

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**JAMKHOPAO MATE
KUM 68**

AWAITING JUSTICE



JAMKHOPAO MATE (68 Y)

F/O THANGKHONGAM MATE

ADDRESS: CHAVANGPHAI, MOREH, TENGNUPAL DISTRICT

DATE OF DEATH: 3RD MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: SINGJAMEI, IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: BEATEN TO DEATH BY MEITEI MOB IN SINGJAMEI, IMPHAL



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.05.2024



185
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.

AR CHIEF VOICES CONCERNS OVER “WEAPONIZATION OF SOCIETY” IN MANIPUR



Lt Gen Pradeep Chandran Nair, the Directorate General of Assam Rifles, engaged with the press on Sunday, May 5, during the 33rd anniversary commemoration of Operation Dudhi at the Battalion in Ghaspani, Chumoukedima.

Lt Gen Pradeep Chandran Nair shed light on the evolving security situation in Manipur. While noting a decline in violence levels compared to previous months, Gen Nair expressed deep concern over the widespread availability of weapons among civilians, he said, “In terms of violence levels, surely, it is not what was there last May, June, July.. those have decreased. But what is worrisome indeed is the number of weapons that are there amongst the people – the common people, of both the communities. The society, as you would understand, has got weaponized – that is our biggest area of concern. And of course, as serious as that

concern is, also the fact that both the sections of the society, the two communities, have got hugely polarized. And that is something, we as Assam Rifles are working on back channel to try and get both the communities together.”

Responding to inquiries regarding the proposed scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR), and the resultant opposition from northeastern communities, particularly in Nagaland, Gen Nair spoke on the government’s decision being a security measure. He noted that while the details of the FMR’s elimination are yet to be revealed, he acknowledged the existing opposition and urged for a comprehensive understanding of the situation before forming judgments.

Source: [East Mojo](#)

AFTER PHYSICAL SEPARATION, SEPARATION IN JUDICIARY COMPLETED WITH HC ORDER

The High Court of Manipur on Tuesday issued an 'Order' transferring of various Manipur Judicial Officers, transferring many Kuki Judicial Officer to Hill Districts while Meitei Judicial Officers have been transferred to valley districts, effectively ensuring the complete separation between the Kukis and Meiteis after physical separation on the first week of May, 2023.

In the order, Shri Lamkhanpau Tonsing, Judge, Family Court, Manipur; i/c Judge, Family Court, Imphal East has been transferred as District and Session Judge in Churachandpur while Letkho Kipgen, District & Session Judge, Bishnupur has been transferred to Tamenglong District & Sessions Judge.

Lamkholal Kipgen, Addl. District & Session Judge (FTC), Manipur West has been transferred to Senapati as in-charge of District and Sessions Judge. The CJM of Imphal West Shri Janggoulen Haokip has been as CJM/Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) of Churachandpur district.

Margaret Niangsiamkim and Kimneingah Kipgen has been assigned the post of CJM/Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) in Senapati and Ukhrul district respectively.



It may be noted that thousands of Kukis residing in Imphal Valley have fled to tribal-dominated hills after ethnic clashes broke out in the northeastern state on May 3. Be it bureaucratic or civil line, the separation has completed, as no officials in the state government has posted in the valley area, the same goes for the Meiteis in Kuki dominated districts.

The separation was completed when twenty-four Kuki residents were allegedly evicted from their homes in the Meitei-dominated Imphal on September 3, 2023 night by security officials citing concerns over their safety.



Freedom lies in being bold.

– Robert Frost

HAILSTORM AND THUNDERSTORM RAVAGE 15,425 HOMES, MANIPUR GOVT SANCTIONS RS 6.90 CRORES

Heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and hailstorms swept through Manipur on Sunday, affecting a total of 15,425 houses across the state.

During a media briefing on Monday evening at his official residence, Chief Minister N Biren Singh stated that adequate relief has been provided to the affected people, with 42 relief camps set up to shelter the affected families. These relief camps are supervised by the DCs and SDOs.

