

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Maojang RELIEF CENTRE

Maojang Community & Youth Club Hall
Sadar Hills

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 146



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13.03.2024



167
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.

CoTU ADVOCATES FOR HONOURING BUFFER ZONES, SAYS KUKI VOLUNTEERS HAVE MORAL DUTY TO DEFEND THEIR LAND

Raising serious concerns over the alleged unchecked intrusion of Meitei secessionist militants into areas predominantly inhabited by the Kuki community, particularly in Phailengmol areas under Saikul Sub Division of Kangpokpi district, the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District vehemently condemned and opposed the unabated breaching of buffer zones by Meitei secessionists.

The Kuki's top tribal body stated that the Meitei secessionist militants, masquerading as civilians, have been infiltrating Kuki community territories, including villages such as L. Songphel, Saichang, Bongjang, and Bongbal and have been brazenly engaging in illegal activities such as soil pilferage and unauthorized timber logging, exploiting the prevailing circumstances for their selfish gain.

It continued that such actions not only posed a direct threat to the environmental integrity of the region but also jeopardized the livelihoods and security of the indigenous Kuki population.

The Committee reminded the incumbent Chief Minister N Biren Singh and his people to desist from trespassing beyond the buffer zones into the areas dominated by the Kuki community.

In light of the alleged escalating incursions, the Committee emphasized the moral imperative for Kuki Village Volunteers to defend their ancestral land and resources against external threats with all their might, means and resources at their disposal.

The Committee also warned that any untoward consequences resulting from the continued intrusion into Kuki community areas will squarely rest on the shoulders of the current regime, which stands



accused of tacitly sponsoring the systematic annihilation of the Kuki community.

CoTU also underscored the urgent need for accountability and justice to ensure the protection of the Kuki community's rights and dignity.

While drawing the attention of the central government, the Kuki's top tribal body stated that the intrusion of Meitei secessionists into Kuki community areas represents a flagrant violation of indigenous rights and posed a grave threat to peace and stability in the region.

The Committee urged the immediate and decisive action by the central government to address this pressing issue and called for solidarity and unity among all stakeholders to uphold the dignity and sovereignty of the Kuki people.

DISPLACED PERSONS CAN VOTE FROM RELIEF CAMPS, BUT THOSE IN OTHER STATES WILL BE DENIED VOTING RIGHTS

As the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the election dates on March 16, 2024, the strife-torn state of Manipur has also begun its preparation for the two-phase poll.

Whereas the Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency is scheduled to vote on April 19, the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency will vote on April 19 and 26.

According to ECI, a two-day voting in the Outer Manipur Constituency is necessitated by the unprecedented violence in the state which began on May 3, 2023.

Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Rajiv Kumar, while announcing the poll dates stated that, to make sure that every eligible voters exercise their voting rights, displaced persons will be allowed to vote from relief camps. For this, polling stations will be arranged nearby the relief camps. So far, about 41,425 Kukis have taken shelter in about 180+ relief camps in the Kuki inhabited districts.

However, those who are staying outside the state will not be allowed to cast their votes.

It may be noted that there are 543 constituencies in the Lok Sabha, Indian Parliament's Lower House. Whereas all other constituencies are set to vote on a single day, the Outer Manipur Constituency alone is scheduled to vote on two days. This makes the total number of parliamentary constituencies appear to be 544.

Regarding Security Arrangement, Mr. N. Biren Singh stated to media persons that, a total of 51 companies of paramilitary forces are already present in the state, yet to ensure robust security during elections, the state government has requested for an additional 24 companies.

Though most of the political parties in Manipur are yet to announce their candidature, Laishram Sotinkumar Singh was declared as the Communist Party of India's (CPI) candidate for the Inner Manipur, and for Outer Manipur, the party is likely to support the Congress



candidate. However, the Sotinkumar stated that he is likely to withdraw from the race in case the current crisis is not resolved before the elections.

For the Congress, Mr. Alfred Kanngam Arthur was nominated by the state's party unit to the All India Congress Committee (AICC) for Outer Manipur, but the first interaction program organised by his supporters on March 18 at Ukhrul was reportedly disturbed by "unknown miscreants". According to the Ukhrul Times report, few gunshots were heard while the meeting was about to end which compelled the police on duty to respond by firing in the air.

In the past elections, it was often reported that Alfred was not in good terms with NSCN-IM, the dominant underground outfit among the Nagas of Manipur, who is allegedly more sympathetic towards the NPF party.

The incident came on the same day when the United Naga Council (UNC) announced its support for the NPF candidate though the party is yet to formally announce its candidate. Various reports suggested that the sitting Member of Parliament (MP) Dr. Lorho S. Pfoze is highly touted to be the top contender amongst the intending candidates.

