

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



JANGMINTHANG KIPGEN (47 YEARS)

H/O NENGKHOKIM KIPGEN

ADDRESS: N. MOLLEN, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 1ST JUNE, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: N. MOLLEN, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: BODY CHOPPED AND BURNT



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SHOULD NOT FORGET KUKIS' ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INA FOR INDIA'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The tallest flag in North-East India was hoisted at the INA headquarters complex at Moirang in Manipur's Bishnupur district on the occasion of the country's 78th Independence Day on Thursday. In 1944, Indian National Army (INA) soldiers hoisted their flag for the first time in Moirang on Indian soil.

The flag flies high atop the 165-foot-tall flagpole, the tallest in North-East India, symbolising the nation's pride and glory.

The INA headquarters, established by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, hold great historical importance. On April 14, 1944, the Indian National Army (INA) first hoisted the tricolour here, marking a pivotal moment in our struggle for independence.

As India celebrated its 78th Independence Day, the northeastern state of Manipur, a strategic corner of India, is bleeding with no end in sight. The minority Kukis face the brunt of Meiteis' atrocities even after more than 15 months. The Government of India must not forget the role of Kukis in India's Freedom Struggle.

During the freedom movement, when the Indian National Army (INA) led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose marched to India in the 1940s with the call "Dilli Chalo", the Kuki tribals of Indo-Burmese frontier played a major role in helping the INA. In very difficult terrain, the Kukis acted as guides, spies and foot soldiers.

The Kukis played a significant role in the Indian National Army (INA) during the country's struggle for independence from British colonial rule and actively participated in the INA's fight against British imperialism.

When Subhas Chandra Bose formed the INA to liberate India from British rule, many Kukis joined the movement. The Kukis, known for their martial traditions and warrior spirit, saw the INA as an opportunity to fight for their freedom. They believed in Bose's vision of a united and independent India and eagerly joined his cause.



The Kukis displayed immense bravery and determination on the battlefield, earning a reputation for their fierce combat skills. The Kuki soldiers fought in key battles, including the Burma Campaign, where they faced the British forces head-on.

Besides their military contributions, the Kukis also provided invaluable support to the INA. They played crucial roles as messengers, guides, and suppliers, assisting in the logistics and communication networks of the army. The Kuki women also actively participated in underground activities, providing intelligence and aid to the INA.

However, the struggle for independence was not without sacrifices. Many Kuki soldiers and civilians lost their lives or suffered great hardships during the war. Despite the challenges, the Kukis' unwavering commitment to the cause of Indian independence remained steadfast.

The role of the Kuki nation in the INA reflects their deep sense of patriotism and their desire for a free and united India. Their contributions to the independence movement continue to be celebrated, reminding the nation of the bravery and sacrifice of the Kuki community. It is high time the Government of India grants separate administration to Kukis.

MEITEI MILITANTS TAKE CONTROL OF STATE'S LAW AND ORDER; BAN MUSICAL BANDS FROM FUTURE PERFORMANCE

Taking law into their own hands, the Meitei militant group - UNLF (P) - has banned all the musical bands, that participated during the infamous Meiteis' Patriots Day concert, for months and years from performing music concerts in future.

The United National Liberation Front (Pambei) faction also ordered officials of the organising committee to resign en masse and dictated them to conduct fresh elections as soon as possible. The controversial musical concert was organised by the All Manipur Football Association (AMFA) as a part of Patriots Day observance.

The action of the Meitei militant groups has proved that there is complete breakdown of law and order under the incompetent regime of N. Biren Singh, and the armed militia groups have taken over the State's law enforcement agencies. Since the beginning of the State-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kukis began on May 3 last year, the Meiteis' valley of Imphal have been ruled over by the militant groups such as Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and the proscribed armed outfits. The Meitei populace have been taken for granted and the armed militants ruled over them as per their whims and fancies.

Interestingly, the Manipur government's Youth Affairs and Sport Department had already lodged an FIR against the All Manipur Football Association (AMFA) and other people for organising 'Rock Concert' on August 13 when the state observed the 'Patriots' Day' to pay tribute to the freedom fighters who laid down their lives fighting against the British in the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891.

