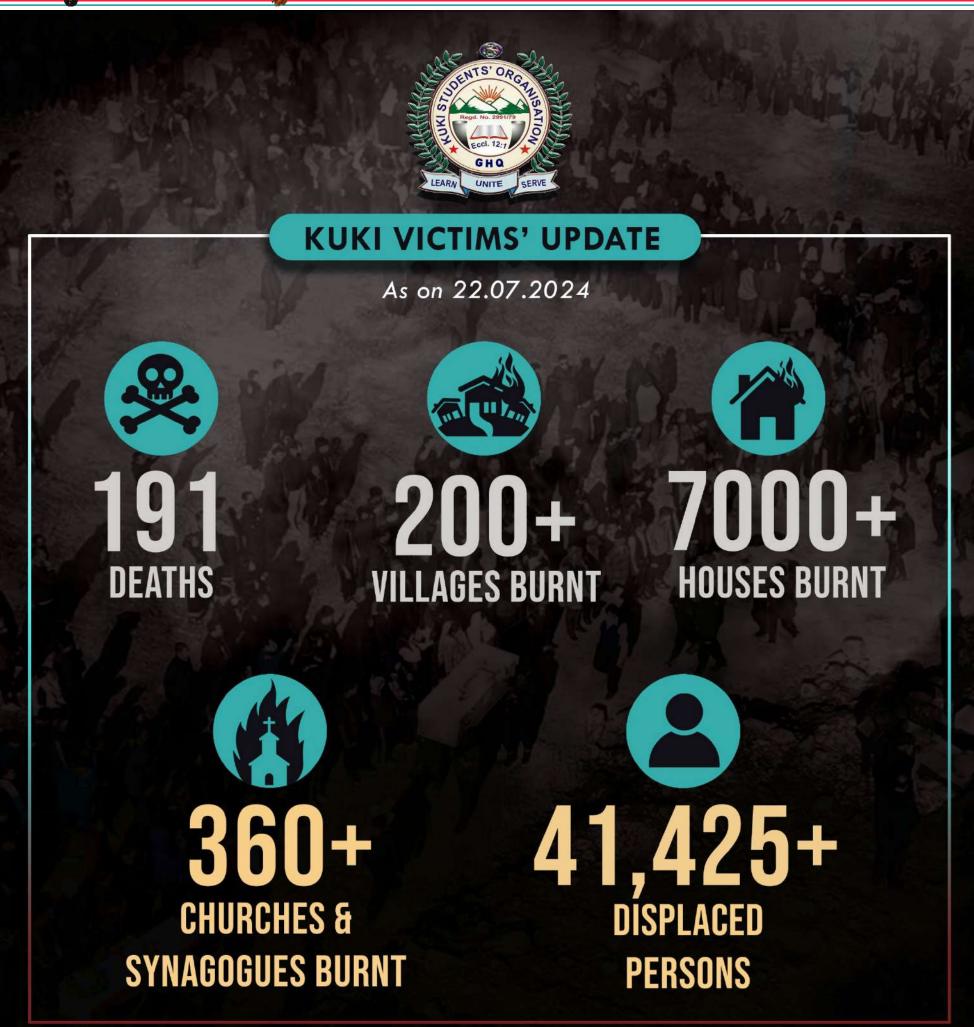
ISSUE No. 304

NAITING JUSTICE



SONKHOLEN GUITE (38 YEARS)

S/O VANGKAM GUITE ADDRESS: PASHONG UKHRUL Date of Death: 28th May, 2023 Place of Death: Saikul, Sadar Hills Cause of Death: Shot Dead by Meitei Militants



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.



KUKI INPI CHURACHANDPUR OPPOSES GOVT'S ARBITRARY DECISION To remove assam rifles battalions

The Kuki Inpi Churachandpur, the apex body of Kukis in Lamka, has vehemently opposed the Government's arbitrary decision to remove Assam Rifles Battalions from the districts of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi.

In a statement on Monday, the Kuki body said it fails to understand the logic and the rationale behind the decision to remove the Assam Rifles 9 & 22 Battalions from Churachandpur & Kangpokpi, and replacing them with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

"This impulsive decision not only lacks clear logic and rationale but also reeks of nepotism, as the incumbent Deputy Inspector General of CRPF, Mr. Premjit Huidrom is a Meitei. Such a move raises serious concerns about the impartiality and fairness in the deployment of the security forces in our region," it said.