“The hailstorm on Sunday severely damaged around 15,425 houses, and we have taken immediate measures through the concerned deputy commissioners”, said the Chief Minister.

He also announced that the state government has sanctioned Rs 6.90 crores from the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) for both hill and valley districts to provide immediate relief assistance.

Of the sanctioned funds, Rs 50 lakhs each will be distributed to five valley districts, while Rs 40 lakh each will go to the 11 hill districts.

According to an assessment report by the concerned authorities, Chief Minister N Biren Singh stated that 6,053 houses in Imphal West and 5,600 houses in Imphal East were ravaged by the hailstorm. Similarly, 1,179 houses in Bishnupur, 800 in Thoubal, 120 in Kakching, 540 in Churachandpur, 292 in Kangpokpi, 275 in Tengnoupal, 200 in Ukhrul, 130 in Tamenglong, 120 in Noney, 100 in Kamjong, and 16 in Chandel district were affected.



The state government has begun providing relief materials such as rice, water, CGI sheets, and tarpaulins to the affected families, he informed.

Meanwhile, in response to reports of price hikes on CGI sheets/tin roofs following the sudden weather conditions, the government issued an order stating, “In view of the recent hailstorm and damages caused by it, the deputy commissioners in the state are directed to monitor the prices of CGI sheets to ensure fair pricing in the market”.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh also urged shopkeepers/wholesalers of CGI sheets to maintain the prices fixed on April 30. He cautioned that legal actions will be taken against sellers found hiking prices on essential items.

Additionally, the chief minister appealed to all Civil Society Organisations and individuals to extend their help to the affected people.

Source: [Ukhrul Times](#)

THE MENACE OF HABITUAL FAKE NEWS PEDDLERS: MEITEIS AND THEIR PASSION FOR PEDDLING FAKE NEWS

A pathological liar by nature, the Meitei's passion for spreading fake news has exacerbated the already volatile situation in the strife-torn Manipur. Fake news can fuel chaos and misunderstanding by spreading false information that manipulates people's perceptions of reality.

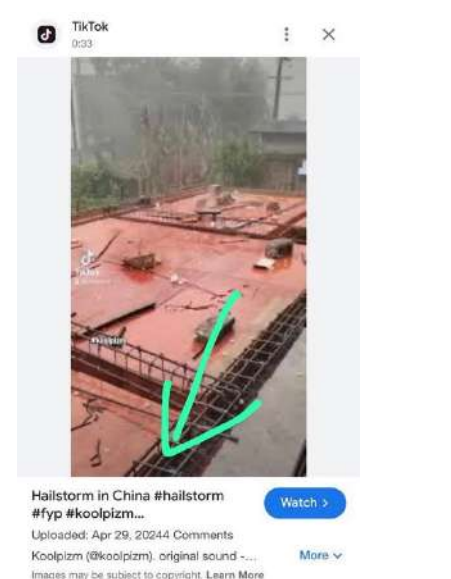
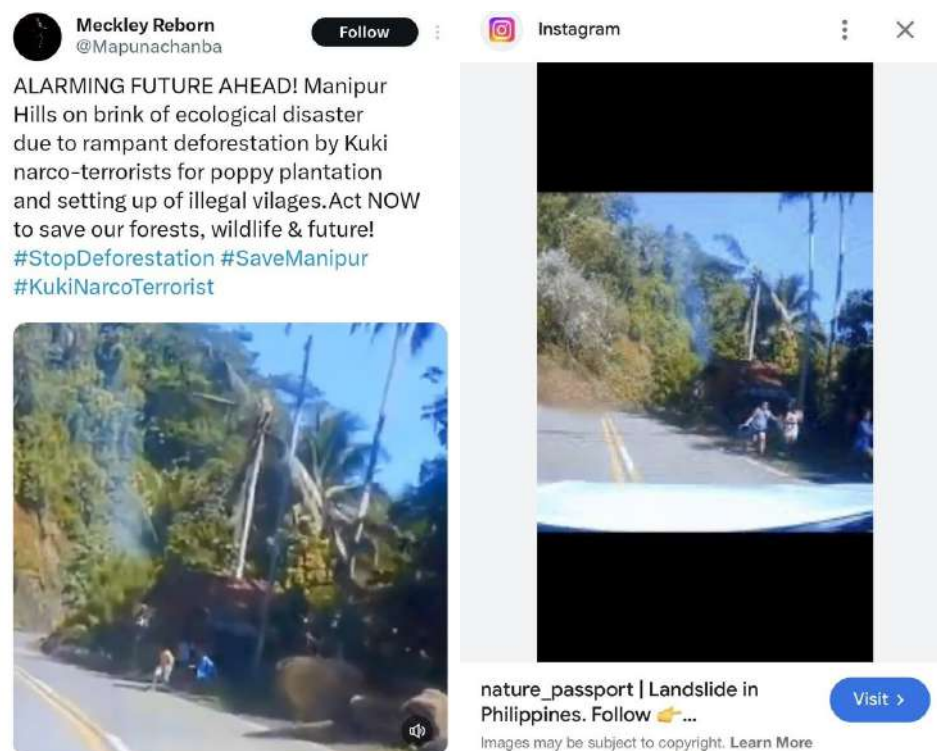
In the latest case of Meitei's obsession with blaming Kukis for everything, a Twitter user by the name 'Meckley Reborn' tweeted a video on X with the caption "Alarming Future Ahead! Manipur Hills on brink of ecological disaster due to rampant deforestation by Kuki narco-terrorists for poppy plantation and the settling up of illegal villages. Act Now to save our forest, wildlife & future". However, the video was not that of Manipur, but rather a landslide video from the Philippines.