For the ruling BJP, the party leadership remained silent on this though there are expectations for Mr. Biren to relinquish his position as the state CM for a seat in the Lok Sabha as did his counterparts in Assam, Tripura, and Haryana have done. But there is also a social media buzz hinting that the BJP may put up a new face to fight the JNU academic Dr. A. Bimol Akoijam who is expected to be the Congress's candidate for the Inner Manipur constituency.

UNIDENTIFIED MISCREANTS DISTURB INTERACTION PROGRAMME OF ALFRED K ARTHUR AT TK WOODLAND

An interaction programme with Alfred Kanngam Arthur, an intending Member of Parliament candidate for the 18th Lok Sabha polls from the Indian National Congress (INC), was organized on Monday at TK Woodland by like-minded individuals and well-wishers. It is reported that there was a disturbance as the meeting abruptly ended, with gunshots heard from the western side of the venue. Unknown miscreants shot multiple blank fire, prompting a response from police personnel present at the venue. No reports of injury or casualties has been reported.



Despite the interjection, the meeting resumed and concluded as planned.

Source: **Ukhrul Times**

MANIPUR POLICE PERSONNEL VACATE KEZOL TSA AREA: TPO

After the Mao Council informed that police station at the disputed area will be relocated by March 15, Tenyimi Peoples' Organization (TPO) on Sunday informed that the "all police personnel both civil and armed have left/moved out form their camps".

In a statement, TPO president Timikha Koza and general secretary Kathu Rengma, said that the president and officials of TPO along with Mao Council, president Nagaland Zeliang Peoples' Organisation, general secretary Rengma Hoho and president Tenyimi Union Dimapur visited Kezolta/Kozürü/Kazing on March 16. The joint team also visited the abandoned Manipur police camp at the disputed site. TPO said that during the visit, it was found that the Manipur police personnel (civil and armed) vacated their camps.

When contacted, a TPO official said that they were hopeful for a permanent solution to the long-standing dispute. "We hope and believe that with the recent



development of withdrawal of Manipur police, the situation could be amicably contained and will be conducive to arrive at a permanent solution to this long-standing issue amongst the Tenyimi family," TPO stated.

Source: **[Nagaland Post](#)**

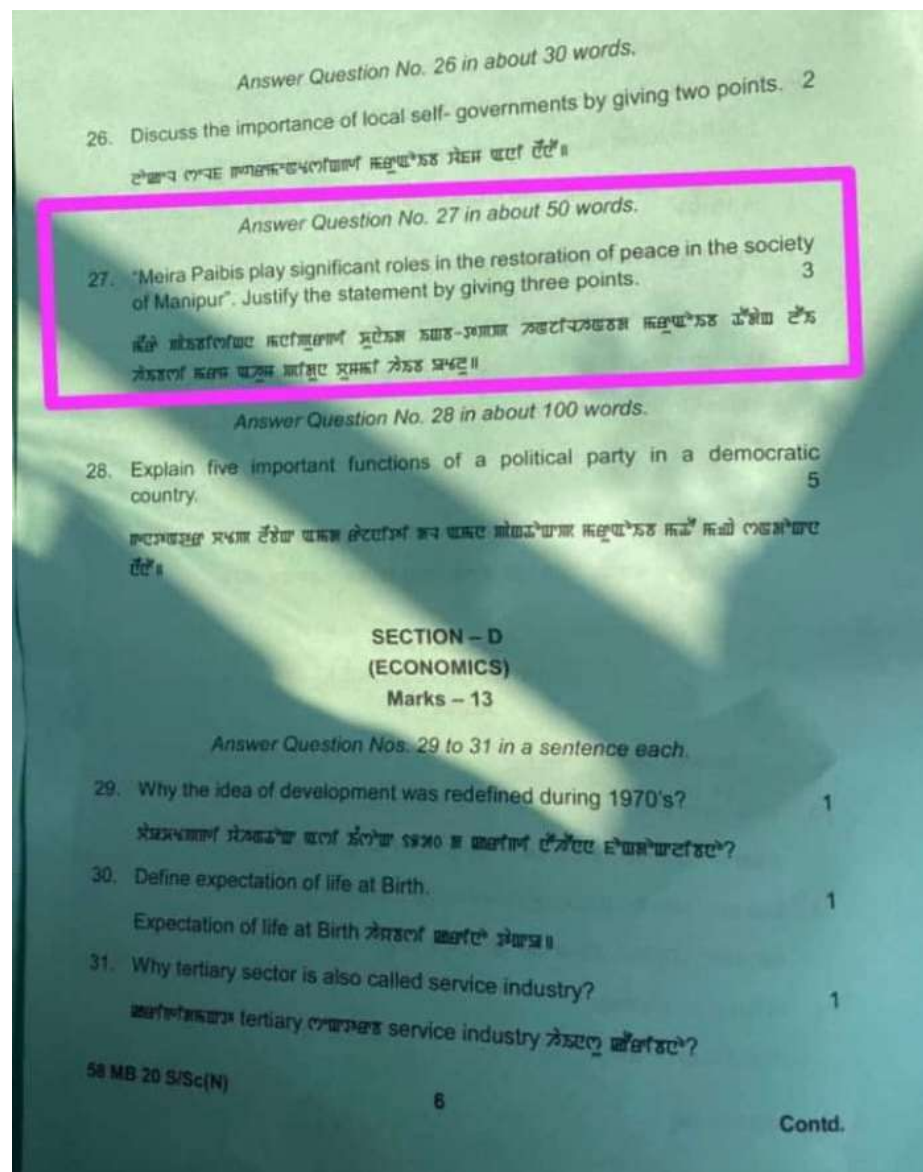
BOARD EXAM QUESTION ON MEIRA PAIBIS IN MANIPUR TRIES TO WHITEWASH THEIR WRONGDOINGS

