

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



S. Molcham RELIEF CENTRE

S. Molcham JB School, Lamka

Managed by
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi
General Headquarters (KKL GHQ)

Total Inmates Registered: 79*

Male: 35

Female: 44

*As on 4th August, 2023



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 25.11.2023



153
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425
DISPLACED
PERSONS

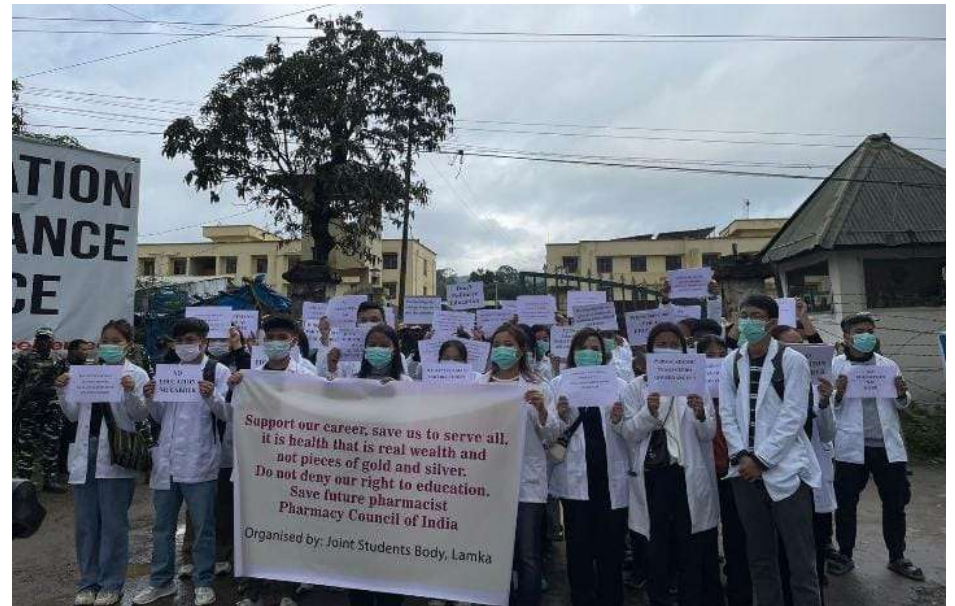
Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

KUKI-ZO PHARMACIST STUDENTS STAGE PROTEST, DEMAND ONLINE CLASS

The students of Bachelor of Pharmacy, Government Polytechnic, Kangleipak Medical and Nursing Institute, Saraswati Institute and Management and Paramedical Medical Sciences, who have been displaced from Imphal after violence broke out in the state on May 3, staged a protest today in front of the office of Dharun Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Churachandpur, demanding online classes for them.

Martin Khualthianson, one of the displaced students said that the authorities have done nothing to meet their demand for online classes despite it being their responsibility to do so. He said that they were being deprived of their basic education rights and that if the status-quo continues they would lag far behind their class mates who are taking regular classes in Imphal.

A memorandum in this regard was also submitted to the concerned authority, mentioning that since the outbreak of violence in Manipur on May 3, as many as 35 students studying Pharmacist course from Government



Polytechnic, Kangleipak Medical and Nursing Institute, Saraswati Institute and Management and Paramedical Sciences had taken refuge in different Central Armed Forces camps. As the situation deteriorated they were forced to evacuate to their districts and since then they have not been able to attend physical classes.

KSO-GHQ DISTRIBUTES BLANKETS TO FRONTLINE VOLUNTEERS

The Kuki Students' Organization General Headquarters yesterday distributed blankets to Frontline Volunteers of Moltam Area, Bungpi-I-Hang Area and Phailengmol Area. The winter wear were sponsored by Rev. Dr. Holkhosei and Chingboi Touthang, President, International Love Ministry, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA.

And also, under the guidance and sponsorship of mothers of KSO City Branches, Tiffin Boxes (Hot Pot) were distributed by the KSO-GHQ. Last month, on 25th November under the leadership and sponsorship of both Rev. John L. Pudaite, President, Bibles For The World and Rev. Dr. Holkhosei & Nu Chingboi Touthang, medical items were handed over to KSO-GHQ for distribution and later on the medical equipment was further handed over to CoTU Medical



Department for better and smooth distribution.

It may also be mentioned that Rev. Dr. Holkhosei and Nu Chingboi Touthang constructed the first floor of Kangpokpi Christian Hospital (Mission Hospital) under the supervision of KSO General Headquarters.

