

# Thingkho Le Malecha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



# S. Gilgal RELIEF CENTRE

S. Gilgal Community Hall, Lamka

Managed by  
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi  
General Headquarters(KKL-GHQ)

**Total Inmates Registered: 118\***

Male: 60

Female: 58

\*As on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 16.12.2023



**158**  
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.

# 30% OF STOLEN ARMS RECOVERED, FORCES SHOWED 'LOT OF RESTRAINT' IN MANIPUR, SAYS ARMY CHIEF

Only 30 percent of the weapons stolen last year from police armouries and stations in Manipur have been recovered so far, Army chief General Manoj Pande said Thursday, adding that efforts are underway to recover the stolen weapons.

Gen Pande was speaking at the annual press conference in New Delhi ahead of the 76th Army Day, to be celebrated on 15 January.

As ThePrint reported earlier, mobs raided police armouries and stations in Manipur, primarily in the Imphal valley, and made away with approximately 5,600 arms and tens of thousands of rounds of ammunition after ethnic violence broke out in the state last May.

Security forces later launched a massive combing operation to recover the stolen arms.

During his press conference Thursday, Gen Pande said a bid to recover the stolen weapons was ongoing in concert with the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). "Our deployment, our operation in Manipur is synergized and done in coordination with the state administration (adhering to) the security mechanism which was created post the situation," he said.

Manipur has been engulfed in an ethnic conflict between Kukis and Meiteis for nearly a year now. Violence erupted between the majority Meitei community based in the Imphal Valley and the Kuki-Zo tribal community, based in the surrounding hills, on 3 May last year.

On Thursday, three persons who went collecting firewood the previous evening were found dead in Churachandpur — a day after four others from Akaso in Bishnupur went missing. The violence has claimed an estimated 180 lives since last May.

Referring to peace accords signed between the central government, the Manipur government and two armed groups — the United National Liberation



Front (UNLF) of Manipur and United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) — last year, Gen Pande hailed it as a positive development. He added that the Northeast witnessed "positive developments in the past year because of the proactive policies of the government and the peace talks".

Violence in the Northeast has come down, he said, adding: "Of course, the state of Manipur did witness violence starting in the month of May last year. Our efforts alongside these (security) agencies continue to make sure that normalcy is established and the security situation remains stable."

One of the Army's focus areas has been to work alongside other government departments and agencies, he said. "We have been proactively engaging with them, reaching out to them, purely with an aim to achieve better outcomes," the Army chief added.

On deployment of central forces in Manipur, he said, "I would say the Indian Army units and the Assam Rifles, all our units, have given a very good account of themselves to be operating under the current circumstances. I would say they have exhibited a lot of restraint sometimes against provocations in those situations wherein it has been very easy to get provoked."

# WHY NIA COURT ISSUED NON-BAILABLE WARRANTS AGAINST 12 INNOCENT KUKI-ZO?

The issuance of non-bailable warrants to 12 Kuki-Zo individuals by the Special Judge NIA Imphal West, based on a case filed by Meitei OC at Lamshang PS, lacks proper verification. The FIR was based on the firing incident at K. Songlung, Hinnom Veng, and K. Twikun, all belonging to Kuki-Zo villages, attacked by Meitei militants Arambai Tenggol. Initiating the case through Lamshang PS by one Meitei SI, instead of by the victimized Kuki-Zo villagers is illogical, biased and Meitei-centric administration in the process.