The ongoing Class-X (HSLC) Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur (BOSEM) went viral on social media platforms for all the wrong reasons again. In an extraordinary situation, one of the questions in section-C (Political Science) of Social Science subject, which falls on March 18, 2024, asked the candidates to give three points to justify the role of “Meira Paibis” in maintaining peace and harmony in Manipur.

Question no. 27 on page 6 says: “Meira Paibis play significant roles in the restoration of peace in the society of Manipur.” Justify the statement by giving three points.’ Asking such questions in the HSLC examination conducted by a statutory body when the whole Kuki community and the world blame the Meira Paibis for taking active part in the current ethnic violence, is not only unexpected but also shows the communal mindset of the educated Meiteis.

It may be noted that, one of the questions in the ongoing Class-XII (HSE) Examination conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM), had also went viral. In the Sociology paper, which falls on March 14, 2024, one of the Multiple Choice Questions was about the year in which the Kuki-Naga conflict occurred in Manipur.

These incidents, which happened in two such important examinations, showed that the Meitei Think-Tank is



hell-bent on inciting communal feeling and hatred to the young minds by taking advantage of the current state-sponsored ethnic cleansing campaign which began on May 3, 2023.

“ Our modern states are preparing for war without even knowing the future enemy. — Alfred Adler



Meitei CSOs Continue Protest Decrying Arrest of UNLF-P Cadres, Proving Their Nexus with Meitei Militants

A few of the Meitei civil society organisations (CSO) have continued their protest against the arrest of UNLF-P cadres, proving their nexus with the Meitei militants. The militants' sympathisers also warned of launching different modes of protest to demand release of the arrested extremists.

Though a few of the Meitei CSOs have decried the arrest of the UNLF cadres, there are some well-known civil bodies who have not utter a word regarding the arrest of the UNLF cadres. This is a clear indication that the Meitei CSOs are divided, depending upon the backing and affiliation of the different groups of the Meitei militants. It is a proof that the Meitei CSOs are set up as pressure groups for the Meiteis' extremist groups.

On Sunday evening a torch or Meira rally was held against the arrest of UNLF (P) cadres at Kwakeithel-Keishampat Imphal West. The Federation of Civil Society Organisations had also launched 24-hour general strike a few days ago even though the HSLC exam began on the same day. The strike resulted in closure of commercial establishments and hindrance to the commuters.

The question here is whether the Meitei CSOs are an independent body or they are a civil wing or body of the Meitei militants.

The newly formed organisations like the FOCs have been playing a vital role and have been in the forefront as soon as the UNLF cadres were arrested. However, the re-knowned apex Meitei CSOs such as the United Committee Manipur, All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation, who had been leading different public movements in the State are still silent over the arrest of the UNLF cadres.

Besides, the valley-based student bodies such as AMSU, DESAM, SUK, SSUM, KSA, AIMS who spearhead any movement for the interest of the Meiteis are also silent mode over the issue till date. However, AMSU came to light since the Union was affected by the UNLF and its factional group.

It was reported that the UNLF Pambei group even set up camps inside the AMSU office in Imphal, thereby resulting in conflict among AMSU executives and members.