NHRC ISSUES NOTICE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR OVER THE REPORTED KILLING OF 13 PERSONS IN A GUN FIGHT IN TENGNOUNPAL DISTRICT

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report that at least 13 people were killed in a gun fight in Leithao village near Saibol in the Tengnoupal district, Manipur. Reportedly, the incident happened on 4th December, 2023.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, amount to a serious issue of human rights violations, which is a matter of concern. The incident, as reported, indicates towards lapse on the part of the law enforcing agencies and the forces deployed to ensure peace and law and order in the state.

Accordingly, it has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Manipur calling for a detailed report in the matter within two weeks. It should include the status of the FIR registered by the police and steps taken by the State government to ensure that such incidents of violence do not take place anywhere in the State.

The Commission has further observed that the reported loss of 13 human lives, that too in an area, which remained calm since the tension erupted in the State of Manipur in May this year, is indeed alarming and disturbing. The State of Manipur and its people have already suffered a lot. It is firmly reiterated that it is the duty of the State to protect the life and properties of its citizens both private and public and to promote fraternity and spirit of brotherliness amongst the communities.

The NHRC since May, 2023 has received several complaints from the individuals/ NGOs and human rights activists alleging violation of human rights during the incidents of violence in Manipur. These matters are being considered by the Full Bench of the Commission and were also discussed at length, during its Camp Sitting at Guwahati, Assam on 17 November, 2023. The senior officers from the government of Manipur, as well as the representatives of the complainants and civil society were also present.

According to the media report, carried on 5th December, 2023, the village has nine houses and around 120 residents. However, no casualties were reported from among the villagers. Reportedly, this is the highest single day loss of life in the violence since it erupted in Manipur this year in May. Prima-facie it is suspected that the victims of the violence could even be militants from Myanmar, since the nearby hills from Leithao are a common route adopted by them to enter Manipur from Myanmar.

TLM Views:

The National Human Rights Commission's suo motu case over the death of 13 Meitei militants raises serious concerns as the militants were killed for waging war against India and the minority Kuki community in the midst of the ongoing ethnic cleansing pogrom.

The militants were on their way to Myanmar for getting illegal arms training at the proscribed militants' tactical headquarters somewhere in Myanmar. On their way to Myanmar, they entered the village of Leithao and looted private properties, thereby creating fear psychosis among the villagers. The villagers ran for safety in the jungle on that particular day.

The National Human Rights Commission, instead of investigating the death of militants, should focus on the atrocities committed on the innocent villagers by the Meitei militants. The Indian government must take safety measures for the villagers.

Question also arise as to why the militants could intrude into the interior part of the tribal hill areas without the notice of the central security forces in the midst of the ongoing escalating tensions between the warring communities.

The Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), armed wing of the banned, China-backed Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA), a major Meitei terrorist outfit, had already claimed the 13 men as its cadres and issued a condolence message on December 7. At a time when speculations are being made as to which Meitei terrorist outfit the 13 terrorists belong to, the RPF has now settled the debate by coming out to openly claim that they were its cadres.

The 13 men killed in a gunfight in Manipur, close to the India-Myanmar border on December 4, were also dubiously claimed to be 'village volunteers' by the Meiteis, contradicting the claim of the proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), armed wings of PLA. Those people were nowhere near any Meitei village but were in fact, scores of miles away from their 'villages' and intruding into Kuki areas, hence the label of 'village volunteers guarding their villages' is just a whitewash attempt to conceal their nefarious intent.

MEITEIS RESORT TO CREATING FAKE NEWSPAPER CLIPS; NO ONE BUYS

It's quite common for videos and photos to go viral on social media. But this time, Meiteis, who are synonymous with disseminating fake news and photos, have found a new way to take potshots at the Kuki community.

Fake news is not new, but the rate at which it can spread is. Many people have a hard time sorting real news from fake news on the internet, causing much confusion. Recently a fake newspaper clip has been doing the rounds on various social media platforms today with the headline – “Residents of Churachandpur to petition Elon Musk to start boring a tunnel from Churachandpur to Aizawl.” The Newspaper has been dubbed as “New Northeast Express.” The said fake newspaper reports on December 7 reported that the petition also gave a dateline to complete the tunnel, failing which the petition said the people will rise up, revolt against him and will not even hesitate to label him as “Enemy of us, friends of them.” However, the said newspaper is not even in existence. On further investigation, it is found that this is just the handiwork of some Meiteis in their attempt to malign the image of the Kukis or make a mockery of the Kukis.