According to the application filed by the OC of Lamsang police station, Special Judge NIA Imphal west issued non-bailable warrants to Mamang Kipgen (35) years, s/o Henkho Kipgen of Twikun village, (a member of CoTU), Ningthojam Satminthang alias Angongjao alias Minthangminim (35), s/o N Komonjao Singh of Twikun village, presently staying at Taphou Kuki village (KRA), Takhellambam Anand (45) s/o T Yaima Singh of K Songlung village (KIA), Lelen Hangshing (30) s/o Khukhohao of Twikun village (KRA), Sasat alias Boipu (45) s/o Tongkhohao alias Tongkhao of Twikun village (KRA), Gougou Lotzem (33) s/o Heihao Lotzem of Twikun village (KNF-MC), Haogulal (29) s/o Kamlien of Twikun village (KRA), Lamkhogin DOUNGEL alias Lamgin alias Gigin s/o Ngeljahao DOUNGEL of Patjang Kangchup village, Paojachup Sitlhou (22) s/o Heihao Sitlhou of Patjang Kangchup village (KNF-MC), Hemkhongam Hangshing of Kangchup village (KNF-MC), Sominthang Sitlhou (40) s/o Lunkhosei Sitlhou of Patjang Kangchup (KRA), Haokhopao Hangshing of Gamnom Sapermaina and self-styled publicity secretary of KNF-P/UPF, LH Stephen of Kangpokpi.

Among the 12 Kuki-Zo who were issued NBW, two are village Chiefs, two drivers, one Village Secretary, two fabricated names and other five are innocent villagers. There is not even the least evidence linking them to KNF (MC), KNF and KIA as alleged in the case. This baseless labelling by Lamshang Police SI as Kuki insurgents and CoTU members was also denounced by the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU).



The allegations against these individuals are unsubstantiated and need immediate rectification to prevent further flaming and unjust treatment.

Including the two accused Takhellambam Anand and Ningthoujam Satminthang, over 10 Meitei families from Kangchup areas presently live with Kuki-Zo peacefully. Even a Meitei, Lydia Lourembam, was burned alive in an ambulance by a Meitei mob along with a half-Meitei child, Tonshing (7yrs) along with his mother Meena (a Meitei married to a Kuki). Lydia was buried in Kangpokpi district at the request of her husband Naobi. The identity of over 10 Meitei families are not disclosed for their safety. The global media are invited to come and verify it should they wish to.

The issuance of Non-bailable warrants (NBW) by the Special Judge NIA Imphal West seemingly endangers the Kuki-Zo community's future, attributed to the Meitei-centric State Government's actions and false social media reports. Urgent review via impartial spot inquiries, consulting both communities and involving neutral third-party forces like Central paramilitary, is crucial. Withdrawal of the case by the Special Judge NIA Imphal West is imperative to prevent escalating animosity between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, fostering reconciliation instead.

# VERACIOUS VOICE FIND NO ACCEPTANCE WITHIN MEITEI COMMUNITY

The Meitei community exhibits a lack of acceptance for individuals who speak the truth, particularly those with a veracious voice.

Expressing discontent with statements that go against their preferences or opinions is a common Meitei tendency. The inclination to dislike or disagree with statements that contradict their beliefs or likings reflects the subjectivity of their society perspectives.

The Meiteis have been known for their reprisal against individuals who speak against the wishes or opinions of their Civil Society Organizations.

Recently, one such individual who faced the wrath of Meitei public CSOs is the state Security Advisor Kuldiep Singh who made a statement saying that there is no evidence of Myanmar-based militants involvement in recent Moreh violence.

The statement of the Security Advisor contradicts the the accusation levelled by the Chief Minister N. Biren on January 2, claiming that “foreign mercenaries” from Myanmar side are suspected to be involved in the recent attack on security forces in which 7 personnel were injured. This was strongly resented by the Meitei populace and their CSOs. The Security Advisor must be speaking based on evidence and facts. However, the Meiteis want him to speak based on imaginary lines according to their own set of make-beliefs. The Security advisor must be very aware of the ground reality through its various intelligence agencies and he is not likely to succumb to the pressure of Meitei CSOs. The COCOMI immediately demanded removal of Kuldiep Singh from his position.

In the past too, even Meitei personalities like Babloo Loitongbam and Thounaojam Brinda have been reprimanded by their own people for speaking the truth about the violence in Manipur.

On 5 October 2023, Babloo Loitongbam’s residence in Imphal West, Manipur was vandalized by a mob

who damaged property and belongings. A few hours before his house was vandalized, members of the Meitei Leepun group called for a boycott of human rights defender Babloo Loitongbam from public platforms, and claimed that the allegations he made against them were false and baseless.

