

# Thingkho *Le* Malecha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**LETMINTHANG SONGTHAT HAOKIP  
KUM 26**

**AWAITING JUSTICE**



## **LETMINTHANG SONGTHAT HAOKIP (26 YEARS)**

**S/O (L) KAILAL HAOKIP**

**ADDRESS: B EBENEZER, LAMKA**

**DATE OF DEATH: 4TH MAY, 2023**

**PLACE OF DEATH: SANGAIPROU QUARTER, IMPHAL**

**CAUSE OF DEATH: BLUDGEONED TO DEATH AND LATER BURNT IN HIS QUARTER**





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.06.2024



**186**  
DEATHS



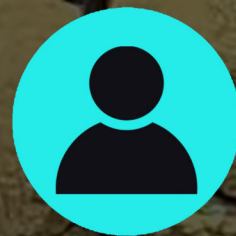
**200+**  
VILLAGES BURNT



**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 WOMEN ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LAUNCHES FIRST PHASE OF 'JANGNADOP' PROJECT TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF STATE SPONSORED VIOLENCE



In a significant move towards realizing the demand for separate administration, the Kuki Women Organization for Human Rights (KWOHR) has launched the first phase of the 'Jangnadop' project. This initiative aims to provide financial assistance to families affected by the state-sponsored ethnic violence against the Kuki community.

At a solemn ceremony held at the Wall of Remembrance in Tuibong, twelve individuals, either injured or close relatives of the deceased, received Rs. 1 lakh each, a traditional shawl, and a memento in recognition of their sacrifices. The event was attended by Kuki Inpi President Ch. Ajang Khongsai, who distributed the assistance to the recipients.

The funds for the 'Jangnadop' project were generously donated by Kuki women from around the world. This initiative will continue until all affected individuals and volunteers are compensated. During the ceremony, President Khongsai emphasized

the injustices faced by the Kuki people and reiterated that a political solution is essential to resolving the Manipur crisis.

The launch of this project follows a directive from various Kuki civil society organizations, including the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), advising the Kuki community to reject compensation from the Manipur Meitei government. The 'Jangnadop' project underscores the Kuki community's capacity to support itself independently and sends a strong message to the central government about the Kukis' ability to self-govern without reliance on the biased Manipur Meitei administration.

This initiative also highlighted the resilience and solidarity of the Kuki women and their commitment to honoring and supporting those who have suffered in the ongoing ethnic strife.



# KUKI ACTOR ARRESTED FOR DRONE BATTERY POSSESSION AMIDST ALLEGATIONS OF BIAS AND INJUSTICE

A Special Task Force (STF) team arrested David Khaigoulen Kipgen, a 27-year-old Kuki actor and videographer, at Sonapur Toll Gate on NH 27 for possessing drone equipment. The arrest has sparked controversy and accusations of bias, given the broader context of violent conflict in Manipur.

David Kipgen, son of Hensat Kipgen from Gamngai village in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, was apprehended with 10 TB30 Intelligent Flight Batteries, Rs 3,40,000 in cash, four pairs of shoes, and a mobile handset. These items were seized from his vehicle, bearing registration number AS01FU3927.

The arrest has drawn sharp criticism from the Kuki community, who argue that purchasing drone batteries is entirely legal in India. Critics claim the STF acted on a tip-off from Meitei sources, highlighting a perceived bias in law enforcement. Kuki activists point out that while Kuki individuals face legal action for drone equipment, Meitei armed radical groups reportedly use advanced thermal drones to target Kuki villages without repercussions.

David Kipgen, who operates Gamngai Media and is affiliated with the Kuki Film Industry (KUFIDA), was allegedly purchasing the drone batteries for his film projects. Supporters argue that his arrest exemplifies the double standards in the enforcement of laws, as Meitei extremists reportedly use drones freely, sometimes under the oversight of central and state forces, to harass Kuki villages.

The situation has been exacerbated by the activities of individuals like Licypriya Kangujam, a self-styled climate activist, who has openly declared on social media her acquisition of drones for the ongoing conflict. Despite her proclamations, no legal action has been taken



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**OFFICE OF THE KUFIDA**  
**KUKI FILM DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**  
Motto: Peace and Unity Through Cinema

Ref No. 06/2024...

Date: 14/06/2024...