Asserting that the Kuki people have always had the fullest confidence in the Assam Rifles, which has played a crucial role in maintaining peace and further escalation of violence in their region, the Kuki Inpi Churachandpur stated that the Assam Rifles' deep understanding of the local dynamics and established rapport with the communities have been instrumental in fostering an environment of trust and confidence. The sudden and whimsical replacement of Assam Rifles with CRPF, without any proper explanation, undermines this trust and jeopardizes the fragile peace that has been painstakingly built, it said.

While questioning the rationale behind this decision, the Kuki apex body asked, "What pressing security or administrative reasons necessitated this abrupt change?"

Stating that the absence of a satisfactory explanation fuels suspicions of ulterior motives, particularly given the background of the newly appointed CRPF leadership in the region, the Kuki Inpi stressed that such actions could only serve to deepen divisions and erode the



already fragile trust between the government and the local communities.

The Kuki body also said that if the Government was sincere about restoring peace and controlling further escalation of violence in their region, it must reconsider and repeal this ill-timed decision.

"The peace and stability of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi cannot be treated as mere administrative chess pieces, subject to arbitrary changes that do not take into account the ground realities and the sentiments of the local population," it added.

Kuki Inpi Churachandpur has called upon the Government to demonstrate its commitment to peace by reinstating the Assam Rifles 9 & 22 Battalions in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi. "Peace can only be restored in an environment where trust and confidence in the security apparatus are paramount," it said, adding that the Kuki people stand firm in their belief that the Assam Rifles are best positioned to maintain this delicate balance and ensure the safety and security of our communities.

It urged the authorities to act with wisdom and sensitivity, putting the interests and well-being of the people first. Only then can they hope to achieve lasting peace and harmony in their region.





KUKI APEX BODY SEEKS UNION HOME MINISTER'S INTERVENTION In Selloitha Bridge Imbroglio

The Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body representing the Kuki-Zo community, has made a formal appeal to the Union Home Minister, seeking urgent intervention in the ongoing controversy surrounding the construction of the Selloitha Bridge over the Imphal River. This bridge, seen as a critical lifeline for over 60 Kuki-Zo villages in the Tengnoupal, Chandel, and Churachandpur districts, has become the center of a political storm, with accusations of targeted discrimination and ethnic tensions.

The controversy erupted after Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh made remarks that were perceived as obstructive and anti-Kuki. The Chief Minister allegedly questioned the need for the Selloitha Bridge, which is intended to enhance connectivity and support the resettlement of over 7,000 displaced Kuki-Zo people in the Chakpikarong TD Block of Chandel District. The Kuki Inpi Manipur has condemned these remarks, accusing the state government of perpetuating an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kuki-Zo community.

The Kuki Inpi's letter to the Union Home Minister highlighted the critical importance of the Selloitha Bridge, not only for improving access to essential supplies but also as a necessary infrastructure project for the resettlement efforts initiated by the government. They argue that the obstruction of this project represents a misuse of state power and a continuation of discriminatory policies against the tribal community.

In addition to the concerns over the bridge construction, the Kuki Inpi Manipur also raised the issue of land record transfers. They pointed out that the Manipur state government's Revenue Department had previously ordered the transfer of land records from four valley districts to their respective hill districts, including Chandel. However, they allege that the Thoubal district,



now divided into Thoubal and Kakching, has failed to comply fully with these orders, resulting in ongoing disputes over land ownership and administrative boundaries.

The Kuki Inpi has put forth several demands to the Union Home Minister, including:

1. Ensuring the state government does not interfere with the affairs of the Kuki-Zo people and guarantees the provision of essential supplies and housing as promised by the Government of India.

2. Allowing the voluntary construction of the Selloitha Bridge to proceed without obstruction.

3. Allocating special financial grants for the construction of roads and bridges in Kuki-Zo areas to ensure uninterrupted supply chains.

4. Completing the transfer of land records from Thoubal and Kakching valley districts to the Tengnoupal and Chandel hill districts.