“He is claiming here that no church is standing in Imphal valley, all burned,” the official said. “This claim made the public angry.” Loitongbam had made the statement in an interview he gave to NewsClick in May. He had also spoken about the state of violence in Manipur, especially on the role of radical organisations. The internationally acclaimed activist has been critical of the Meitei Leepun and the Arambai Tenggol, a radical Meitei organisation accused of fanning violence against Kukis. In the interview, the activist alleged that the Meitei Leepun and the Arambai Tenggol have “injected” militancy into the minds of people.

A voice clip of former Cop Thounaojam Brinda where she spoke about Arambai Tenggol’s involvement and role in the ongoing Manipur violence and her remarks against the Chief Minister of Manipur has gone viral on social media in the month of October 2023.

Reacting strongly to the audio record, cadres of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun along with Meira Paibis stormed Th. Brinda’s residence on October 4. Intense altercation ensued between the former police personnel and the mob. Brinda, who was left with no other choice, was later forced to clarify her words in the voice clip as wrong and misinformed. While giving her clarification, Brinda said that her statement in the audio record would be proven wrong after the findings of investigating agencies come out.

# ARMY KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON INSURGENTS TRYING TO ENTER MANIPUR FROM MYANMAR: COAS MANOJ PANDE

Highly concerned over what is happening in Myanmar, the Indian Army is closely monitoring the situation along the International Border with Manipur. Chief of Army Staff Manoj Pande today said that forces are keeping a tight vigil since the violent situation in the neighbouring nation has forced insurgent groups to cross over to the Indian side in Manipur.

Determined to maintain peace and thwart any kind of threat to the nation, the COAS said that deployment of forces have been regulated along the border with Myanmar, especially keeping in mind of the prevailing situation in Manipur.

Briefing the media, COAS Manoj Pande said, "The situation in Myanmar, now that has been of concern to us. You are aware of the activities of the Myanmar Army, ethnic armed organisation and the PDF in the recent couple of months, which has resulted in some of the Myanmar Army personnel walking across about 416 of them till date. What is of concern is because of the situation across the India- Myanmar border you also have some of the insurgent groups who are feeling the pressure and who now attempted to come on to our side of the border in Manipur. That is something and then that combined with the situation in Manipur is something we are keeping a close watch on. So what are we doing is we have strengthened posture, deployment on the Indo- Myanmar border. We have close to 20 Assam Rifles Battalions which are deployed there.

There also a talk on a thought in terms of further strengthening our fence along the IB."

The Army Chief maintained that all out efforts are being made to ensure that peace prevails in Manipur. In this context COAS Manoj Pande said, "Of course the state of Manipur did witness violence starting the month of May last year. But I think because of the combined efforts of the state administration, supported by the Indian Army, Assam Rifles and other security agencies we



have been able to stabilize the situation to a large extent. Our efforts along side these agencies will continue to make sure that normalcy is established and the security situation remains stable."

Stating that the overall security situation in the Northeast has improved over the years, COAS Manoj Pande further said, "The Northeast has witnessed positive developments in the last one year because of the proactive policies of the government, the peace talks, we had 2 major peace accords that have been signed. The violence parameters overall have come down."

## FREE MEDICAL CAMP FOR IDPS HELD AT KANGPOKPI

A two-day-long free medical camp for Internally Displaced Persons sheltered at various relief camps in Kangpokpi town, Manipur, culminated on Wednesday.

The free medical camp was organised by the Kangpokpi Independent Baptist Church (KIBC) in collaboration with Friends Missionary Prayer Band and District Hospital Kangpokpi at the KIBC Campus.

Hundreds of Internally Displaced Persons from various relief camps within Kangpokpi district headquarters availed the free medical camp facilities.

Apart from the free medical check-up, patients were provided with required medicines provided by the Friends Missionary Prayer Band.

Speaking on the sideline of the camp, Seichon Haokip, the Church executive, said that amid the ongoing ethnic conflict, several people like him have been suffering for over eight months with many relatives from far-flung villages and the Imphal valley being sheltered at relief camps after they were driven out of their homes and villages.