## PRESS RELEASE JUNE 14|2024

Kuki Film Development Association (KUFIDA) is distressed to learn about the arrest of a renowned Kuki film director Mr. David Khaigoulen Kipgen by the Assam Police STF Team with his equipment on June 14, 2024 in Assam for his upcoming projects

Every Film director, regardless of its scales has the right to purchase their film equipment, such as battery for Drones anytime anywhere.

It is worth mentioning that Khaigoulen Kipgen has directed a number of Kuki films and music albums. He is also an active member of KUFIDA at present while also serving as Finance Secretary of the association in the past. The arrest is simply unfounded and the association strongly condemns it.

KUFIDA appeals to the authorities to investigate the matter and release David Khaigoulen Kipgen at the earliest.

Department of Information KUFIDA

against her, further fueling claims of discriminatory practices.

The Kuki community demands answers and justice, highlighting the stark contrast in how drone-related activities are treated based on ethnic lines. The incident underscores the deepening ethnic tensions and the urgent need for impartial law enforcement in Manipur.



# KUKI RESIDENTIAL HOUSES SET ON FIRE BY MEITEI ARSONISTS IN HIGH SECURITY ZONE NEAR MANIPUR CM & GUV'S BUNGALOW

In a disturbing development, deserted residential house belonging to the Kuki community in Imphal Valley have been set ablaze by Meitei radical groups. The properties, including those of the late T. Kipgen (IAS Retd.) and his son Sehkho Kipgen (IFS Retd.) building, situated near heavily guarded areas, were torched today. The building was situated near the Kuki Inn at Babupara and the TA&Hills Secretariat, which is also close to CM Bungalow, raising questions about security lapses.

Despite the deployment of significant security near the Chief Minister's bungalow, these incidents occurred with apparent impunity. Observers are baffled by the ease with which the arsonists operated, suggesting a lack of police intervention.

This recent violence follows a pattern of ongoing ethnic strife in Manipur, where numerous Kuki localities, such as Khongsai Veng, K. Vengnom Mantripukhri, Haokip Veng, and Paite Veng, have been previously burned down. Over the past months, deserted Kuki houses have been systematically looted and distributed among the Meitei community, despite a government order prohibiting such actions.

The Manipur government and the Supreme Court have both issued directives to protect the properties of displaced persons and prevent further encroachment. However, these orders have been largely ignored, as



evidenced by continuous reports of looting and arson. Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police in the Imphal Valley appear either unaware of or indifferent to these directives, allowing armed groups to operate freely.

Additionally, there are reports that militant factions such as Arambai Tenggol and the UNLF Pambei faction have occupied deserted Kuki houses in New Lambulane, marking them with their respective symbols and using facilities like Lee Faith School in Imphal Paite Veng as operational bases.

The situation remains tense as the affected communities call for urgent intervention and effective enforcement of the law to prevent further violence and property destruction.



**It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men.**

*- Samuel Adams*



## MEITEI WOMEN TORCH TRUCKS CARRYING CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

In a continuing pattern of obstructing supplies to Kuki-dominated areas, Meitei women torched four trucks carrying iron beams destined for Churachandpur district headquarters from Imphal on Saturday. The incident occurred in Tronglaobi village on the state highway under Moirang police station at around 3 pm.

Manipur police reported that two trucks were set ablaze by the Meitei women, with one vehicle sustaining severe damage. Despite attempts to intervene using tear gas and mock bombs, the police were unable to prevent the arson. Fire services from Moirang and Bishnupur were also thwarted by the women from reaching the site.

Order was restored upon the arrival of military vehicles from the Sikh regiments stationed in Naransena village. The intervention helped save the other two trucks from destruction. The trucks, belonging to an out-of-state company, were transporting building materials to Churachandpur.

The police have registered a case and investigations are underway. This attack follows a similar incident on June 13, when two Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) trucks carrying construction materials for a bridge over the Manipur River in Chandel district were torched in Leingangching, Kakching district.



These actions highlight the ongoing ethnic strife and the Meitei community's aggressive tactics against Kuki settlements. The repeated targeting of supply trucks underscores the deep-seated divisions and the call from the Kuki community for separate administrative arrangements, citing the inability to coexist under the current Meitei-dominated governance structure.