The said newspaper itself is also fake while the news content itself is also unverified information - pieces written by non-experts, information not found on other sites, information that comes from a fake newspaper not in existence and stories that appeal to emotions instead of stating facts.

Another fake newspaper clipping of the same created with an online newspaper generator tool is circulating false information that Dr. Seilen Haokip, Spokesperson KNO is set to become a Himalayan Monk. The same newspaper also made a mockery of the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), stating that the National School of Drama or the NSD will be touring Kangpokpi to make a comprehensive study tour.

Any sane mind with a clear thinking will never buy this cheap propaganda of the Meiteis. It is also absurd that the same newspaper, be it fake or real, will not publish related stories with different headlines on the same issue itself.

New Northeast Express

07.12.2023 @newnortheastexpress Thursday
Security personnel panic after Ginza Vualzong of ITLF shows up at Torbung shirtless for a fist fight

Special correspondent
Bishnupur/Churachandpur: Security personnel panicked near the border of Churachandpur district after Ginza Vualzong of ITLF, a spokesperson of the group, showed up at Torbung shirtless for a fist fight. "Its Ginza and he looks super pissed" said a security person posted at Torbung. Ever since the demand for separate administration was getting delayed month after month, the spokesperson of the impatient group was not taking the matter into his own hands. Speaking to the reporter, Vualzong agreed to a meeting with the government after Ginza Vualzong of ITLF, a spokesperson of the group, showed up at Torbung shirtless for a fist fight. There was no comment from the Government for a fist fight.

New Northeast Express

07.12.2023 @newnortheastexpress Thursday
NSD to tour Kangpokpi

Special correspondent
Kangpokpi/Delhi: National School of Drama (NSD) announced through its website that it will be conducting a comprehensive study tour to Kangpokpi to do a critical analysis of the inner workings of the (Committee on Tribal Unity). In this regard, the institute said that it has already applied for the VISA permit to enter the area. Ever since the clashes began in Manipur, NSD has been displaying impressive dramatic shows worthy of proper appreciation. A group of NSD members, including a drama director, are expected to pick up the tour. The group will be conducting a comprehensive study tour to Kangpokpi to do a critical analysis of the inner workings of the (Committee on Tribal Unity).

New Northeast Express

07.12.2023 @newnortheastexpress Thursday
Residents of Churachandpur to petition Elon Musk to start boring a tunnel from Churachandpur to Aizawl

Special correspondent
Churachandpur: Residents of Churachandpur petitioned Elon Musk to start boring a tunnel from Churachandpur to Aizawl. The petition also gave a deadline date to complete the tunnel, failing which the petition said the people will rise up, revolt against him and will not even hesitate to label him as "Enemy of us, friends of them". It must be noted that, locals have already started digging the tunnel with their hands. The petition also gave a deadline date to complete the tunnel, failing which the petition said the people will rise up, revolt against him and will not even hesitate to label him as "Enemy of us, friends of them". It must be noted that, locals have already started digging the tunnel with their hands. The petition also gave a deadline date to complete the tunnel, failing which the petition said the people will rise up, revolt against him and will not even hesitate to label him as "Enemy of us, friends of them". It must be noted that, locals have already started digging the tunnel with their hands.

New Northeast Express

08.12.2023 @newnortheastexpress Friday
KNO Spokesperson Seilen Haokip to become a Himalayan monk

Special correspondent
Imphal: Due to his diminishing popularity in the recent months, spokesperson of KNO (Kuki National Organisation, which is one of the conglomerates of armed insurgent groups currently in SoO with GOI, the other being the UPF) Seilen Haokip has decided to become a monk in the Himalayas. He is expected to travel to Imphal airport from his residence in Sonai, Churachandpur. He wore a blue robe and a fake mustache to disguise himself. The report received by the newspaper about his departure was that he will take a break from his work at the Imphal airport. He said, "I used to rule the world. Seas would run with my blood. Now in the morning, I sweep alone. Sweep the streets I used to own". It must be worth noting that owing to his deep unpopularity his own house was burnt down by unknown miscreants.

Pic: Screenshots of Fake News

The newspaper clipping was generated through a newspaper template available on a website. No credible news outlet has reported on such a story in their publication.

This only manifests how low the Meiteis have stooped to defame the Kukis before the world. They might have resorted to various tactics, but in the end no one buys their fake stories as such fake news have been debunked on several occasions. The Meiteis are known for drama, trained from their very young age in their “Shumang Leela” show.