He shared that at the relief camps, there is a shortage of basic hygienic facilities and lack of medicines adding to their misery.

He said that during such troubled times when they are in dire need of medicine, the Friends Missionary Prayer Band has contributed a huge quantity of medical



supplies which helped in the conduct of a free medical camp for the Internally Displaced Persons.

He also conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the doctors and nurses from the District Hospital Kangpokpi and the hospital authority and other volunteers for the success of the medical camp while conveying immense gratitude to the Friends Missionary Prayer Band family.

Seichon Haokip further said that the Friends Missionary Prayer Band is a family to the Kangpokpi Independent Baptist Church with whom they are working together in partnership in spreading and strengthening the Gospel.

The Church authority also conveyed its plan to organise such a free medical camp in the Saikul area as well.



**War does not determine who is right  
- only who is left.**

— *Bertrand Russell*

# FIR REGISTERED IN MANIPUR POWER PLANT FUEL LEAK INCIDENT, PROBE TO BEGIN SOON

A day after heavy fuel leaked from a power station in Manipur's Imphal West district and spilled into streams flowing alongside it, a case has been registered by the state police in connection with the incident.

The N Biren Singh-led government has also sealed the Leimakhong area by deploying security forces personnel.

A three-member expert investigation team has also been constituted under the leadership of an ADG rank officer, Ashutosh Sinha, to probe the cause of the incident. The probe in the matter will begin soon.

The other members of the team include Shailesh Kumar Chourasia, a Commissioner rank officer in the power department of Manipur and M Pradip Singh, the Additional Secretary (Home) of the Manipur government.



## THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA

Paolienlal Haokip  
@paolienlal

Decisions taken in humiliated fury by a head of government (mostly without consulting his cabinet) may not exactly help any sections of society, nor promote peace. Some may harm national interest in the long run. Police jurisdictions, Fmr, border fencing, et al  
[@PMOIndia](#)

4:53 AM · Jan 11, 2024 · 7,473 Views

Makepeace Sitlhou  
@makesyoucakes

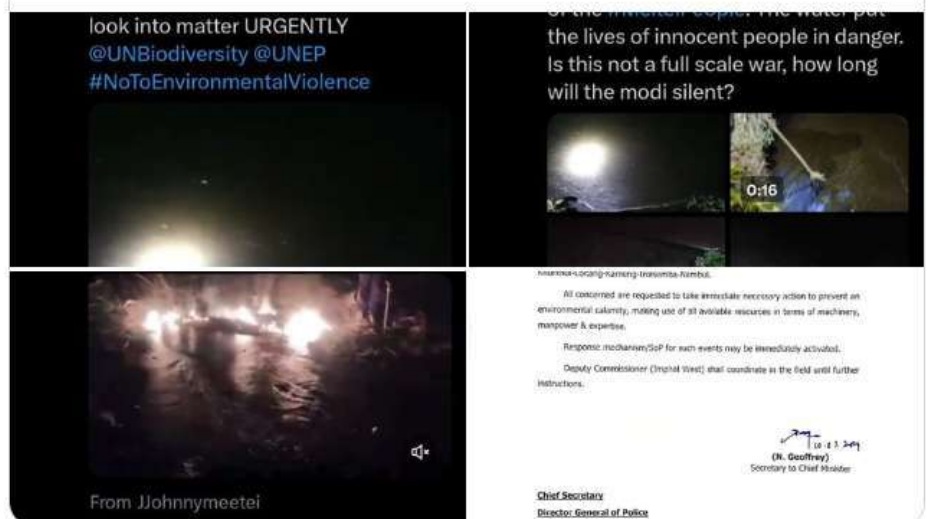
Binalakshmi Nepram continues to spread misinformation through her handle and high profile anchors like Rajdeep Sardesai will still give her prime time space on Manipur or all things "Northeast"

Deborah M Tungnung  
@DeborahTungnung · Jan 10

Incident: Leakage of "heavy fuel" from Leimakhong Power Station.