Another user by the name of 'Reagan Moirangthem' posted a video of a farmland destroyed by a hailstorm linking it to Manipur's recent hailstorm havoc. However, this post too has been debunked by Twitter users, showing that the video was not of Manipur, but instead a trail of destruction by hailstorms in China.

The Meiteis' habit of peddling fake news has often caused confusion and chaos leading to the death of innocent citizens. Many civilians in the state of Manipur are unaware of such fake news. They tend to believe what is shared on social media platforms without verifying its factuality and reciprocate in violent manners in most cases.

It is because of the spread of fake news like wildfire that Meitei mobs in Imphal valley, during the initial stage, resorted to violent means; abducting and raping many innocent Kuki girls on the evening of 4th May 2023.

It may be recalled that one self-proclaimed influencer by the name of 'Edison Moirangthem' spread fake



news about the supposed rape of Meitei girls in Churachandpur on 4th May 2023, this spread like wildfire and the Meiteis in Imphal Valley instantly responded, leading to the "revenge rape" of Kuki women in the valley areas. Had the Meiteis at the time, with a little effort, tried to ascertain the veracity of the message, they would not have reacted in that manner. One fake news created misunderstandings and the result was and is

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devastating. The naked parade of two Kuki women was also a result of the fake news peddled by Edison Moirangthem, which brought national shame to the Meiteis on a global platform.

On December 5, 2023, Manipur Police arrested three rumour-mongers and Imphal East police produced one person in Court after arresting him for spreading lies to incite hatred and violence among communities in the conflict zones.

Moirangthem Shanjit from Bhramapur Bheigyabati Leikai was arrested while Yumlembam Thadoi Devi

(22) of Wangoi Thiyam Leikai and Laishram Roma Devi were apprehended by Lamphel police.