MEITEIS' CLAIM OF THE 13 KILLED IN TENGNOUNPAL DISTRICTS AS BEING 'VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS' CONTRADICTS PLA'S CLAIM

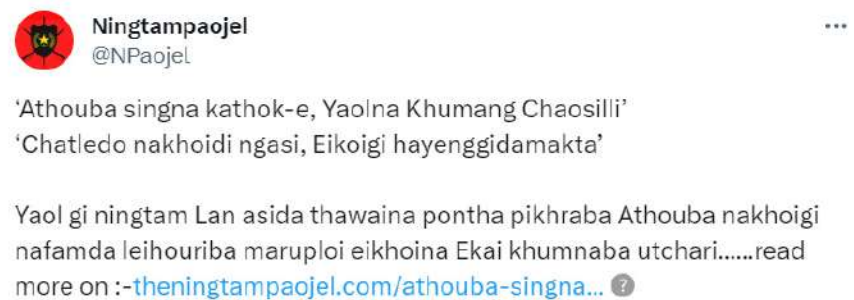
The 13 men killed in a gunfight in Manipur, close to the India-Myanmar border on December 4, were dubiously claimed as 'village volunteers' by the Meiteis, contradicting the claim of the proscribed group Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), the armed wing of the PLA.

The bodies of the men killed in Leithao village in Tegnoupal district, about 10 km from the international border, had been brought to Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal and were later on buried at Andro village in Imphal East district.

A wannabe politician and a self-styled social worker from the Meitei community, while paying homage to the 13 individuals at a candlelight vigil ceremony at New Delhi, said the 13 individuals were 'village volunteers' who were just guarding the frontline areas.

However, the claims of these lunatics, self-style social workers hold no ground as their dubious claim has been contradicted by the proscribed militant group the Revolutionary People's Front.

The RPF on Friday issued a statement stating that the thirteen dead men who were killed in between Leithao and Moltham village in Tegnoupal district on December 4 were among the unarmed PLA cadres who believed in the struggle of the RPF/PLA and came for arms training at the headquarters of the RPF, the armed wing of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), based in Myanmar.



7:23 PM · Dec 7, 2023 · 38 Views

A statement issued by Roben Khuman, Deputy Secretary (Publicity), RPF said that the 13 persons who came for training to become PLA lost their lives at the hands of Indian Security Forces and Kuki mercenaries groomed by them.

The PLA/RPF or Meiteis (in general) should know that Kukis are neither mercenaries nor secessionists. They are true Indians, demanding separate administration legitimately in their own ancestral lands under the Constitution of India.

“ Fake news and rumours thrive online because few verify what's real and always bias towards content that reinforces their own biases. — Ryan Higa ”

ZPM LEADER LALDUHOMA SWORN IN AS MIZORAM CM; 11 OTHERS TAKE OATH AS MINISTERS

Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) leader Lalduhoma took oath as the new chief minister of Mizoram on Friday. 11 other newly elected MLAs from the party were also sworn in as new cabinet ministers. The 74-year-old Indian Police Service (IPS) officer-turned-politician was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati at a ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan in Aizawl.

Lalduhoma is the first non-Congress, non-MNF chief minister of the state since its formation in 1987. Mizoram's politics had been dominated by the two parties, with Lalthanhawla (Congress) and Zoramthanga (MNF) occupying the chief minister's chair for over 34 years.

The ZPM, an alliance of six regional parties, secured a landslide win in the recently concluded Mizoram Assembly elections, winning 27 of the 40.

Lalduhoma's predecessor, MNF president Zoramthanga (79), and former Congress chief minister Lal Thanhawla (81) were also present at the swearing-in ceremony.

After the swearing-in, Lalduhoma stated that



his government's focus would be "farmer-friendly policies, fiscal reforms and a drive against corruption".

The seven legislators who took oath as cabinet ministers are ZPM working president K Sapdanga, Vanlalhlana, C. Lalsawivunga, Lalthansanga, Vanlalhlana, PC Vanlalruata and Lalrinpuii (the only woman minister in the new cabinet).

Four ministers of state (independent charge), F Rodingliana, B Lalchhanzova, Lalnilwama and Lalnghinglova Hmar, were also administered the oath of office and secrecy by the Governor.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

ZPM Leader and newly elected Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, flanked by two former chief ministers Lal Thanhawla and Zoramthanga at the Raj Bhawan, shortly after the swearing in ceremony today. A true demonstration of the democratic spirit.