Youth Affairs and Sport Department Director T. Phulen Meitei, in his complaint, said that the AMFA had organised a 'Rock Concert' at Khuman Lampak Turf ground in Imphal without taking any prior permission or approval from the competent authorities including the concerned Deputy Commissioner and Youth Affairs and Sports department.



"By organising the 'Rock Concert', the AMFA violated peace and tranquillity, as well as other relevant law of the land. Moreover, the AMFA is also held responsible for causing noise pollution without prior permission from Manipur Pollution Control Board," the complaint said.

Phulen Meitei said that in the "unceremonious event" on Patriots Day, many Meitei youth had gathered, with many under the influence of alcohol, and created a ruckus.

"This is an insult to our fallen heroes of Manipur who sacrificed their lives against the mighty Englishmen," he said.

He said every year, August 13 was observed as Patriots' Day by offering floral tributes and following other ritual ceremonies.

The official had requested the police to take necessary action against all the executive members of AMFA and others who are involved in organising such an event at the earliest.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, underground militant outfits detained at least four persons as they were also involved in organising the 'Rock Concert' on 'Patriots' Day'.

MUSLIM MAN TORTURED BY ARAMBAI TENGGOL; MATERIALS INCLUDING INDIAN FLAGS AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS BURNT DOWN

In a disturbing incident today, a Muslim man employed as a courier for the Churachandpur SP office was brutally tortured by members of the Meitei radical group Arambai Tenggol.

The victim from Kwakta in Bishnupur district, was responsible for transporting crucial documents and parcels between Lamka and Imphal for the Police Department. Reports indicate that the man was abducted near Imphal Airport and taken to various locations, where he was subjected to severe physical abuse by the attackers.

In a shocking display of violence, the Arambai Tenggol members not only tortured him but also set fire to all the parcels and documents he was carrying, including the Indian national flag.

Due to the conflict, members of each community have been restricted from entering areas dominated by the other. Consequently, neutral ethnic groups, such as



Muslims, have been enlisted to transport essential items and government documents across these tense zones.

The attack on a Muslim man, who was acting as a courier for important government records, has been widely condemned. The actions of Arambai Tenggol reflect a troubling attempt to erase critical documentation related to the Kukis, further exacerbating the already volatile situation.



Bpat
@B7801011010

Missing posters put up in Manipur

In the one year since violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023, Modi undertook 162 official visits, including 14 overseas trips as of May 4, 2024, but none to the crisis-ridden state.



13:50 · 16 Aug 24 · 4,054 Views



Sushma Sharma
@SushmaSh22

Not just anti #Independence, Came across something shocking. Hindi has been banned by #Meitei dominance in #Manipur since long. No songs can be played. What is BJP doing?

Check this how #Meitei calling themselves bharatiya and banning hindi songs and movies. Playing many roles at all levels Why is government silent? #dilematvi #Kursk #IndianIndependenceDay



15:57 · 16 Aug 24 · 520 Views

ASSAM RIFLES SUPPORTS MEITEI STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS AMIDST DEMANDS FOR REMOVAL

Despite ongoing criticism and demands from the Meitei community for the withdrawal of the Assam Rifles from the state, recent developments reveal a significant act of support from the paramilitary force towards Meitei students affected by violence.

In a notable gesture, the Assam Rifles has facilitated scholarship assistance for four Meitei students to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology at a prestigious university in Gujarat. The students were selected through a comprehensive process that included academic coaching and personality assessments. Each student has been awarded a full scholarship covering admission and tuition fees amounting to Rs 20 lakhs for the 2024 academic year.

The Assam Rifles, acknowledging the students' challenges, approached the Vice Chancellor of the Gujarat-based University to secure the fee waiver. This initiative underscores the Assam Rifles' commitment to supporting education and providing opportunities amidst the ongoing ethnic conflict.

The selected students, along with their guardians, were officially flagged off at Imphal Airport by the Assam Rifles. They departed on Indigo Flight 6E-2417 at 1:50 PM, en route to Ahmedabad, where they will be under the care of the Bal Vidya Mandir Samiti until permanent hostel arrangements are made.