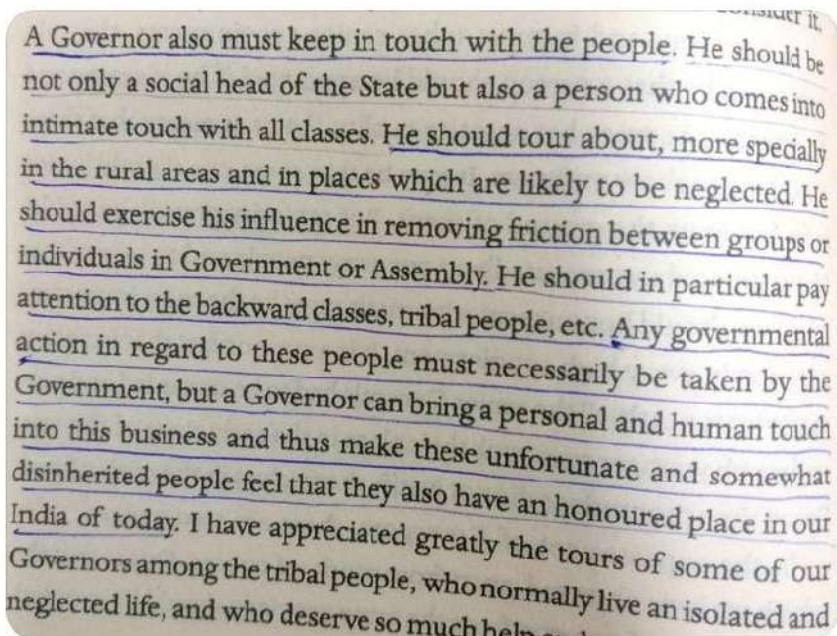
Moirangthem Shanjit, one of the arrested, was produced in court. He was held for creating a fraudulent social media account called "Boe Moirangcha", spreading rumours and posting false information claiming that five individuals had gone missing in Manipur's Kuki-dominated area of Joujangtek. The post instantaneously went viral, causing widespread fear.

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robert

Jawaharlal Nehru mentioned, in his first letter dated 18 May 1952 after the 1st Indian General Election and forming new government, "a good many functions" that Governors should perform. Madam @AnusuiyaUikey, Governor of Manipur, kindly read.



12:21 am · 07 May 24 · 3,814 Views



Sushant Singh
@SushantSin

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Those weapons have not come from Pakistan or China. They have come from state armouries, with no one being punished by the BJP state govt till date for this anti-national act. Instead, a new majoritarian militia has been raised in Manipur with tacit state approval.

EM EastMojo @EastMojo · 8h

AR Chief voices concerns "weaponization of society" in Manipur eastmojo.com/manipur/2024/0...



8:56 pm · 07 May 24 · 139 Views



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TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: MAY 7, 2023**A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON MAY 7, 2023
AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED
ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO**

After unleashing an ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kuki community on 3rd May, 2023 in Imphal valley, where Kuki community were chased, killed, burned, raped and tortured, the Meitei radicals with the blessing of state government continue their attack in the periphery areas on this day last year, unleashing a reign of terror against helpless Kuki civilians.

On May 7, 2023, at around 4:00 PM, the Arambai Tenggol launched another attack on Salam Patong village razing down what little remained after the previous assaults. During the first attack on May 4, more than 97 houses were burned and vandalized, and in the second attack on May 6, an additional 43 houses were destroyed. In this latest attack on May 7, the Arambai Tenggol not only burned down 43 more houses but also looted whatever was left. Salam Patong village has now been abandoned by its residents, and the entire community is displaced. Unfortunately, no security has been provided to assist the affected village.

The violence has taken a heavy toll on the Kuki population, with 65 Kuki losing their lives at the hands of the dominant community and Arambai Tenggol since May 3. Among the victims is a young pregnant tribal nurse who was seven months pregnant - Ngahneihing, aged 36, wife of Wilson Hegou Khongsai. She had come to Imphal for medical treatment but tragically lost her life due to a lack of access to necessary medical care.

The condition of the Kukis seeking shelter in the 1st MR (Manipur Rifles) camp remains deplorable. Displaced victims are struggling to obtain even a basic meal of rice with a meager quantity of daal and there is a shortage



of sufficient plates. Out of desperation, they are forced to use plastic bottles or garbage poly bags as makeshift plates to eat their food. Additionally, basic necessities like water bottles are being sold at exorbitant prices, such as Rs 50.

There is alarming information indicating that nursing mothers, some with infants as young as 3-4 months old, are facing significant challenges in the camp. Pregnant women among the displaced population are also in dire need of support and proper care.