Earlier in the day, ZPM leader Lalduhoma was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Mizoram by Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati at a ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan in Aizawl. Along with him, 11 other also took the oath as Minister.

Lalduhoma's predecessor, MNF president Zoramthanga (79), and former Congress chief minister Lal Thanhawla (81) were also present at the swearing-in ceremony.



STRIFE-TORN MANIPUR LIFTS ALCOHOL BAN, CIVIL SOCIETY OPPOSES MOVE

The Manipur cabinet has lifted a nearly 30-year-old ban on liquor even as the state continues to be embroiled in ethnic conflict and violence that began six months ago.

Manipur has been a dry state since 1991 after it enacted the "Manipur Liquor Prohibition Act" in 1991. However, in 2022 it partially lifted prohibition to boost the economy and tackle the problem of illegally produced alcohol and associated health risks.

The state cabinet on Monday (December 4) approved manufacture, production, possession, export, import, transport, purchase, sale and consumption of liquor. The meeting was headed by chief minister N. Biren Singh.

According to an official cited in the report, the state government is expecting an annual revenue of around Rs 600-700 crore post liquor legalisation, the Economic Times reported.

The Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA) and All Manipur Women's Social Reformation and Development Samaj (Nupi Samaj) strongly opposed the state cabinet's resolution to legalise liquor in the state.

Nupi Samaj president Th Ramani told the Imphal Free

Press that while the people of Manipur are mourning the loss of their near and dear ones, the state government is concerned about the production of liquor.

"The state government not taking any decision to resolve the crisis and giving attention to liquor while the state is facing such a difficult situation is extremely unfortunate," Ramani said.

A dry state since 1991

While the 1991 Act allowed exemptions to scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) communities to produce liquor under their traditional system and customary laws, the state cabinet on September 20, 2022, had partially lifted the prohibition for others as well.

This lift allowed sale and consumption of liquor at the district headquarters, hotels having not less than 20 beds, and the locally brewed country liquor would be exported outside the state, the Economic Times reported.

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), the apex body of the Indian alcoholic beverages industry, has welcomed the Manipur government's latest move. (Source: The Wire)

LEGALISATION OF SALE OF LIQUOR WILL DESTROY YOUTH OF MANIPUR: JDU

Raising concerns over the legalisation of sale of liquor in Manipur, the Janata Dal United, Manipur, has said that the N. Biren Singh-led state government's objective of earning Rs. 600 crores through the legalization and sale of liquor and alcohol would destroy the lives of several youths in the state.

During a press conference held at the residence of JDU President Ksh. Biren, the party's Spokesperson Nimaichand Luwang said various groups and organizations in the state have been making efforts to curb the sale and consumption of illicit liquor in the state for so long and the recent decision of the state government to legalise the sale and consumption of liquor is an act of dictatorship.

Instead of making efforts to find a solution to the over seven months long ongoing Manipur crisis, the state government is busy celebrating the victory of BJP in three other states in the recently concluded state assembly elections, he accused.

Elaborating on the effects of the continuing violent conflict on the State's economy, O Nabakishore, Vice President of JDU, said that the state has to deal with a projected shortfall of Rupees 1,090 crores from VAT and GST, which is a huge amount for a small and poor state like Manipur with little avenues for tax revenues. Various intellectuals and organizations have expressed strong objections to the plan of the state government's objective of earning revenues from liquor instead of finding a solution to the ongoing armed conflict and collection of proper taxes which will be more beneficial, he said.



EXCLUSIVE

Critiquing the 'Idea of Manipur' as a 'Political Entity'

The present state of 'Manipur', a name popularised in the 19th century, was known by different names to different people. Whereas for the neighbouring kingdoms, it was *Cassay* to the Shans or Pongs; *Kathe* to the Burmese; *Meklee* to the Assamese, and *Meckley* to the British East India Company, for the Meiteis/Meeteis, it was '*Kangleipak*' (*kang*-dry; *leipak*-land), signifying it is a lacustrine plain, or *Meitei-Leipak* or *Meitrabak* (Land of the Meiteis). This shows that the idea of Manipur was always confined to, and referred to, the Valley and the Meiteis. Whereas various secessionist armed groups, commonly known as the Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs), continue to use the term 'Kangleipak', 'Manipur' remains the official name for the state, and hence in this article too.