5. Strengthening security in buffer zones to protect the Kuki-Zo community from aggressions by Valley Based Militant Groups (VBIGs) and radicalized state security forces.





KUKI INPI SOUTH WEST SADAR HILLS OPPOSES GOVERNMENT Decision to replace Assam Rifles with CRPF in Kangchup

The Kuki Inpi South West Sadar Hills has strongly condemned the government's recent decision to replace the 32nd Battalion of Assam Rifles (AR) stationed in Kangchup with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The Kuki Inpi views this move as an unjust and illogical decision that threatens the fragile peace in the region and alleges that it is part of a broader agenda to marginalize the Kuki-Zo community.

In a statement released today, the Kuki Inpi South West Sadar Hills expressed deep concern over the government's decision, labeling it as a malicious attempt to appease the majority Meitei community and facilitate an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kuki-Zo people. The organization emphasized that the Assam Rifles have maintained a neutral and unbiased stance in the conflict-ridden area, playing a crucial role in preventing further violence and maintaining peace.

"The sudden decision to replace the Assam Rifles with CRPF is baffling and unacceptable to the Kuki-Zo community, especially at this critical juncture," the statement read. The Kuki Inpi highlighted that the



32nd Battalion's presence in Kangchup has been vital in curbing the escalation of violence, and any move to remove them could destabilize the region further.

The Kuki Inpi has called for the immediate reinstatement of the 32nd Battalion of Assam Rifles at Kangchup if the government is genuinely committed to restoring peace and preventing further violence. They also stressed that, should the government insist on relocating the 32AR, they should be replaced by another battalion of Assam Rifles, rather than CRPF, to ensure the continuation of a neutral peacekeeping force in the area.

MANIPUR CM BIREN SINGH DENIES MIZORAM CM LALDUHOMA'S Appointment as interlocutor

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh stated on Monday that Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma has not been appointed as an interlocutor for peace talks amidst the ethnic violence in Manipur.

Addressing the Manipur assembly, Singh clarified that reports in some media outlets and on social media about Lalduhoma mediating in the Manipur ethnic crisis were inaccurate.

He explained that during a casual interaction at a NITI Aayog meeting in New Delhi on July 27, he had simply requested Lalduhoma to visit Manipur. This conversation was misinterpreted, leading to false reports. Singh emphasised that only the Prime Minister's Office or the Ministry of Home Affairs has the authority to appoint an interlocutor, and no such steps have been taken or discussed.

Meanwhile, an official from the Mizoram Chief Minister's Office mentioned that Lalduhoma met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 1, urging him to engage in talks with Manipur's tribal leaders to address the ongoing ethnic crisis.





FIVE ACTIVE CADRES OF DIFFERENT PROSCRIBED OUTFITS INVOLVED In Extortion Activities Arrested in the last 48 hours

Combined team of State and Central forces arrested at least five active cadres of various proscribed outfit groups from different areas of Manipur, during joint operations conducted in the last 48 hours.

On Monday, combined team arrested two active cadres of proscribed outfit KYKL from Keirak Khongnang Makhong, Kakching District, involved in extortion from the public and government employees of Kakching, Hiyanglam and Sekmaijin area.

The arrested persons were identified as Elangbam Rajen Singh (47) and Ningthoujam Ibomcha Singh (53). One four-wheeler vehicle and one mobile phone was recovered from their possession.

In another search operation conducted on Sunday, security forces arrested two active cadres of the same proscribed outfit, identifed as Maibam Roshan Singh alias Kishan (38) and Maibam Naocha Singh (36). They were involved in kidnapping for ransom, monetary demands and extortions from stone crushers and Mobile shops.

Four mobile handsets, one wallet black in colour, one Aadhaar card, Rs 11950 in cash and one fourwheeler vehicle were recovered from their possession.