Additionally, the Assam Rifles has extended financial support to cover the students' initial settling-in costs and other educational expenses.

This move comes in the face of persistent criticism from the Meitei community, which has accused the Assam Rifles of bias towards the Kuki community and has called for their removal from the state. The community even celebrated the recent replacement of the Assam Rifles by the Border Security Force (BSF) as a victory. The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) had previously met with the Union Home Minister to advocate for the removal of the Assam Rifles.

The scholarship initiative highlights a contrasting narrative to the prevalent criticism, reflecting the Assam Rifles' ongoing efforts to contribute positively to the affected communities despite the challenging environment.



**The revolution is like a bicycle.
When the wheels don't turn, it falls.**

— Marjane Satrapi



FEATURED ARTICLE

Article 371-C Provides for “Hill Areas” and Maintaining Its Sanctity

Ngaranmi Shimray

Is the proposal to redraw district boundaries for administrative convenience a hegemonic design to encroach on tribal lands in “Hill Areas” in violation of Article 371-C and expand the land of valley districts? Article 371-C has given the area coverage of “Hill Areas” of Manipur and it therefore prevents alienation of tribal lands from “Hill Areas” and made part of a non-Hill Areas.

Unwittingly a tribal MLA from “Hill Areas” of Manipur has highlighted inconveniences faced by some tribal villagers in “Hill Areas” adjoining valley districts to access district headquarters in Hill districts without realising and understanding ramifications of his utterance. The Chief Minister shrewdly seized the opportunity and suggested to redraw boundaries of districts purely for administrative convenience and not on ethnic lines. This idea is fine as long as the arrangement of redrawing the boundaries of districts are between/among districts in the “Hill Areas”, but not transferring to non-Hill Area districts as it will certainly be a violation of the Constitution if tribal lands of “Hill Areas” is transferred to a valley district outside “Hill Areas”.

MLAs from the “Hill Areas” and the Chief Minister have forgotten that the definition of “Hill Areas” has been given under Article 371-C of the Constitution. The details

of the jurisdiction of the “Hill Areas” among other things, provided under Article 371-C, have been notified in the Presidential Order dated 20th June 1972 and in the “First Schedule” which defines the “Hill Areas” as follows:-

“THE FIRST SCHEDULE

[See paragraph 2(c)]

HILL AREAS

(1) Manipur North, Manipur East, Manipur West and Manipur South revenue districts.

(2) Chandel, Chakpikarong and Tengnoupal revenue sub-divisions of the Manipur Central revenue district.

Explanation: Any reference to a revenue district or revenue sub-division in this schedule shall be construed as a reference to the areas comprised within that district or sub-division, as the case may be, on the 1st day of April, 1972.”

In 1972, Manipur had four revenue districts, apart from Central district, and three revenue sub-divisions which were referred to as “Hill Areas”. These “Hill Areas” districts are the present day

Contd.

Contd.

districts of Senapati (including Kangpokpi), Ukhrul (including Kamjong), Tamenglong (including Noney), Churachandpur (including Pherzawl) and Chandel (including Chakpikarong sub-division and Tengnoupal district). The definition of “Hill Areas” has also been given in the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971 which was enacted when Manipur was a “Part C State” without legislative powers.

Section 2(f) is reproduced below:-

“Section 2 (f) “Hill Areas” means the Hill Areas determined by the President by any notification issued under sub-section (2) of section 52 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 (20 of 1963) and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act;” This definition has now been replaced by the definition given in the Presidential Order dated 20th June 1972 read with Article 371-C.

Article 371-C is reproduced below for ready reference. “Special provision with respect to the State of Manipur.

(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the President may, by order made with respect to the State of Manipur, provide for the constitution and functions of a committee of the Legislative Assembly of the State consisting of members of that Assembly elected from the Hill Areas of that State, for the modifications to be made in the rules of business of the Government and in the rules of procedure of the Legislative Assembly of the State and for any special responsibility of the Governor in order to secure the proper functioning of such committee.