The Kuki community continues to argue for separate administration, pointing to these violent disruptions as evidence of the need for autonomy to ensure their safety and access to essential goods. The ongoing blockade of goods and construction materials raises serious concerns about the prospects for peace and reconciliation in the region.

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## CM BIREN CANCELS JIRIBAM VISIT AFTER SECURITY RISKS AND EMBARRASSMENT

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has canceled his proposed visit to Jiribam following a significant security risk that endangered the lives of innocent security personnel. The cancellation comes after what has been described as a humiliating incident, raising concerns over the safety and planning of high-profile visits amidst the ongoing ethnic tensions in the region.

The advance CM's security convoy left Jiribam for Imphal on Saturday, officials said. The reason for the cancellation of the CM's visit is not yet known.

The Chief Minister was supposed to visit Jiribam on June 14 to personally take stock of the prevailing situation in the border district, where communal tension and violence flared up since June 6 after one farmer was killed by militants and several Meitei houses were torched subsequently.

Upon receiving the news that the CM would not be visiting Jiribam, the displaced people housed at different camps got anxious that they might not be able to return to their homes.



# MANIPUR PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE DEMANDS GOVERNMENT ACTION AMID JIRIBAM DISTRICT TURMOIL

The Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) convened a critical meeting today at Congress Bhawan, B.T. Road, Imphal, under the leadership of K. Meghachandra, President of the MPCC. The session focused on addressing the ongoing unrest in Jiribam District, which has persisted since June 6, 2024.

In attendance were several prominent figures, including O. Ibobi Singh, Leader of the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) in Manipur, Gaikhangam, Member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), AICC, and K. Ranjit Singh, Deputy CLP Leader. Other notable attendees included Th. Lokeshwar Singh, Party Chief Whip, newly elected MPs Dr. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam and Alfred Kanngam S. Arthur, former MPCC Presidents M. Okendro and N. Loken Singh, Working Presidents Md. Fajur Rahim and Victor Keishing, former Minister Km. Ak. Mirabai Devi, and former MLA Md. Amin Shah.

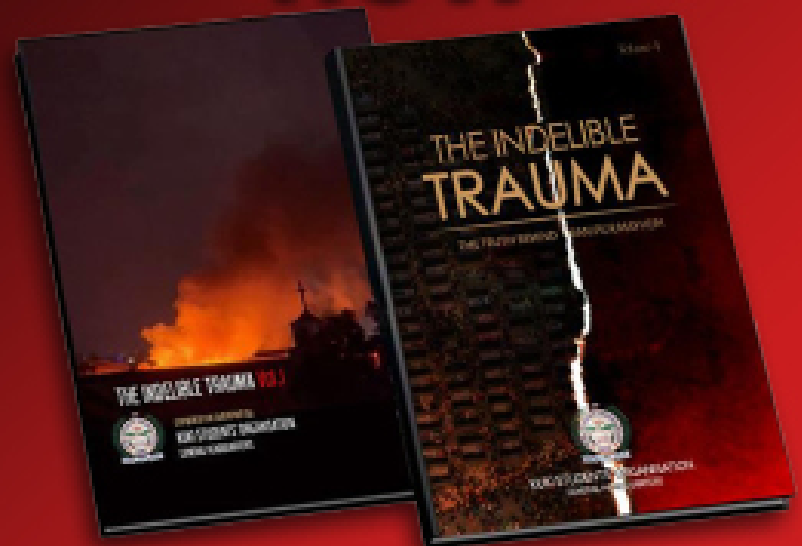
The PAC discussed the current situation in Jiribam District in detail and passed several key resolutions. The committee appealed to both the Central and State Governments to take immediate action to control the ongoing violence and protect the lives and properties of the residents. The PAC emphasized the need for proper utilization of the Central and State forces deployed in the district, urging adherence to the responsibilities outlined in relevant Acts and Rules to restore peace and harmony.

Additionally, the PAC called upon the Central and State Governments to exercise their constitutional powers and duties to ensure peace and stability across Manipur. The meeting also resolved to induct Dr. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, MP Elect, as a new member of the PAC, joining Alfred Kanngam S. Arthur, who is already a member. (India Today NE)

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**FEATURED ARTICLE****Manipur Requires Political Will, Which Seems Missing in Imphal, and in New Delhi****John Dayal**

Thirteen months after the border state of Manipur was rocked by the most vicious religious and ethnic violence seen since Gujarat's 2002, the Supremo of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat, opened his mouth to remind the Prime minister, Narendra Modi, of an absence of governance which could bring about peace in the state.