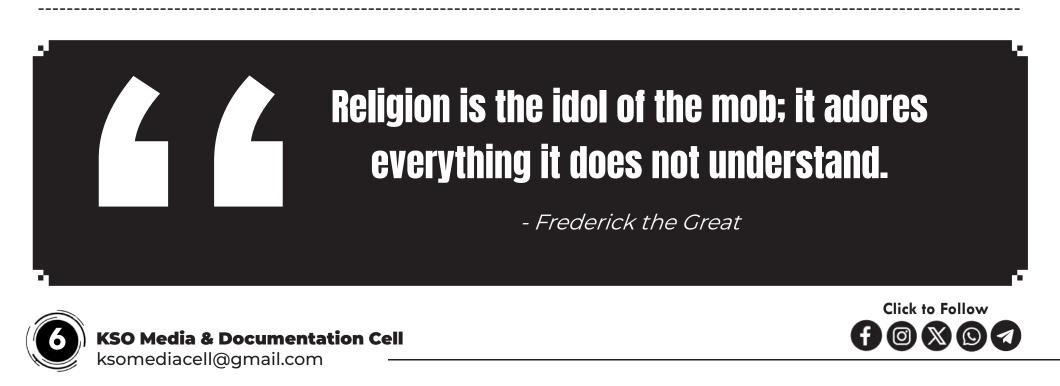
Security forces also arrested one underground cadre of proscribed United Revolutionary Front (URF)



outfit, identified as Budha Meitei alias Daimal (38) from Salungpham bazar, Thoubal district. He was involved in extortion and demanding money from Brick Farms, Schools, Colleges, Government employees and from the public of Thoubal District.

One pistol with magazine and 3 three live rounds, extortion demand letter, one two-wheeler vehicle, 2 mobile phones and three sim cards were recovered from his possession.

The arrested persons and the seized items were been handed over to the concerned Police Stations for further necessary legal acions, Police report said.





The Centre's move to replace two Assam Rifles (AR) battalions with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in two districts – Churachandpur and Kangpokpi – is a radical departure from the specified duties assigned to the AR. This is akin to aborting operations midway before accomplishing the mission. Such a whimsical decision, perhaps influenced and swayed by biased, misinformation and misplaced conception, has convinced observers to deduce that it is an endorsement of the secessionist agenda of the Meiteis. This move will do more harm to national security than appease a particular community at the helm of Manipur.

The primary duty of the oldest central paramilitary force and what necessitated their presence in Manipur in the first place needs serious contemplation before any decision regarding their withdrawal or deployment is arbitrarily taken. Over and above, it seems that the central authority has lost sight of the settings on the ground that required the deployment of the force in Manipur.

For the uninitiated, the primary responsibility of the Assam Rifles is 'counter-insurgency' apart from guarding the Indo-Myanmar border.

Manipur, since the last few decades, has been infested with insurgency. In the 1980s, Manipur saw

the upsurge of various insurgent groups in the valley fighting to 'regain the lost independence of Manipur' from India. These groups, known by their common nomenclature - 'Valley Based Insurgent/Underground Groups (VBIG/VBUGs), resorted to various anti-national, prejudicial and violent activities largely targeting Indian security forces. With the professed aim of achieving an independent 'Manipur nation' by secession from India through armed struggle, these Meitei insurgent groups have been engaging in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India. There are also some armed groups in the hills fighting for sovereignty.

Their secessionist or seditious activities had persuaded the Centre (Ministry of Home Affairs) to ban or outlaw various Meitei insurgent groups. The latest ban order by the MHA was issued on Nov 13 last year.

Against this backdrop, the central paramilitary force Assam Rifles was deployed in Manipur to counter the activities of the insurgents and look after the Indo-Myanmar border.

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Now, the pertinent question is whether the AR has failed its duty down these decades that their (partial) withdrawal is required all of a sudden. Or had the AR accomplished their assigned tasks in Manipur? The answer is Not At All.

Ever since its deployment in Manipur, the AR has lived up to its stated purposes. They are, with the assistance of other security forces including the Army, instrumental in checking insurgent activities in Manipur – both in the hills and the valley. General observers can certainly infer the scale of insurgent/underground activities in the State moving downwards over the last few years. It may be recalled here that in the early 2000s, some areas of Chandel district bordering Myanmar were declared as 'liberated zones' by the VBIGs.

However, with the coordinated efforts of the Security forces – of which the AR was playing the lead role – the Meitei militants were flushed out from their haven and pushed inside the Myanmar territory. Since then, the insurgent activities of the VBIGs have come down to an abysmally low scale. This has unquestionably earned them (AR) the wrath of Meitei VBIGs and their sympathisers including their frontal civil organisations. Manipur valley also saw frequent public upheaval or agitation against the Assam Rifles demanding their complete removal from Manipur. The Meiteis' animosity and hostility against the Assam Rifles stemmed from this fact and circumstances.