(2) The Governor shall annually, or whenever so required by the President, make a report to the President regarding the administration of the Hill Areas in the State of Manipur and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to the State as to the administration of the said areas.

Explanation.—In this article, the expression “Hill Areas” means such areas as the President may, by order, declare to be Hill areas.”

As stated in the “Explanation” given under Article 371-C, “Hill Areas” have been defined and specified in the “First Schedule” of the Presidential Order dated 20th June 1972. Article 371-C also provides for a Hill Areas Committee (HAC) consisting of members of Assembly elected from “Hill Areas” and its functions are specified in the “Second Schedule” of the Presidential Order dated 20th June 1972. This Order has given the Governor special responsibility to report annually to the President of India on the administration of “Hill Areas”. There are many other laws of the state wherein “Hill Areas” have been defined in accordance with the provision of Article 371-C.

The idea of tweaking with the boundaries between “Hill Areas” and “Valley” for administrative convenience would be a clear violation of the Constitution. Besides this, it will create several problems. Kangpokpi district has appendages on the eastern and western flanks of Imphal valley. The geography of these appendages provokes simplistic thoughts of carving out the appendages of Kangpokpi district and amalgamating them either with hill districts or valley districts. However, on account of Article 371-C, no portion of the “Hill Areas” can be alienated and made part of the valley district as they will lose their sanctity of being part of “Hill Areas” and violate Article 371-C.

Further, modification of boundaries of Hill districts and amalgamating part of “Hill Areas” to valley districts will have other ramifications. It will disturb the boundaries of district council constituencies, Assembly constituencies and parliamentary constituencies creating political controversies.

Contd.

Contd.

Tribal villages in “Hill Areas” along with their land and population will shift into the valley district and it could result in reduction of the number of Assembly constituencies for “Hill Areas”. With administrative convenience in mind, modification of district boundaries is going to be a one-way traffic of enlarging the area of the valley districts by carving out tribal villages with lands from “Hill Areas” and not the other way round. Opposition, resistance and complications will be caused as many tribal villages in “Hill Areas” will find themselves under the Panchayati Raj institutions and outside district council administration, village authorities administration and Hill House Tax regime. This is due to the fact that the concerned laws, as their title states, are only applicable to the “Hill Areas” of Manipur viz. Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971; the Manipur (Village Authorities in Hill Areas) Act, 1956 and the Manipur Hill Areas (House Tax) Act, 1966.

Furthermore, tribal villages transferred to valley districts will be deprived of grants under Article 275(1) as their village will fall outside “Hill Areas”. What the people of Tamenglong had suggested earlier was to allow some Zeliangrong villages in “Hill Areas” of other hill districts to be brought under Tamenglong district which are all within “Hill Areas”. This suggestion of transferring some villages from other “Hill Areas” districts to Tamenglong district “Hill Areas” will not violate Article 371-C as the land adjustment/transfer will be done within “Hill Areas” of hill districts and the sanctity of “Hill Areas” will not be disturbed. Similarly, there will be no difficulties if the eastern and western appendages of erstwhile Sadar Hills is amalgamated with the adjoining hill districts. In short, areas of a hill district in “Hill Areas” can be increased or diminished by altering boundaries between/among hill districts within “Hill Areas”. However, transferring “Hill Areas” land to any valley district which are in non-hill areas cannot take place as it will violate the purpose and sanctity of “Hill Areas” protected under Article 371-C of the Constitution.

Members of Hill Areas Committee, comprising of 20 MLAs, 19 reserved and one unreserved constituencies, elected from “Hill Areas”, especially the Chairperson of Hill Areas Committee have Constitutional duty of objecting to the idea of Chief Minister for redrawing district boundaries purely for administrative convenience or any other purpose by amalgamating tribal villages in “Hill Areas” to valley districts as it would violate the provision of “Hill Areas” specially provided under Article 371-C. Besides this, any attempt to redraw district boundaries between hill districts and valley districts will have political ramifications on district council, assembly, parliamentary constituencies; village authority administration; hill house tax; traditional and customary practises of tribes, implementation of grants under Article 275(1) besides upsetting the current delicate relationship between Hill people and valley in an already troubled State. Such move has the potential of triggering a wider conflict between hill tribes and valley community.