**EXCLUSIVE STORY**

Hell on Earth: In the Relief Centres of Imphal, Security was the Top Priority, but Food and Toilet Tortured Us Beyond Imagination

Anthony Shongthu

On 3rd May 2023, when an ethnic riot broke out, and when the whole state machinery turned their back on the Kuki-Zo community, it was the Indian Army, including the Assam Rifle and Paramilitary Forces, who took the lead in saving the lives of thousands of innocent people in the “Valley of Death.” Apart from the Military, the Nagas and Muslims (Pangals) along with few others have also contributed a lot in saving the lives of hundreds of people particularly during the first few days of the communal riots.

The plan to completely annihilate the Kukis from Imphal was well-orchestrated in such a way that a few propaganda and fake news could indoctrinate thousands of innocent Meitei minds within a few hours and could soon culminate into large scale destruction, mob lynching, rape and murder of many innocent lives.

As for me, and many others, we reached the 1st Manipur Rifles (MR) in the early morning of 4th May thanks to the Assam Rifles, Indian Army and other Central Forces. At first, we thought we would be leaving for our hometown in the hills on that very day. We were also hopeful that the riots will end within a few days considering the military might of India.

However, in contrast to what we have anticipated, the situation continued to get worse with each passing moment. There was no dearth of thousands of mobs

everywhere eager to lynch the “Kukis” or destroy their properties. And all the plans hatched by our community leaders to evacuate those stranded in Imphal could not materialize immediately as the Meitei government headed by N. Biren Singh was in control of all the state machinery.

The few top level Kuki-Zo bureaucrats and police officers were deprived of their powers, and some of them were even lynched mercilessly. So, instead of helping their people, they themselves became as helpless and powerless as the common man.

In 1st MR, even though our lives were relatively secured, there was extreme fear about possible shortage of food, water and medical facilities to meet any emergency situations for the thousands of inmates. Among them were many in critical condition needing constant medical care. There were also a number of lactating and expecting women, not to forget the needs of those elderly people.

As we were convinced that we were unlikely to leave Imphal soon, one of the foremost issues in hand was to manage enough food for all the inmates, keeping aside how good or bad it may

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taste. Since the staff of the 1st MR kitchen were not in a position to prepare enough food, the members of the lone Church within the Campus, who belong to different communities, generously came forward and opened their kitchen for us.

Now, with two kitchens burning fuel, one in the 1st MR kitchen and the other in the Church compound, the situation improved to some extent. However, two kitchens with limited staff and utensils were not at all enough to feed the large number of people taking shelter there.

The kind of food served was something we can only imagine, yet it was the only kind of dish they could provide. At times, we had to stand for hours in long queues to get hold of whatever was being prepared for us.

On the side-lines, the small canteen and few petty shops open within the campus came to our rescue especially when we couldn't afford to stand in front of the kitchen for hours. In the morning, some hawkers, mostly non-Manipuris and Muslims(Pangals), also frequented us with their sales.

The lunch and dinner provided at 1st MR was horrible, to say the least. The hardly-cooked rice and simple boiled daal were the only items we could afford. Many of us had to volunteer ourselves to help with the kitchen work whenever they needed our help.

When we actually thought we had a horrible time while eating, we came to know that those in 2nd MR endured a worse situation. Many times, the food prepared for them was not enough. So, some of them had to sleep with empty stomachs. For us in the 1st MR, at least those unseen heroes in the kitchen would continue cooking until they fed everyone.