At the drop of a hat, these VBIGs sympathising Meitei civil frontal organisations are exploiting every available opportunity to further their aim of defaming and sullying the reputation of the Assam Rifles so that they find grounds to demand their complete withdrawal from Manipur. The Centre should not have lost sight of these visible faultlines while weighing the pros and cons of withdrawing or deploying the Assam Rifles partly or completely in any part of Manipur.

Post May 3, 2023, when the ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kuki-Zo community in Manipur valley was orchestrated by the N Biren Singh-led Meitei radicals, the roles of Central security forces including the Assam Rifles became paramount to quell the burning fires. The SF, including the AR, acted swiftly to prevent further escalation. One can only imagine the scale of violence that is going to happen had not the AR risked their lives to maintain buffers. The unbiased roles of the AR in maintaining peace and security in Manipur post May 3 last year is contested only by forces which are hostile and inimical to India.

However, instead of appreciating their role as a neutral peacemaker, as well as a force that keep insurgent activities at bay, the Meitei frontal CSOs including the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) and even the elected representatives including the Chief Minister took the cudgel to launch a scathing campaign against the Assam Rifles. Further, the Meitei radical group sees the Assam Rifles as a deterrent force in their reckless determination to complete their 'unfinished tasks' of annihilating the Kuki-Zo from their land. Hence, the Meiteis' animosity and hostility towards the AR only grew manifold. Even as some VBIGs such as the Pambei led UNLF signed the memorandum of agreement with the government, they have openly stated that they do not drop the agenda of sovereignty or independence of Manipur. Also, they continue recruiting cadres and had not surrendered their arms.

Sadly though, the ill-informed, ethno-centric narratives and separatist agenda of the Meiteis find takers among those in power in the corridors of South Block.

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For now, the move is quite appeasing to the Meitei community, as COCOMI coordinator Thokchom Somorendro points it out – 'is a victory for Manipur.' Their long and pressing demand to take vengeance against the AR is achieved.

But, responsible persons at MHA need to answer – whether the services of the AR in Manipur are no longer needed as the secessionist movement is contained. Had the VBIGs ceased to be a threat to the security and integrity of the Nation? Is Party consideration more important than national security? Or is the Centre considering giving in to the demand of the Meiteis for sovereignty? It will be any of the reasons that the Centre considers withdrawing the AR partially or wholly from Manipur. No other reasons could be convincing. But the move is suicidal and it will never boost the morale of the force.

Now that the Centre has brought the ball in its court and any incident of fresh bout of violence in areas particularly vacated by the two AR units will be the sole creation of the Centre. Mind you, the writing on the wall is loud and clear – the floodgate for more offensives, if not prejudicial activities from the valley is opened.

Inasmuch the insurgent activities in Jammu are threats to the nation, the secession movement in Manipur, which is still very much alive and thriving, is a menace to the security of India.

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: AUGUST 06, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 06, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

The use of snipers to target villagers is an alarming development, further exacerbating the difficulties faced by the local population. The dangerous situation on the road connecting Molngat and Pholjang, which is within the range of Meiteis' forces, adds to the challenges. Residents understandably exercise extreme caution when navigating this area, as the ongoing conflict puts their safety at risk.

The coordinated attack by Meitei combined forces, led by Manipur Police Commandos, on Songdo and Pholjang from two fronts is a grave and unsettling development. The presence of surrendered Meitei militants, as well as banned outfits like UNLF and KYKL, in the attack, raises significant concerns about the security situation in the region.