**OPINION**

Manipur in India's Northeast Remains in the Grip of Uncertainty and Fear

Rajeev Bhattacharyya

It has been more than ten months since the northeast Indian state of Manipur erupted in ethnic riots that killed hundreds of people and rendered thousands homeless. Violence has receded but sporadic clashes between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities have fueled apprehensions that the government may not have a roadmap in place for bringing the sensitive border state back to the road to normalcy.

While the Meitei majority, who mostly inhabit Manipur's Imphal valley follow Hinduism and Sanamahism, the Kuki-Zo tribal communities are Christian and live in the state's hill districts.

The ongoing turmoil in Manipur was waiting to happen; developments over the past several decades had sharpened the divide between the two communities, and all it needed was a trigger, which came in April last year after the High Court ordered the state government to recommend the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe category to the central government. On May 3, 2023 violence erupted in Manipur following a protest march against the judgment by members of the Kuki and Naga tribes, who inhabit Manipur's hills. There's hardly any doubt that the conflict in Manipur is over resources and ethnicity rather than religion. Issues have piled up, spawning a multi-layered and complex situation.

During my visit to the state's capital, Imphal, between February 23-25, I interacted with a cross-section of people and gained interesting insights into the continuing violence and tensions in Manipur, especially in Imphal valley.

Widening Arc of Arambai Tenggol

On February 28, an unusual episode unfolded in Imphal amid the ongoing crisis in Manipur. Additional Superintendent of Police Moirangthem Amit Singh and his colleague were allegedly abducted from Imphal West by an armed group identified as the Meitei vigilante group Arambai Tenggol. Despite the deployment of security forces, the assailants, numbering around 200, abducted the officers. The police managed to rescue Moirangthem and his colleague within hours. Subsequently, the Manipur Police commandos staged a symbolic protest by laying down their arms in response to the incident.

Everyone in Manipur is talking about the Arambai Tenggol. A radical youth organization that surfaced in the early 2020s to protect the interests of the Meitei community, it has expanded in a brief span of time owing primarily to the insecurity among

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the community over being reduced to a minority in the state. The Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun have filled a void left by the older Meitei insurgent groups, such as the People's Liberation Army, Kanna Yawol Kanna Lup and People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak as they now operate mostly out of camps from Myanmar's Sagaing Region.

The hill districts surrounding Imphal are inhabited by the Naga and Kuki-Zo communities among whom about 30 rebel outfits are active. Out of these, as many as 25 entered into ceasefire agreements with the government. The groups are allegedly flouting ceasefire ground rules such as keeping weapons in designated camps. This was also noticed in neighboring Assam and Nagaland. The colossal quantity of sophisticated weapons available to these groups was a factor that fueled insecurity among the majority Meitei community and also caused the emergence of radical outfits as a shield against the hill-based groups.

While the Arambai Tenggol's growing strength has evoked jubilation among some Meitei youth, a section of the intelligentsia is concerned over the future trajectory of the state, the unresolved issues and if the government would be able to implement effective policies to bring normalcy to the state. Many of those I interacted with are wondering whether the government has a plan to restore normalcy in Manipur.

So far, New Delhi has only announced the decision to fence the India-Myanmar border and terminate the Free Movement Regime between the two countries. The SoO (Suspension of Operations) agreement that was signed between the Kuki-Zo rebel groups and the government ended on February 29.

It seems that the government's plan is only to check further violence and recover as many of the weapons that were looted from the police armories as possible.

Deluge of Guns in Manipur

The situation in Manipur is somewhat similar to some

conflict zones in neighboring Myanmar.

When I was in Kalay last year, I observed that residents had armed themselves with all sorts of weapons ranging from the MK-12 assault rifle and the single-barrel 12-bore gun to hand-made weapons for defending themselves against the military.

Likewise, Manipur is awash with weapons. The overground rebel groups in the hill districts were already well-armed. More weapons became available, especially in Imphal valley, after the police armories were looted last year.

Security forces have been confiscating weapons from different parts of the state. These operations, notwithstanding, there are reports of the Arambai Tenggol and the over ground Pambei-led faction of United National Liberation Front (UNLF) moving around freely with their weapons. On March 4, the UNLF apprehended three persons at Langol with weapons and ammunition on the charge that they were causing trouble and fear' among the public. Excess guns have given birth to gangs of miscreants that were beneficiaries of the weapons looted from police armories.

There are widespread allegations that the Arambai Tenggol and the Pambei-led UNLF are linked to Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and other top political functionaries. Several of Imphal's residents are certain that these allegations are not just speculation but based on hard facts.