In the midst of an already tensed ongoing Meitei and Kuki-Zo ethnic conflict, Manipur is currently under threat of yet another potential issue for conflagration created by the demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status by Meitei community. The ST demand by Meitei organisation as well as the idea of redrawing of districts boundary by the Chief Minister, would be perceived as threats from the dominant community targeting to take over of tribal lands in the “Hill Areas” of Manipur. Land is an emotive issue which triggers conflicts/wars and there will be fierce objections and resistance from the tribes. The twin assaults on tribal lands in “Hill Areas”, would only push the tribes in “Hill Areas” to consider some other alternative of safeguarding their land, and that could be demand for union territory or State to free themselves from constant

Contd.

Contd.

attack on tribal lands. The loud thinking of Chief Minister, if proceeded further, will be yet another potential trigger for conflagration of conflict. The idea for redrawing district boundaries needs to be withdrawn, clarified and shelved straight away before further tension is added to an already vitiated atmosphere between people of hills and valley.

A piece of advice. MLAs from "Hill Areas" should seriously consider the ramifications of suggestion made by the Chief Minister. The time has come for MLAs from "Hill Areas" to read and understand relevant provisions of the Constitution of India and Acts thoroughly, particularly Article 371-C and the Presidential Order dated 20th June 1972; definition given in section 2(f) and functions in section 29 of the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971; Article 275(1) regarding grants for ST areas; Article 342 regarding ST status and the Orders of Scheduled Tribes issued in respect of Manipur and other north eastern states; Article 244 and Article 244-A along with the Sixth Schedule regarding self government empowered to ten autonomous district/

territorial councils in four north eastern states. Reading these documents is crucial to fight and respond to various attempts being made by the dominant community to keep Manipur tribals subjugated and backward. If MLAs are interested to understand the genesis of Article 371-C, they should read Section 52 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963.