In the face of this assault, the village volunteers demonstrated tremendous bravery by successfully defending their communities and reportedly neutralizing at least 7 Meitei attackers. The attackers were compelled to retreat when they were unable to break through the defensive lines established by the villagers. This intense confrontation continued until 11:00 PM





FEATURED ARTICLE

THE ROLE OF N. BIREN SINGH IN THE ETHNIC-CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST THE KUKIS PART-5

AN EXCERPT FROM THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA Contd. from 3rd August, 2024 Issue of Thingkho le Malcha

19. The violence on 3rd and 4th was avoidable- The violence could have been averted had N Biren Singh's government taken timely action against Meitei Leepun who were launching counter blockade on the 2nd and 3rd of May. Adequate security personnel could have been deployed at Churachandpur Bishnupur district borders where situation was volatile for the past few days. The Meiteis volunteers who were launching counter blockade in Torbung area not only harassed the commuters of Churachandpur district but were intentionally provoking the Kuki-Zo people. This led to confrontation between the two communities which eventually spread to Imphal, Moreh and Kangpokpi district. Had proper security measures was taken up the violence in Imphal could have been controlled which resulted in the arson and demolition of thousands of Kuki-Zo homes, guarters, rent house and other residential areas. The dislocation of more than 40,000 Kuki-Zo people intensified the violence that continued till today.

20. Meitei police officers direct involvement in the violence- The involvement of Meitei police officers and personnel in the violence is an established fact. Many

of the Meitei police remain a silent spectator when the Meitei mobs attacked and burned down Kuki-Zo localities and houses in Imphal. In fact many times they were seen either abetting or directly involved in the crimes. Many lives, properties and homes could have been saved had the police done its duty. The helpline that were provided to the public for helping those in difficulties were either not working or never responded. When mobs led by Arambai Tengol were nearing Haokip veng located near the palace of Leishemba Sanajaoba the villagers pleaded the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Imphal-East to persuade the mob not to enter the locality but the SP ignored them. Later he was seen gesticulating/waving the mob to enter the locality. It was burnt down shortly after.

21. Meitei police commandos, IRB involvement in the burning down of Kuki-Zo villages- The covert and overt involvement of Manipur police in the violence is an open secret. This was testified by many of the victims or villagers whose village or homes has been burned down. The modus

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operandi is this; Manipur police commandos or IRBs will first move into the village and clear off the volunteers from their bunkers then the Meitei mobs entered and burnt down the entire village. This method was used in the initial week of the violence. Many villages under Kangchup area and Kamu-Saichang area both under Kangpokpi district were directly or indirectly burn down by the Manipur police commandos. There are evidences of Manipur police transporting and providing shelter to Meitei radical groups, Arambai Tengol and Meitei Leepun. In fact most of the Kuki-Zo villages were burned down by the collusion of Manipur Police Commandos, IRBs, Arambai Tengol, Meitei Leepun, Meira Paibis and Meitei mobs. In many places they were aided by UNLF, KYKL, KCP, PLA, etc. The attack on Pallel village on the 8th September was a coordinated and combined effort; Meitei militants attacked the village from the eastern side, the Meira Paibis attacked the Assam Rifles stationed nearby so that the militants are given a free hand. While the Assam Rifles were engaged in trying to control the unruly mobs, the Meitei militias in Manipur commando dress manage to reach the village and burn down few houses at Pallel market. Kangpokpi district has for many times faced the collective onslaught of Meitei militants, radical militias and Manipur police commandos. The main attack starts from Leikinthabi, a village under Biren's constituency. In the battle of Khamenlok area that started from June 12 more than 200 Meiteis militants were killed in the gunfight. N Biren and his ministers were seen moving close to the area and boosting the morale of the criminals. All these coordinated and concerted attacks are possible because of the blessing of N Biren Singh, who is also the home minister.

22. Physical attacks on MLAs, ministers, and their residences and quarters- The Meitei mobs did even not spared the elected legislatures. On the 4th of May

Shri. Vungjagin Valte, MLA from Thanlon Assembly Constituency was returning from a meeting with the Chief Minister along with his security escorts. He was waylaid by the Meitei mobs at Nagamapal and almost lynched to death but his driver who was also a tribal was brutally murdered. The expected additional security to rescue him never reached the spot. As his condition was critical he was flown to New Delhi but is yet to recuperate till date. Even after the passage of five months the CM and his council of ministers refused to console the grieving family members. Ngursanglur, the MLA of Thanlon AC who was fleeing for his home at Churachandpur was waylaid by the Meitei mobs at Bishnupur and almost killed by the Meitei mobs. Fortunately he escaped by the skin of his teeth. Haokholet Kipgen, the MLA of Saitu AC was escorting the people who were stranded at 1st Manipur Rifles along with the Assam Rifles and his personal security guards. At Leikinthabi village (Biren s home turf) Manipur police commandos who were by the roadside stop the cavalcade on the pretext of talking with the Assam Rifles. At the drop of the hat, hundreds of Meitei mobs armed with machetes and weapons appeared from nowhere and attack them. They escaped by the skin of their teeth. His jeep bore the brunt of knife-cut from the miscreants. Letpao Haokip's (a minister in Biren's cabinet) residence at Koirengei was attacked and burned down on the 4th of May by Meitei mobs. The mobs ransacked, vandalized and looted his house, burnt down ten vehicles and escape with money, jewelries and other costly possessions. He was again waylaid by the Meitei mobs at Singjamei and looted him of all his belongings. One of his personal vehicle was burn down.