Pic 1, 2 & 3 depicts an almost convincing art of playing the victim while name-calling & putting false allegations without any sensible logic to it. These people need help. The level to which they were ready to...

[Show more](#)



10:02 AM · Jan 11, 2024 · 6,111 Views



**ANALYSIS****THE URGENT NEED FOR EMPATHY AND HEALING TOUCH IN MANIPUR****Hoihnu Hauzel**

On that bloody night of May 3, 2023, Manipur witnessed an upheaval that altered the lives of thousands. Fleeing their homes with scant possessions, approximately 70,000 people found themselves internally displaced. They hoped, legitimately, that the storm would pass. They hoped they would return. But in all earnestness, Manipur had never seen such a grave situation despite having earned the distinction of being the ‘most disturbed state’ back in the 1980s when it was in the thick of secessionist movements. Last September, once again, Manipur earned the ‘disturbed area’ tag “in light of the prevailing law and order situation”.

The situation had never been so grave. Nine long months have gone by. The displaced are still in camps and displaced in their own country.

The past nine months have been marked by different kinds of incidents. Heavy firing has been taking place between the Kuki-Zo and the majority Meiti community. Wherever a clear geographic divide exists, buffer zones have been built over time. The unsettling silence between clashes raises suspicions of an impending storm rather than the calm that should follow.

Amidst this turmoil, voices that are coming out, particularly from Imphal, are either snubbed or muddled. Two journalists have lately been arrested, both of whom are natives of Imphal and run vernacular papers. Dhanabir Maibam, the editor of ‘Hueiyen Lanpao’, was

arrested on January 5 and was released after three days. Wangkhemcha Shyamjai, editor-in-chief of ‘Kangleipakki Meira’, was arrested on December 29 and was released two days later. Their crime was to have allegedly “published sensitive details in a report”. Two more prominent voices, human rights advocate Babloo Loitongbam and former police officer Thounaojam Brinda, faced intimidation, mob judgment, and house ransacking, raising concerns about freedom of expression.

In December, musician Akhu Chingangbam, known for his Native Tongue Called Peace project, which teaches songs from various tribal languages to Manipuri children, was allegedly kidnapped and later released.

“He later clarified that he has not been kidnapped and is safely at home. Whether he is saying this under pressure or stating the truth is not known. Things are uncertain and out of control these days, so you can’t say anything for sure,” said an Imphal-based editor without wanting to be named and, this, very much sums up what’s happening amid the unending strife.

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

What has gone wrong? Why is Manipur not on the nation's mind? Why are the central and state governments so impervious (or so it would seem) to the suffering of the people of this strategically important border state? Last August, soon after a viral video of Kuki-Zo girls being paraded naked caught the nation's attention, the Supreme Court spelled out loud and clear the "absolute breakdown of constitutional machinery" in Manipur. That pronouncement should have had an impact on how a nation responds if one of its states is found to be lacking. That renewed attention and focus on Manipur was brought back solely because of the video that went viral. Nothing happened. Even media reports have become infrequent now.

The humanitarian cry of those in relief camps isn't enough to shake the collective conscience. For those seeking refuge on that ominous night, the aspiration for swift normalcy and a return to their lives has been shattered. According to media reports, as of September 1, there were over 58,000 people across 351 relief camps in Manipur, including more than 22,000 children and 300 people over 80 years of age. The shortage of essential commodities and nutrition and the health of children are issues in the camps. Their collective elusive dream of returning home intensifies the palpable disappointment felt by the people of Manipur.

The prevailing sentiment suggests that there exists apathy and disinterest regarding the plight of Manipur. The lack of immediate intervention and a clear plan for resolution deepens frustration and disillusionment among the displaced population in particular and the people in general.

As it seems, peace commissions set up so far have not yielded any visible result. The silence emanating from authority speaks volumes in Manipur. It's indicative of a dismissive attitude, downplaying the severity of the situation and a reluctance to acknowledge the deep-rooted issues contributing to the crisis. The assertion that a one-size-fits-all policy is unsuitable for Manipur in particular and the Northeast in general becomes even more relevant here. The state's unique socio-cultural landscape and its strategic geographical location must be heeded. Its pluralistic nature of society, both ethnically and historically, demands a nuanced, region-specific strategy to address its multifaceted challenges.