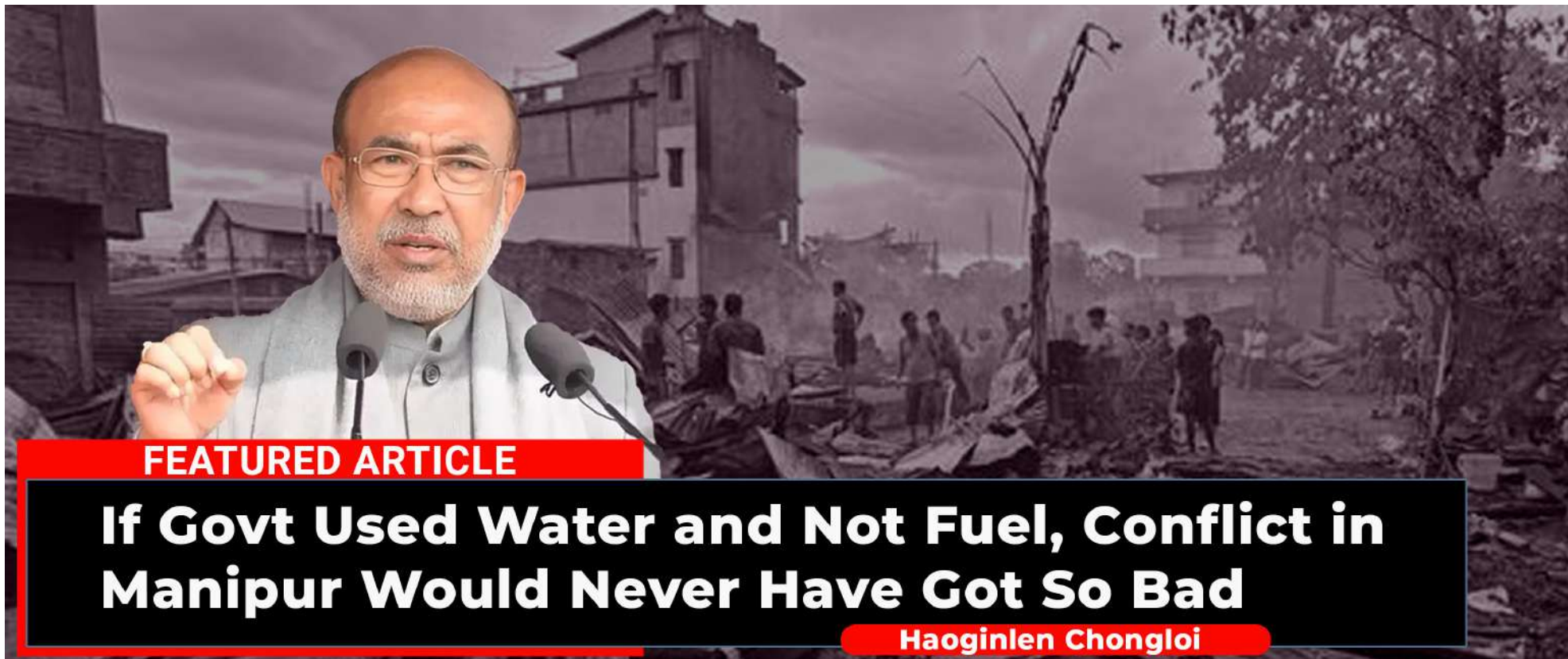
Those in CRPF Lamphel, IGAR(South), and others had better food supply though they also encountered the same trauma and fear as much as we did.

Apart from the food quality, it was worse to talk about the condition of the toilets. For some of us who had relatives in the residential quarters, it was a relief for a time being. We could go there and get ourselves refreshed.

However, this was soon to be objected to by those Meiteis in the family quarters. The kind of hatred each and every Meitei developed within a few days was simply beyond our imagination. They would often threaten those tribals in the family quarters with dire consequences for allowing us to visit them for our needs. Soon, even mobile charging was to be kept under surveillance. Many of them had been living together as good neighbours for decades, but their animal instincts overcome all the sweet memories they had shared in a few days time!

During our stay at 1st MR for about a week, Minister Leishangthem Susindro Meitei @Yaima, a close associate of the chief minister and highly suspected to be one of the key leaders behind the ongoing ethnic cleansing campaign, paid a visit once. Along with him were 10-20 carton box of eatables meant for the kids. A decently good number of local journalists also accompanied him. Maybe, it was for the government's PR purpose.