The chief minister, N. Biren Singh, too has been forced to speak after his security team was attacked. But the Prime minister has not spoken. He has also not visited the state at all in this period of conflict.

In these thirteen months, more than 200 villages have been destroyed, 7,000 or so houses destroyed, 360 churches razed or desecrated, and about 50,000 persons displaced, 42,000 of them Kuki-Zo who fled the Imphal valley in the first month of the most aggravated violence which began on May 3, 2023.

Over 225 people, including eight children, have been killed. A gang-rape and the parading of the naked woman by the mob, accompanied by security forces, shocked world conscience last May.

Numbers tabulated by the two sides to the conflict vary,

but not significantly. More numbers are added to the body count every week. As many as 15 Kuki-Zo men and 32 Meiteis have been missing for a year. An astonishing 4,500 weapons were looted from police armouries, and remain untraced, barring 1,800 surrendered by civilians.

But till recent days, the state was no longer visible in the coverage of the conflict on national TV channels, or in the page one headlines of national newspapers.

Manipur's voters forced themselves into the news rudely on the June 4, when the general elections results were declared. They routed the BJP candidates in the state's two constituencies, the ethnic Meitei dominated Imphal Valley, and in outer Manipur, which is home to the state's two major groups of Scheduled Tribes –the Kuki-Zo-Hmar in the Churachandpur, and the several tribes of Nagas in the rest of the hills surrounding Imphal.

Both seats were won by the Congress. In the inner Manipur constituency seat, Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, a professor of JNU, defeated the Bharatiya

**Contd.**



**Contd.**

Janata Party's T Basanta Kumar Singh, who is also the state education minister in the BJP-led Biren Singh government. In the Outer Manipur reserved seat, Alfred Kanngam Arthur defeated his rival from the BJP ally Naga People's Front.

Chief minister Singh had no option but to speak when an advance security detail scouting the route for his scheduled visit to troubled areas outside Imphal, was ambushed on National Highway 53. Two jawans of the security detail were injured, and rushed to hospital in the state capital.

CM Singh is alleged to patronise the Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tenggol, the main actors in the violence. Arambai Tenggol was established in 2020, under the aegis of the titular king of Manipur and then BJP Member of Parliament Leishemba Sanajaoba. These two groups are other than the several underground militant groups who add to the complexity of the situation.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was among the senior national politicians to visit the state at the peak of the violence. Leaders of the main Opposition parties also visited the state thereafter.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India intervened to kick start relief and rehabilitation work, and criminal investigations in the rape, mass murders and arson— both of which still remain incomplete.

The Editors Guild of India studied the role of the state media in aggravating violence. The Karawan e Mohabbat and Women's teams led by Annie Raja and Syeda Hamid toured the main affected areas and the refugee camps. They warned of the unfolding human tragedy and the plight of the people in the refugee camps and of those who had fled to the state to nearby and distant cities.

International human rights groups have noted alleged acts of sexual violence, extrajudicial killings, home destruction, forced displacement, torture and ill-treatment. Their experts also pointed to an "inadequate humanitarian response" in the wake of the grave humanitarian situation in Manipur following the latest round of community conflict between the predominantly Hindu Meitei and the predominantly Christian Kuki ethnic communities.

The Centre's continuing with CM Singh is cited by political observers as one of the main reasons behind the suppurating wounds of Manipur. Apart from his alleged connection with Arambai Tenggol, his mismanagement of the situation in first few days of the violence, including hesitance in using central forces of the Army and the central paramilitary forces, who have far more acceptance among the people than the state armed police, allowed the violence to spread.

The election campaigns have been over, and Modi has been sworn in again as the prime minister in a National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition government. With the PMO and the Home ministry unaltered in the third term, the people are yet to see if a roadmap to peace will be forthcoming.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in his earlier visits to Imphal did no more than announce that the union government fully backs the CM Singh. He has so far had nothing to offer to the many ethnicities whose mutual suspicions and competing demands on resources and development funds underpin the state.