There is a need here for a detailed study and listening of the grievances of both communities and that has not happened in the true sense of the term. For instance, there is a need to delve deep into the grouse of the hills tribes who are "older than the mountains where they forage and co-exist along with nature". They nurse many historical grievances of institutionalised neglect; profound disproportionate distribution of resources; all infrastructures centred only around the valley which is anyway the seat of power, and then the eviction drives in places like K Songjang village in Churachandpur district in February 2023, which was carried out with such insensitivity to the point that Kuki Zo communities believed this had a deep sinister design.

Now, the divide has widened to the point that Kuki Zo communities are seeking a separate administration. The Meiteis are opposing this demand tooth and nail while calling the Kuki Zo communities illegal migrants who have no right over the land. The situation has reached a state where it is assumed that it is only 'finish to the last' sort of fight which is the answer. Far from it, this will only cripple both the communities. While the unrest inside its neighbouring Myanmar could have its spillover impact on Manipur which shares a porous 390-km border, it certainly could not have been the sole cause of the conflict. While self-denial and scapegoating do rounds, the grave situation now necessitates a mediator to find a middle path that is fair and just to the people of Manipur.

The hill communities have lost access to Imphal airport in Manipur. They now have to endure the challenging 12-hour drive through Mizoram's rugged mountain roads. This is a significant concern for the community at large as medical emergencies become a challenge. This situation not only poses logistical challenges but also has broader implications for the affected community in terms of accessibility, connectivity, and overall well-being. The extended travel time and the need

*Contd.*

Contd.

to pass through Mizoram for those residing in the hills can disrupt essential services, economic activities, and personal travel.

Landlocked Imphal is caught in an odd situation nonetheless. There has been an economic downturn and small business owners and businesses across various sectors are grappling with losses.

The inaction from concerned authorities carries significant political ramifications, particularly with elections looming. The perceived neglect of the Manipur crisis raises questions about the government's priorities. Allowing the wound to fester with no clarity on where it is heading is unimaginable. Manipur deserves a government that actively works towards resolution, acknowledging the suffering of its people. The inability

to control the violence in Manipur despite the presence of centralised forces to the tune of over 70,000, in addition to the presence of already adequate forces from the Indian Army and CRPF, reflects not only on the strength of the Indian government but also on India's global standing.

As the world's largest democracy aspiring and vying for a visible global leadership, the incapacity to manage a state smaller than several others raises concern about India's ability to handle internal conflicts. It also, ironically, justifies the age-old grievances of the people of the Northeast that they have been treated with a lack of empathy and sensitivity even after 76 years of Independence. This grievance has never been closer to the truth than now.



**THE  
EXPLOSIVE  
GROWTH**





# DRAWING CLOSER TO ZALENGAM

*~ Chongthenneng*

Feeling displaced in a land we once called Home;  
Our birthplace where we used to freely roam.  
Our rights stripped off and our voices silenced.  
Like a broken weighing machine, nothing's balanced.  
Our homes are engulfed with sorrow and despair.  
The damage has been done and it's beyond repair.  
The chasm can't be bridged with hollow promises  
We stand resolute in our demand for justice.  
This ruthless war left most of us in penury!  
Ergo, optimism has now become a luxury.

Nevertheless, we can't afford to lower our shields,  
For our savage enemies awaits us at the battlefield.  
The idea of attaining peace at this rate is far-fetched.  
Sweet old memories are forever in our hearts etched.  
While the world turns its back and our cries ignored,  
Let's keep our heads held high and be assured  
That our Gracious God sees our agony and will not fail.  
Mother dear, dry your tears and brighten your face pale.  
Our God will deliver us like He always does;  
And He will not forsake us in front of our foes.

Let's keep marching on with our unyielding spirit.  
Till we make it to Zalengam; let's keep our candles lit.