They also say they know why the government has turned a blind eye to these armed Meitei militias. "In the hill districts, functionaries of the [Kuki-Zo] rebel groups that entered ceasefire agreements with the government have been moving around with their weapons freely for years. This is a phenomenon discernible in the entire state and not just in Imphal valley. Checking the Arambai Tenggol and the

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UNLF faction could mean an advantage for the hill-based groups,” claimed an academic who did not wish to be named. Incidentally, on March 10, armed Kuki militants killed two youth at Motbung in Manipur.

A Divide Too Wide

While violence in Manipur has receded, the divide between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities remains wide. The boundaries between the two communities are sharply drawn; the Meitei cannot venture into the hills and members of the Kuki-Zo communities do not feel safe to visit the valley.

It could take years to bridge the gulf. Both sides are uncompromising and hardening their stances on their respective positions.

There is wide support among all sections of the Meitei in the valley for the fencing of the 247-mile-long Manipur-Myanmar border, implementation of the National Register of Citizens, deportation of all Myanmar nationals from Manipur and the abrogation of the SoO agreement between the 25-odd rebel outfits of the Kuki-Zo community and the government.

On the other hand, the Kuki-Zo are refusing to budge from their demand for a separate administrative unit in the hill districts they inhabit in Manipur.

Over the past many months, a sizeable chunk of Kuki-Zo residents from Manipur has relocated to other states and capitals, including Guwahati in Assam. They are mostly from Imphal where their residences were either burned or they were forced to flee for safety. Given the authority that is being wielded by the radical outfits and rebel groups, which are growing in number in Manipur, there is little chance of the displaced families from either the Meitei or the Kuki-Zo communities returning to resettle in their original places of habitation in the near future.

Are Efforts on to Bring Separatist Groups From Myanmar?

Rumors are circulating in Imphal that a non-government organization is trying to negotiate ceasefire agreements between the government and the separatist groups from the Imphal valley that are sheltering in Myanmar, similar to the one that was signed with a faction of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) last November. The rationale of these efforts stem from the increasing vulnerability of these groups, in Myanmar’s Sagaing Region, where most of their camps are located and which is a stronghold of resistance to the military regime.

In a series of interviews to this correspondent last year, leaders of several resistance groups in Myanmar alleged that the Meitei separatist outfits, the Zomi Revolutionary Army and a section of the Shanni community in the region were collaborating with the military against the resistance movement. Many clashes between the resistance groups and the Meitei outfits have been reported over the past three years.

The fate of the Meitei outfits is dependent upon the position of the junta. They could find themselves in a defenseless position if the military is unable to retain its hold over the region.

In fact, barring a few instances, the military has been unable to recover territories it has lost to the resistance groups. This apart, the fence to be erected along the Manipur-Myanmar border will work against the interests of the separatist groups.

First published by [The Diplomat \(Click to read\)](#)



THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

Reports of Manipur Police dismantling an Anglo-Kuki war memorial stone are deeply troubling. This act violates the law and raises serious concerns about their motives. Is the govt using them to incite violence against the Kukis? It's fueling tensions and exacerbating conflict.



9:13 pm · 18 Mar 24 · 145 Views



Sushant Singh
@SushantSin



The use of the term "miscreants" in any media report about a criminal activity in Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley is a clear giveaway.

eastmojo.com/manipur/2024/0...

"Manipur: Miscreants rob Rs 1.5 lakh from fuel station"



eastmojo.com
Manipur: Miscreants rob Rs 1.5 lakh from fuel station

11:13 pm · 17 Mar 24 · 4,034 Views

Post MORTEM

THOUGHT OF THE FRONTLINERS





Nobody knows but the ones who fought and bled

Unless you're a warrior defending your forefathers' land,
You'll never fully understand what I've seen
You'll never know about the wounds I don't talk about.

I left home at 18 and learned how to kill another human being because my
forefathers' land will bleed if I don't.
I left my family at 18, missing birthdays, graduations and so much more
I have a dream too like all my friends in school and they probably must be attending
college by now
While I sit here with a bullet and a gun.
I don't get enough sleep and I sleep with a hungry stomach most nights.

Unless you're a warrior coming face to face with the enemy,
You'll never fully understand how the blink of an eye could kill me or kill the enemy.

Unless you're a warrior walking on your father's graveyard,
You'll never fully understand why mothers hate the missing man table.

I left my home and family before breaking dawn
Because I hate farewells in daylight.
I don't know when I may go home and see my family again.
I'm just 18 and I still fight over Messi and Ronaldo with my younger brother.
I'm just 18 and I don't know much but I know
That the greatest warriors die sometimes...

- *Jacquelyn Laltanpuii Suantak*