Manipur, like other states in the North east, is totally dependent on resources from the Central government for everyday existence, and to match

**Contd.**



*Contd.*

the development they see in other states such as Gujarat, or even Bihar.

The 10-year-old Modi regime did not have a coherent development plan for the region, and almost none for Manipur. Their main focus was on successfully ensuring that the BJP and its allies ruled in every state capital. This was the saffron party's approach till the slap in the face from Manipur this general election.

PM Modi's lack of political will was earlier most visible in the handling of Nagaland where there was early progress in reaching a "general framework agreement" with Naga underground groups. Years later, there has been almost no movement on the agreement.

Adding to it is the failure of the External Affairs Ministry to speak about the terrible atrocities of the Myanmar army on civilian populations, especially on the tribes of the north and west regions adjoining India. This violence has impacted a large number of people who want to flee to the safety of Indian villages across the border.

Civil society activists feel the central and state governments continue to talk about ending the violence, and bat for reconciliation between the warring ethnic communities as well as normalcy, while taking no visible measures to stop the violent conflict or to heal the festering wounds. This gives an inescapable impression that the political dividends of sharpening the ethnic divide or using the fluid situation in neighboring Myanmar to carve out a greater sphere of influence while promoting a new direction of Hindu consolidation are part of the game.

In pursuit of the great power game, individual citizens of Manipur—irrespective of gender, age, religion or ethnicity—have been robbed of their most basic human rights including the right to life, the right against torture

and other cruel, inhumane, degrading forms of treatment and punishment.

The gruesome ethnic violence has festered for 13 months and killed hundreds, maimed thousands and uprooted tens of thousands of indigenous ethnic communities.

People have also noticed that the 'enforced indifference' of the armed forces to the increasing cycles of raids and counter raids against the civilian population and competitive exercise on body counts have cast a ghastly spell. The ensuing climate of ethnic hatred accompanied by ghettoization of the warring communities in their areas of dominance have practically snapped all ties of coexistence both social and commercial.

The senior social and development scientist, Dr Walter Fernandes, feels there is no time for the government to wait before acting.

"Let us get involved at the level of the ordinary people and let the powers that be to hear their voice. Let us not get caught in official solutions or theories of peace building but think outside the box. Civil society groups from each family (Naga, Kuki, Meitei) should bring together people from their own families who are open to a dialogue. They should reflect among themselves on possible types of solutions and ways of initiating dialogue with the remaining families. It will take them at least six months to begin to open some windows towards each other."

That is one programme on the table.

First published by [The Wire](#)



**THE BUZZ** SOCIAL MEDIA



**Sushant Singh**  
@SushantSin

Fire doesn't break out on its own. The use of passive voice almost makes it a divine act. This isn't.

**PTI Press Trust of India** @PTI\_News · 47m

STORY | Major fire breaks out near Manipur CM's bungalow

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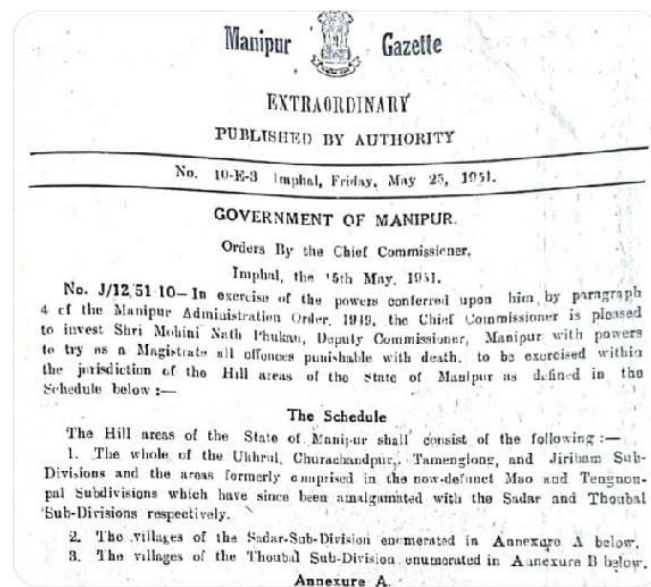


9:28 pm · 15 Jun 24 · 2,396 Views



**Thongkhohal Haokip** @th\_robert · 23h

Perhaps the first Gazette that defined "the Hill areas of the state of Manipur" since the Constitution of India came into effect, even included Jiribam Subdivision and listed villages in Thoubal Subdivision within the jurisdiction of the hill areas. Thereafter, it's politics.