In the Valley, the process of modern state formation took place way back in the 15th century due to its advanced civilisation, but the hill tribes administered themselves with their traditional socio-political institutions which were based on their own customary laws.

Again, when Santidas Gosai, the much revered Vaishnavite Hindu priest from Silhet, came to Manipur during the reign of the then King Garibaniwaza, his mission was confined only in the Valley. In the same way, the Christian missionaries who arrived in the late 19th century were not allowed by the colonial officials to proselytise the Hindu Meiteis in the Valley

and were sent to the hills. As such, the Meiteis became devout Hindus, and the hill people get converted to Christianity thereby deepening the already existing hill-valley divide.

In fact, in the long recorded history of Manipur, the kings of Manipur never ruled the Hill Areas. There were instances of raids, or skirmishes, between the valley state and the highlanders led by their chiefs, in which the hill people were sometimes subjugated. Yet, the hill areas as a whole had never formed part of Manipur. Instead, the idea of Manipur extends only to the limit where the King in the valley state could impose his tax collection rules. In the pre-colonial period, the hill people always lived as independent and sovereign nations in their respective villages or chiefdoms free from external control. Among the Nagas, most of the villages constituted tiny republics, and war between one village and the other, even within the same tribe, was not uncommon. On the other hand, the Kuki-Zo tribes were governed more by kinship or loyalty towards their chiefs. So, the claims often made by some intellectuals that the idea of Manipur always comprises the whole geographical boundary of the present-day Manipur is absolutely erroneous.

Prof. Gangmumei Kamei, an authority on the history of Manipur, wrote: "*The state of Manipur did not interfere*

Contd.



Contd.

in the hill administration and the hill villages were autonomous political entity. The hill tribes were outside the jurisdiction of the administration of the kingdom of Manipur” (Kamei, 2015: 161). Even during the British rule, the hill tribes were not administered directly from Imphal. Understanding this long historical position, William McCulloch stated: “Before the connection of the British government with that of Manipur took place, the latter, not to speak of exerting influence over the tribes, was unable to protect the inhabitants of the valley from their exaction and blackmail, and even after the conclusion of peace with Burma, and fixation of the boundary of Manipur, the majority of the tribes were independent, and known to us little more than by name” (McCulloch, 1859:73). However, the hills became under direct administration from Imphal after the Kukis were defeated in the Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-1919, as four sub-divisions, each under a sub-divisional officer, were created. Even at this point, the Political Agent, a British Official, was responsible for governing the hills since the Manipuri King were not trustworthy for this.

It may also be noted that when the King of *Takhel* (Tripura) launched a military campaign to Manipur during the reign of Pamheiba, he pitched his tents at Moirang, the southern boundary of Manipur at that time. Even as late as in 1896, the southern boundary remains an imaginary line drawn roughly along Moirang. This is why villages or tribes inhabiting present-day Churachandpur hardly find their place in the royal chronicles or *puyas* of Manipur. The only notable expedition towards the south came in the form of the Lushai Expedition, 1871-72, which is again an expedition carried out by the British where a troop of Manipur also joins. To commemorate this expedition, the Government of Manipur had attempted to construct a Memorial Park in honour of then King Chandrakirti Singh. This attempt was strongly opposed by the tribal organisations as the stone inscriptions there misrepresent the victory of the British over the Lushais as the victory of the Manipur Maharaja.

It should also be noted that this idea of Manipur, as being associate with the Valley alone, has been

part of the cosmic world of both the Meiteis and the hill tribes. There are many epic poems and songs among the Meiteis which talk about the relationship between the Hills and Valley. But, not even a single such traditions described the two as one organic whole. For instance, there is a famous saying in Manipuri which goes thus:

*Chingna Koina Pansaba
Haona Koina Panngakpa*

The simple meaning is: *surrounded by the hills, guarded by the tribal people*. This oral tradition of the Meiteis indicates that their country is surrounded by hills and protected by the hill peoples, but it doesn't necessarily imply that the hills were under the rule of the valley state.

This dichotomy is also informed by the sub-conscious minds of the hill tribes as they never accepted the term ‘Manipuri’. For them, Manipuri refers to only the Meiteis or the *Meitei Lon* (language) they speak. In 2015, when the State Assembly introduced the three controversial bills, it chose to use ‘Manipur People’ and not ‘Manipuri’ to mean the people of Manipur. Even in the school syllabus of Manipur, *Manipuri* (subject) means the *Meitei Lon* subject.