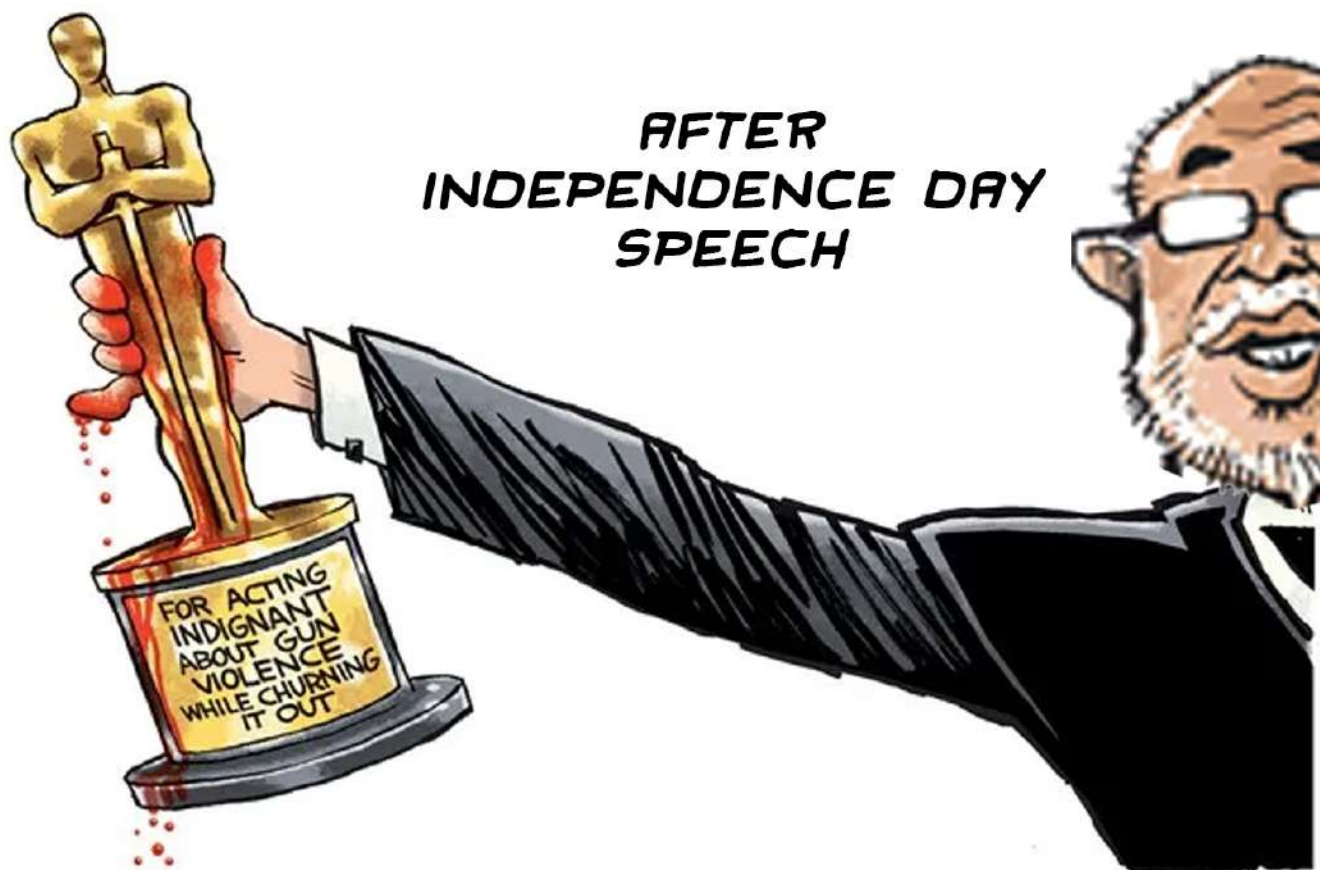
Maintaining the sanctity of "Hill Areas" of Manipur and its jurisdiction is crucial for existential survival of Manipur tribes and for safeguarding against hegemonic onslaught of the dominant community and keep the tribes subjugated.

Published by: [Ukhrul Times](#)

(Ngaranmi Shimray is an activist and political observer based in New Delhi. Views are personal. Shimray2011@gmail.com. Feedback/comment @ Aran Shimray on X)



**AND THE
OSCAR
AWARD FOR
HYPOCRISY
GOES TO.....**



WE ARE IN THE SAME BOAT



We are in the same boat, our fates intertwined,
 Bound by the blood of ancestors, a brotherhood designed.
 From the valleys to the hills, our roots run deep.
 Yet a crisis of leadership makes our hearts weep.
 For though we share blood, our paths have diverged,
 A union of hearts yet to be urged.

Thadou, Paite, Hmar, and Kom, too,
 Aimol, Anal, Chothe, Maring's song,
 Gangte, Mate, Simte, Vaiphei, Zou, where we belong.
 Khongsai, Haokip, Kipgen, Chong-Hang, and other clans might,
 We are bound by the rhythm of one beating heart,
 In the same boat, we face the same test.

Our leaders may falter, and shadows may grow,
 Unknown leaders, old and new wounds, countless tears,
 Together we stand, yet apart we roam,
 Seeking our place, in a divided home.
 But deep within, our blood calls out,
 For unity, for strength, without a doubt.

Though unknown shadows keep us apart,
 We are one in blood, in soul, in heart.
 Brothers and sisters, we must not forget,
 In unity, our strength is set.
 For we are in the same boat, sailing as one,
 Under the same sky, beneath the same sun.

Let the winds of change guide us near,
 For together, we conquer, together, no fear.
 Our journey is long, the seas may be rough,
 But together, our bond is enough.
 One blood, one boat, we cannot break,
 Brothers in arms, our future we make.

We cannot separate, we must unite,
 To face the storm, to win the fight,
 Against the Meetei, our common foe,
 For our ancestral land, our spirits glow.
 One in the fight, one in the pain,
 For Zalen'Gam, for Kukiland's grace.

~THONGMINTHANG LHUNGDIM