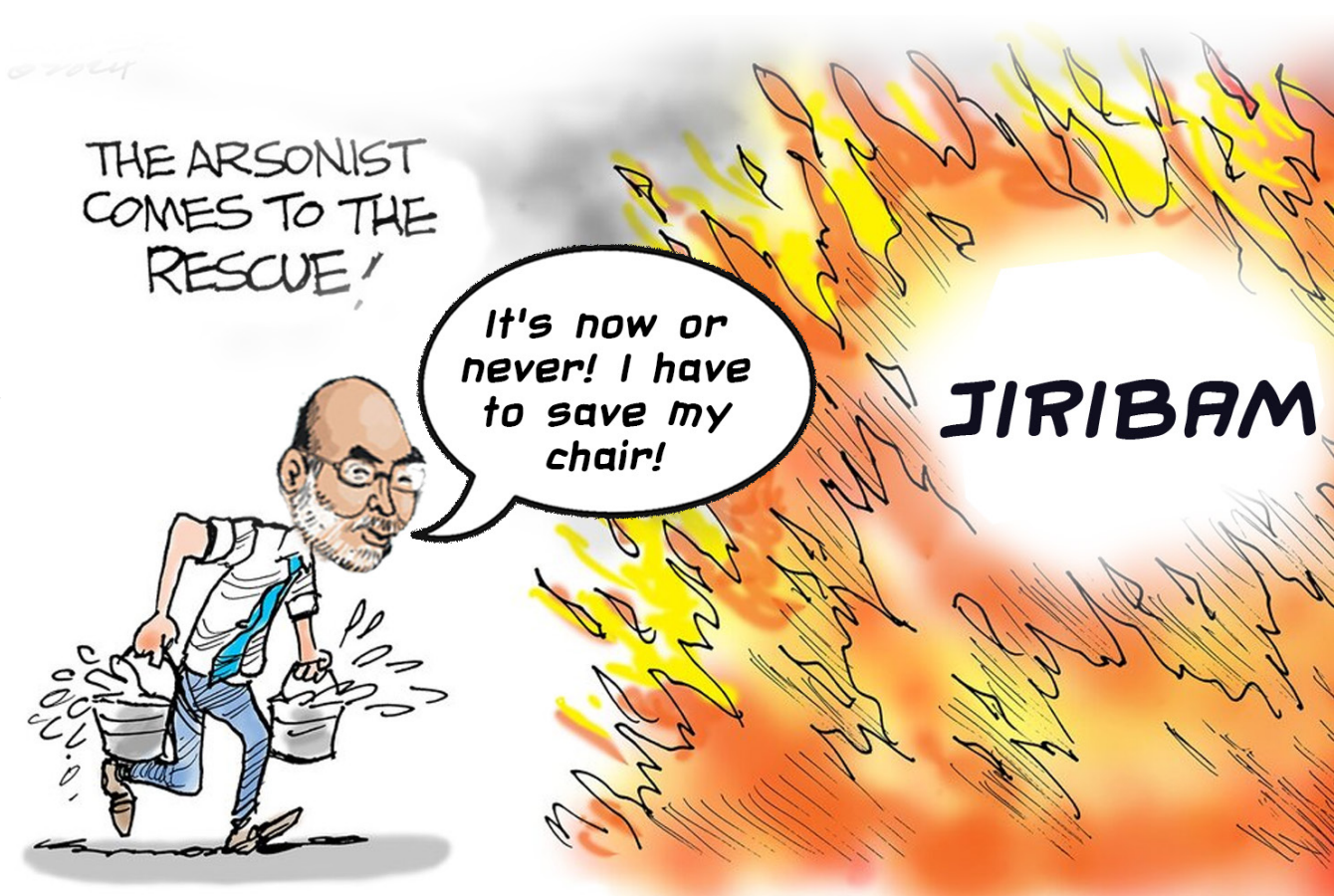
**Manipur Times** @ManipurTimes · 1d



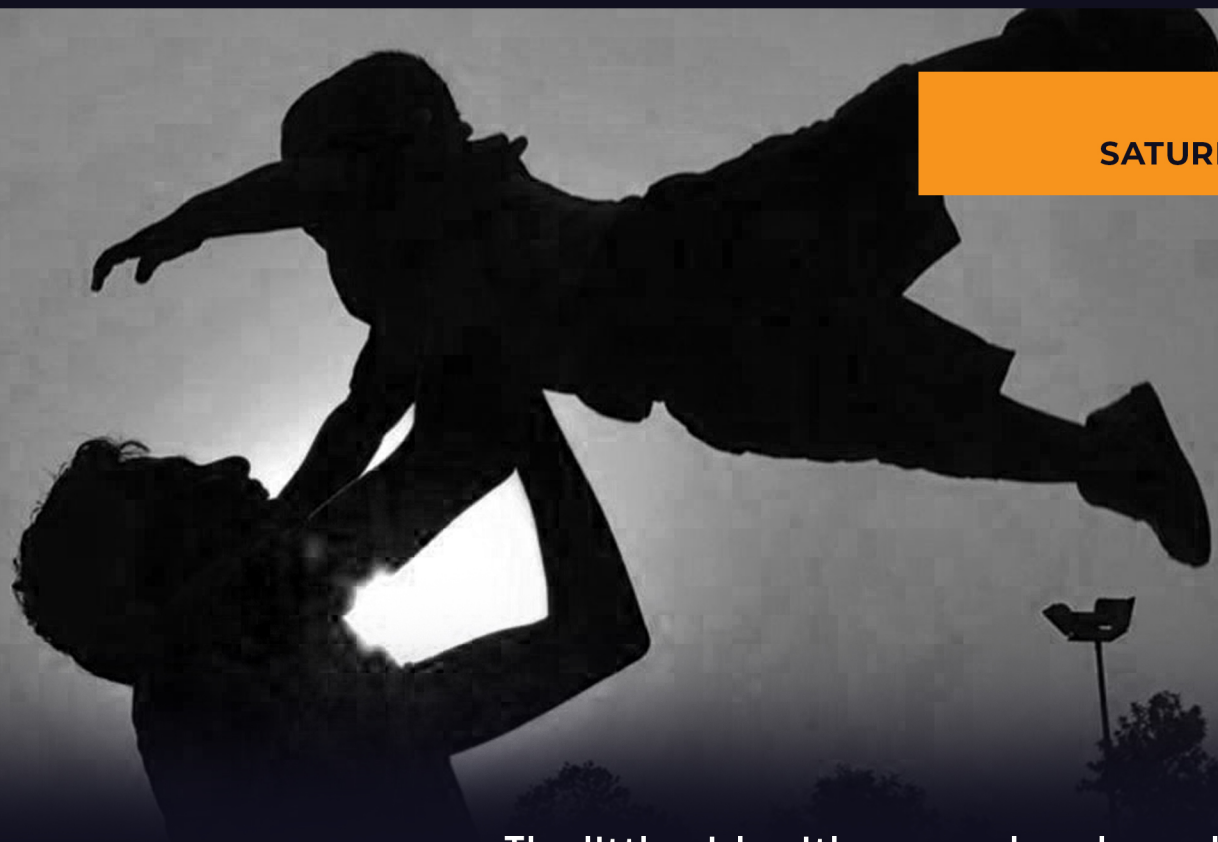
This was Manipur Gazette 1963, this was during the time of a Union Territory, following Part-C status of Manipur which was ru...



**THE SELF-RESCUE MISSION**







# The Only Man

- Nengneilam Lhouvum

The little girl, with eyes aglow, knew but one hero,  
Her father, marching forth to realms unknown.  
At dawn, he kissed her cheek, his resolve clear,  
Leaving hearth and home for battles to bear.

To her mother, he was the sole beacon of light,  
His absence a weight, heavy as the darkest night.  
Yet, she stood tall, packing his bags with care,  
Shielding their daughter from despair.

Each day, the child yearned for his return,  
Dreaming of tales spun 'round the hearth's warm burn.  
A toy, a laugh, a game, her heart's refrain,  
Until her hero's embrace eased the pain.

And the woman, bound by love's enduring vow,  
Waited, watched, her hope as vast as the prow.  
For in his return lay solace, sweet and rare,  
In his arms, she found her fortress fair.