Yet again, the idea of Manipur has nothing to do with the elevation/altitude compared to the Valley as some scholars often argued, but is rather rooted in the history and cosmology of the people. Understanding this stark reality, the last king of Manipur, Maharaja Bodhchandra, merged only the Valley areas to the Union of India in 1949. All this proves that though the state of Manipur in the post-colonial period refers to both the hills and the Valley, the idea of Manipur in the past has always been associated with the Imphal Valley alone.

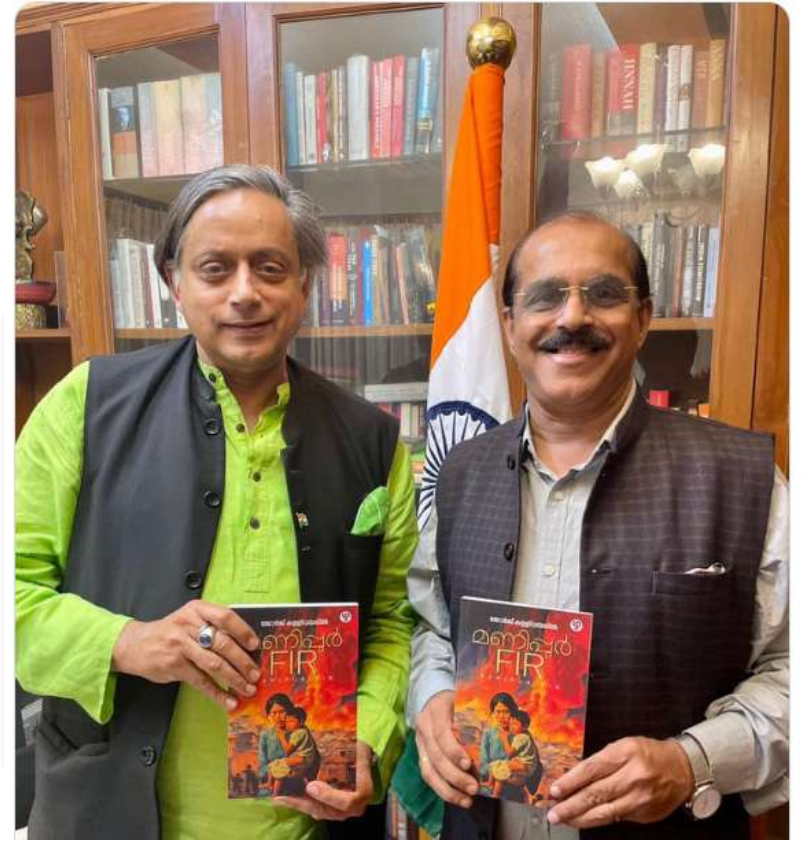
Therefore, any attempt to put forward arguments and counter-arguments based on imagined or invented histories to claim ownership of the hills will hold no water, and the sooner the dominant community accepts the truth, it is the better for both the hill tribes and the valley dwellers for lasting peace.

THE BUZZ

SOCIAL MEDIA

Shashi Tharoor
@ShashiTharoor

Pleased to receive a copy of "Manipur FIR", the book about the crisis in that state by @RDeepika_News Delhi bureau chief George @KALLIVAYALIL, which bears a foreword by me. The Manipur crisis has been relegated from the headlines but the Government's failure to deal with it remains a blot on its record and a blight on the national conscience.