Sushma Sharma 🤡 @SushmaSh22

The #Kuki Inpi #Manipur has submitted a memorandum to Union Home Minister @AmitShah, seeking his intervention in the ongoing conflict regarding the construction of the Seloitha Bridge. They outlined five specific actions for the Home Ministry to address.#แบดมินตัน #Paris2024 🗼 #Butterbear #dilematvi

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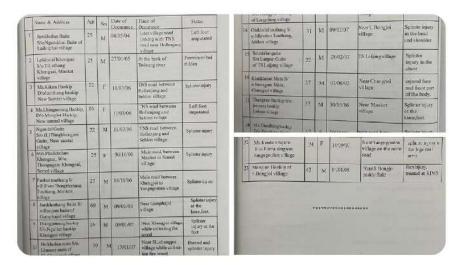
Analytical Kuki @Analytical_Kuki



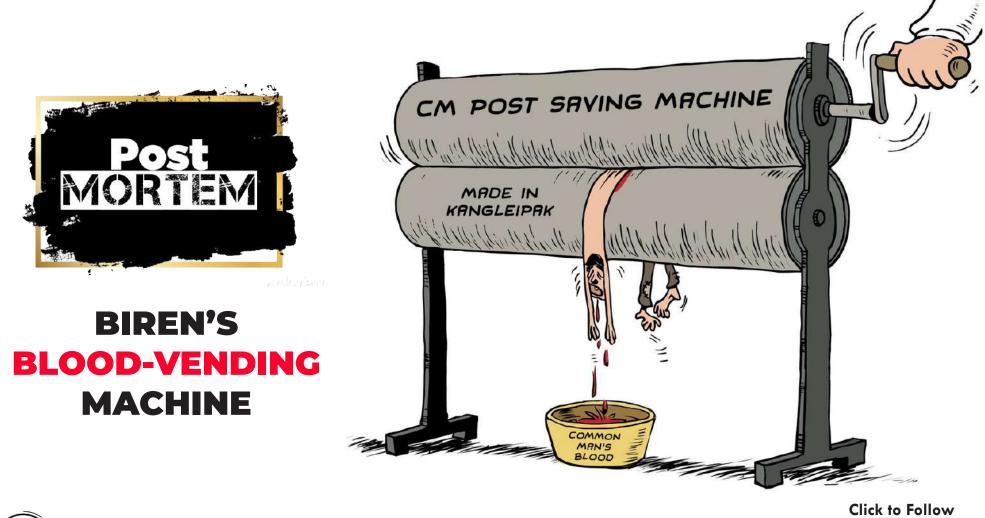
List of Kuki villagers maimed for life due to LANDMINE injuries planted by Meitei VBIGs across interior Kuki villages in Chandel district.

#Manipur

@NIA_India



PMO India and 9 others 18:52 · 06 Aug 24 · 1,167 Views









A FATHER'S ETERNAL EMBRACE

Tears fell like rain as they said goodbye, A farewell embrace that would last eternity. Mark's tiny voice pleaded, "Papa, Please take me with you," A cry echoed through empty space,a child's desperation true.

A father's burden weighed heavy on his soul, His heart, a canvas of sorrow's darkest role. His final breath, a testament to the enduring power of his love. Though his body faltered, his spirit remained strong in the night.

July's fateful day ,his final sigh . His love remains,a flame that burns so bright. A father's devotion that echoes through time, forever entwin

~ Esther Eimi

Thìngkho Le Malcha 💉