In fact, the communal government of Manipur never showed it's concerned for those who were taking refuge in various relief centres. There was neither food supply nor preparation to evacuate them to their home towns in the hill districts. If at all we were finally evacuated from Imphal, in different batches together, it was purely because of the dedicated service rendered by the Indian Army including the Assam Rifles and other Central Forces with the active coordination of the Community leaders and CSOs. And for this, we will remain forever indebted to one and all for helping us escape from the "Valley of Death."



FEATURED ARTICLE

If Govt Used Water and Not Fuel, Conflict in Manipur Would Never Have Got So Bad

Haoginlen Chongloi

The Manipur violence which began on May 3, 2023, has completed one year today. To mark the date, Kuki communities under the leadership of the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) are observing 'Awakening Day'. On the other hand, the Federation of Meitei Civil Societies (FOCS) will observe the day as a 'Black Day'. Both communities agree that they have both suffered at the hands of the other. Until now, however, neither side has come to the negotiation table, nor is there any mediator to solve the crisis.

It is unimaginable that violence of such proportion continues for so long, when it could have been stopped within 48 hours. The reasons are many – and this is going to define what India is in a long run.

Lack of political will by New Delhi

A primary reason why the violence continues lies in the hands of the Central leadership. Since day two of the conflict, several civil society organisations have made a fervent appeal to the Centre to employ all available measure to control the violence. Kuki organisations, in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, called for the immediate deployment of the Indian Army and paramilitary forces to quell the violence. In a similar tone, Kuki MLAs have time and again demanded the reimposition of the Armed Forces Special Power Act, 1958 to better equip the forces to deal with any aggressing parties. However, this was not done. The plea

to the Centre on invoking emergency provisions remains unattended and rejected.

In fact, the actions and inactions of the Centre in controlling the violence are politically motivated. In the state assembly election held in 2022, the BJP secured 32 seats of the total 60 seats, an overall majority for the first time in Manipur's history. This constitutes 25 Meiteis, five Kukis and two Nagas. The indecisiveness on the part of Central leadership in invoking emergency powers – perhaps fearing a loss of credibility if it did so – has added fuel to the fire. It appears to have encouraged a certain section of the population to further carry out violence without any form of restraint.

The insensitivity of the Central leadership is another matter of deep concern. Visuals emerged from the state – the naked parading of two women by a mob, mutilated bodies – that created shock and horror both nationally and internationally. Given the circumstances, it would not have been wrong to expect the prime minister of the largest democracy to personally supervise the situation and rebuild trust and confidence between the communities. But this is yet to happen. Instead of dealing with the matter in a hands-on way, the leadership has made it a habit of downplaying the conflict – be it in the parliament or on the international stage. In

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a different language, this is encouraging the majority and the aggressor to continue what it does against a powerless minority.

A state headed by a communal leader

With a landslide victory in the 2022 state assembly election, N. Biren Singh got sworn in as the state chief minister for the second time, along with the portfolio of state home minister. For his domineering attitude as a chief minister and home minister, many MLAs have rebelled against him multiple times. At one point, his popularity was so low that even his cabinet members revolted against him by camping at New Delhi. However, he preyed on emotions and raked up communal issues, particularly against Kukis. By doing this he managed to gain some acceptance among the Meitei masses. Thus, issues of drugs, 'illegal' immigration and protection of forests became potent tools to distract the Meitei masses and adversaries from their anger against the government.

While the issues of drugs, illegal immigration and preserving forests need collective efforts, Biren choose to avoid all legal means and instead only hold the Kukis responsible for what has happened in Manipur. By doing this he managed to bring together thousands of youths who later came to be known as the Arambai Tenggol. For the past 365 days, the militia raised and fed by certain political figures has become the face of the Manipur violence. They receive all forms of immunity from the government. Rather, they openly campaign and join hands with state forces in their attack against Kukis and their establishments.

When violence began on May 3, 2023, in Churachandpur, the state government did little to contain it from spreading. With no security measures taken up in Imphal, Biren allowed Kuki settlements in Imphal to go up in flames for the next three days. If Biren had acted fairly, the violence could have stopped right then. Video footage showed policemen leading members of Arambai Tenggol and mobs in attacking a Kuki colony, Haokip Veng, which is 200 metres away from the Chief Minister's Bungalow and Police Headquarters (PHQ).