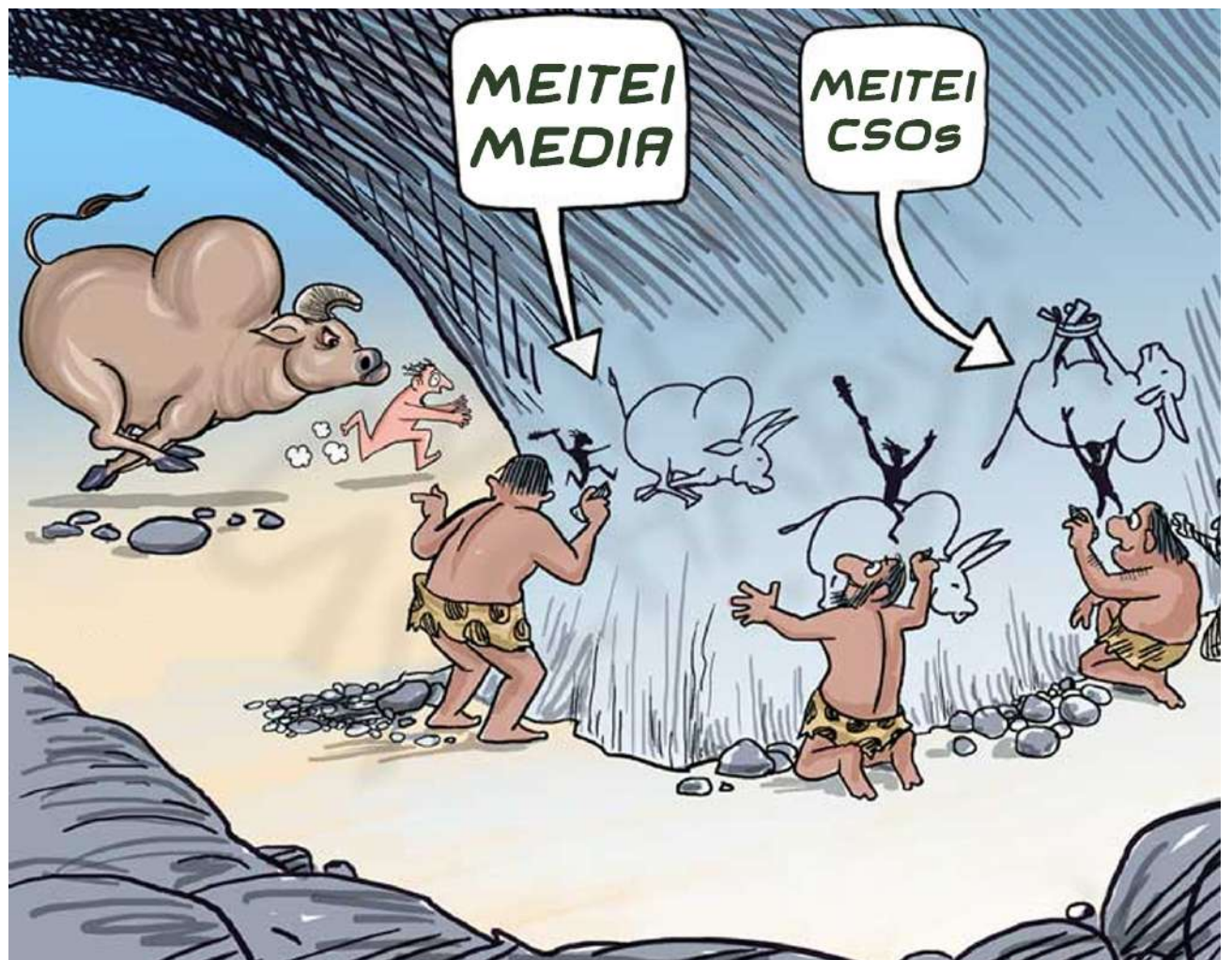


Aboriginal of India
@IndiaAboriginal

IN #Manipur If you are meitei--you can roam freely with looted weapons
- killed and attack #Kuki_Zo rape them
- you can say whatever you want in the media .If you are kukizo
- Firstly you are refugee
-FIR is ready for you
Is it true?
#MeiteiAttrocities #MeiteiLies



THE CON-ARTISTS



44

Brother, are you cold and hungry?

It's five past four in the morning
and the sound of silence echoes through the streets
The air smells different and strange, feeling like a tragedy.
I could only hear the raindrops falling on the tin roofs,
lulling everyone else to sleep again
Dark clouds on the wastelands, storms on the plains again
"Brother, are you cold and hungry?"
I took a deep breath and close my eyes
I could see my band of brothers on patrol
The grin on their faces tell me they were cold
but they still pulled a fierce front
Their knees could give way any minute
but they stood still against the bite of the cold winter wind
Their boots submerged in a pool of muddy waters,
their feet must be numb and icy cold
Their woollen jackets lie cold waiting for them at home,
the blankets on their beds are losing their scents
as the wait gets extended each time.
I know there's an awakening and a revolution but mine eyes have seen my
brothers bled enough while I sleep tightly at night
Their bodies have gone through the worst, scars and wounds for a lifetime.
How could anyone ever know of the price paid by my brothers in terror, agony
and bloodshed if one had never been to places like the Eastern front,
the Southern front, the Northern front and the Western front?
Our hearts may keep on bleeding while we're waiting
But by the Grace of God, my band of brothers will come home again
And we shall watch the earth shake as our Nation arise
Where the weak are finally strong and the righteous right the wrongs
A Nation where you and I belong.

- Jacquelyn Laltanpuii Suantak