Rather than controlling the situation by maximising security presence and arming them with necessary powers, the chief minister stripped all Kuki police officers, including the then Director General, from active assignments.

Until today, the chief minister has not stopped the sectarian politics of Arambai Tenggol. He made Meitei interests the state agenda. Any opposition to his views is taken as a betrayal to Meitei society. The physical assault of two state legislators by the Arambai Tenggol at Kangla is self-revealing.

Meiteis' idea of Manipur

A Meitei-centric idea of Manipur is another reason which engulfs the state with violence. Meities, Kukis and Nagas have maintained shared relations against British colonialism and their accession to the state of India. In the last few years, however, collective contributions towards Manipur in its past were gradually forgotten. This has given rise to a new generation which accepts a single version of history and reject all others. Such a school of thought has accepted Manipur as a land which only belongs to Meiteis and its close allies, whom they call 'indigenous'. It challenges all other versions of Manipur history as fabricated. In this process, Kukis are presented as 'non-indigenous' – so less citizens of Manipur.

Manipur as a state with its present boundaries came into existence under British rule. By virtue of Imphal being a centre of colonial power, control over the hills began to be asserted over time. No Naga organisation or Kuki body would agree to the claim that they were under the control of the Meitei kings before the coming of the British. There were alliances forged between Meitei kings and tribal chiefs, but that does not turn the latter into subjects. Colonial accounts do mention that the larger part of the hill areas were independent, and the Manipur kings wielded little control over the hills.

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The above statement does not mean to belittle Manipur's past, rather it is an attempt to set the record straight on who truly are the people of Manipur. The idea of who is 'indigenous' and who is not has plunged Manipur into chaos. It is not an external force posing a threat to Manipur; more dangerous is the idea of a 'New Manipur' which attacks one of the three key stakeholders responsible for peace and integrity in the state.

A brief reflection

If the last 365 days of Manipur violence is used as a yardstick to measure India's capability in dealing with its internal affairs, it has miserably failed to bring together diverse and pluralistic ideals. Rather than encouraging the collective participation of all responsible stakeholders, the state government chooses to frame policies and act unilaterally.

The majority of the people in Manipur saw each other as a threat. The fight has become one to determine who should settle in Manipur and who should not. For a population harbouring such an ideology, what has happened to Manipur is not surprising. However, all forms of atrocities by state and non-state actors in the last 365 days are carried out with noble stated causes, such as a 'war on drugs', 'checking illegal immigrations' and 'protection of forests'. Time will tell what good this war has done for Manipur – or whether it is only responsible for the end of its long-shared heritage.

First published by [The Wire](#)

Haoginlen Chongloi is interested in northeast history, ethnic relations and conflict resolutions.



THE OUT-OF-PAGES 'DIVIDE AND RULE'





"THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR TRIBE"

In the hidden valleys, where the mountains touch the sky,
Lies our humble tribe, where the eagle loves to fly.
With hearts as strong as ancient oaks, and spirits pure and free,
We stand as one, united tribe, beneath the sacred tree.

Our ancestors' wisdom guides us, their stories we embrace,
Their courage and their honor, we strive to now retrace.
In the tapestry of time, our small tribe plays its part,
A beating heart of unity, a flame within each heart.

The drumbeats of our tribe resound through the night,
A rhythm of resilience, a beacon of our might.
We dance around the fire, under the starlit dome,
Singing songs of triumph, in our ancestral home.

We cherish every moment, every memory we make,
In the bond of kinship, our spirits awake.
For in this small tribe, we find our greatest treasure,
A love that knows no bounds, a bond that knows no measure.

So let our voices rise as one, in a chorus pure and clear,
A patriotic anthem of our tribe, for all the world to hear.
We carry forth our legacy, with pride and with great glee,
For in the heart of our small tribe, we find our destiny.

-Ch. Roberth Mate