

# Thingkho Le Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Ngoiphai RELIEF CENTRE

Ngoiphai Village, Lamka

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

**Total Inmates Registered: 74\***

■ Male: 38	■ Female: 36
------------	--------------

\*As on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2023



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 10.01.2024



**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.

# KANGPOKPI'S KUKI-ZO TRIBAL BODY DEMANDS ADDITIONAL CENTRAL SECURITY FORCES IN PERIPHERAL AREAS



The top Kuki-Zo tribal body in Kangpokpi, the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills urged the Central Government for additional central security forces to man all areas dominated by the Kuki-Zo community, especially in the peripheral area following the attack and torching of houses in the Kuki-Zo Maphou dam village.

The committee alleged that on January 18 evening, residential houses and properties belonging to the Kuki-Zo community were razed to ashes by armed meitei militants.

The committee stated that Maphou Dam is the village of the country's martyr (L) Paotinsat Guite alias Sasat Guite, a Sub-Inspector of BSF, 59th Battalion who gave his life defending the country in Jammu, today the people he defended from foreign aggression burnt the remaining houses of his village Maphou.

The committee also condemned the alleged unethical and bias reporting of the valley-based media in connection with the incident.

It alleged that even in an incidence of attack or aggression by the majoritarian Meitei against the minority Kuki-Zo, the valley-based media always points the Kuki-Zo community to be the perpetrator and wondered as to how the Kuki-Zo populace would attack their own villages. It is common sense to understand that peace always prevails until shattered by armed meitei militants donning state police uniforms and carrying sophisticated weapons looted from state armouries including vehicles and logistics.

The Committee thus urged the Central Government to arrange for additional central security forces to man all areas dominated by the Kuki-Zo community, especially along the prone bordering areas such as the Phailengmol Area while urging to uphold the Union Home Minister's instruction of maintaining security in the hill areas by the central security forces and the valley to be left upon the state security forces.

# SPECULATION SURROUNDS ANOTHER POTENTIAL RESIGNATION DRAMA IN MANIPUR

After a highly theatrical resignation drama in June 2023 orchestrated by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, rumors are now circulating on various social media platforms about the potential resignation of the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues.

According to reports, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, along with his cabinet colleagues from both the hills and the valley, and the MLAs, have collectively decided to present demands to the Central government regarding the state. They have cautioned that all of them will resign unless these urgent issues are addressed.

A highly reliable source revealed that the Chief Minister held extensive and serious discussions with as many as 32 legislators at his Secretariat, lasting from 4 pm to 8:30 pm today. However, a final decision on the resolution could not be reached due to the absence of certain legislators during the meeting, according to the source. The meeting is scheduled to continue at 11:30 tomorrow to arrive at a conclusive decision.

Political observers analyzing the Manipur situation suggest that this might be another high-profile political maneuver, a strategic play by the chief minister. It is worth noting that the chief minister is facing considerable pressure from his own community, particularly after the recent deaths of police personnel in Moreh. There have been incidents of women and angry mobs attempting to storm his bungalow in the past few days.

Interestingly, Meitei MLAs who oppose the leadership of Mr. Biren Singh are currently in Delhi, briefing central leaders about the need for a change of leadership in the Manipur government. Absentees from the meeting included MLAs like Karam Shyam, Paonam Brojen, Th Radheshyam, Nishikant Sapam, Kh Raghmani,



L Rameshwor, and S Rajen, all of whom are in Delhi advocating for a change in Chief Minister.

Additionally, the private armed militia of Biren Singh, Arambai Tenggol, has called for a meeting of all Meitei MLAs on January 24 at Kangla. The order issued by Arambai Chief Korounganba has warned of dire consequences if any MLA fails to attend the said meeting. This move is seen as a well-calculated strategy by CM N. Biren to activate his Plan B in order to secure his position as the chief minister. Many informed Meiteis are aware of the underlying intention behind the formation of Arambai Tenggol, which appears to be aimed at protecting CM N. Biren's position by posing as a national army for the Meiteis. The group silences any dissenting voices against the current administration led by Biren. The proposed meeting by Arambai Tenggol seems designed to disrupt the activities of dissident MLAs currently in Delhi advocating for the removal of Biren from the CM chair."

# INDO-MYANMAR BORDER TO BE FENCED SOON, SAYS HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH

The Union government will soon fence the 1,643 km border between India and Myanmar, and will consider ending its free movement regime (FMR) agreement with the neighbouring country, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

The FMR, implemented in 2018 as part of India's Act East Policy, allowed residents of both countries living along the border to travel up to 16 km into each other's territory without a visa. Ending the agreement will restrict this movement.

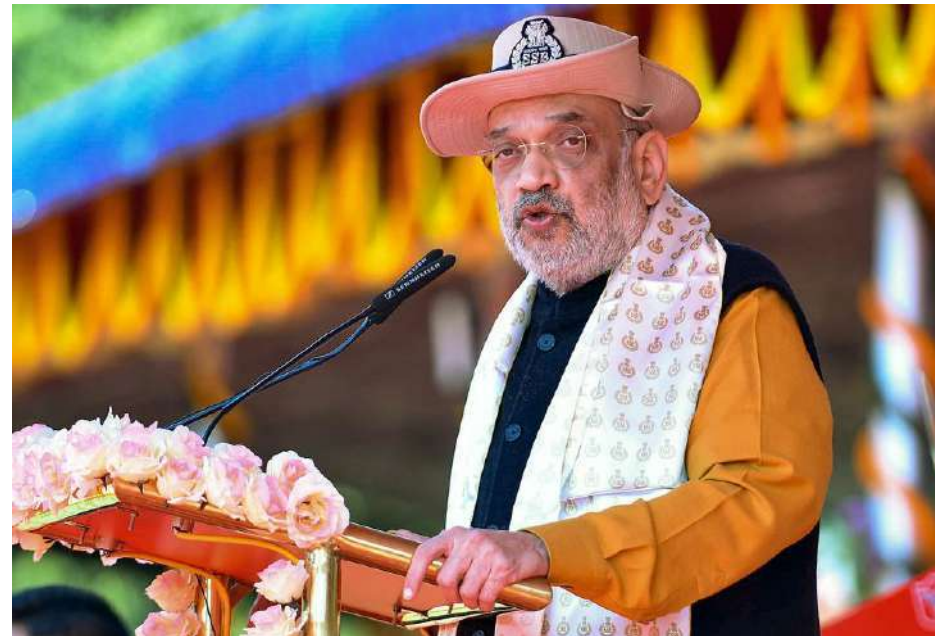
"I want to tell my friends in Assam that the Narendra Modi government has decided to fence India's open border along with Myanmar just like we have fenced the country's border along with Bangladesh," Mr. Shah said, while addressing the passing-out parade of 2,551 Assam Police commandos in Guwahati.

Much of India's 4,096 km border with Bangladesh has been double-fenced to stop the unauthorised entry of people into India, a major concern for the northeastern States, especially Assam.

## 'No more free movement'

"The government is also reconsidering India's FMR agreement with Myanmar and will soon end the free movement into India," Mr. Shah said.

Manipur wants the Myanmar border to be fenced, and the free entry of Myanmar nationals, accused of stoking the ongoing ethnic conflict, stopped. Mizoram and Nagaland, on the other hand, are against the dual move on the Myanmar front as the people on either side of the international border in those States belong to the same ethnic communities.



Some 30,000 Chin people from civil war-torn Myanmar have also taken shelter in Mizoram since February 2021.

## Ending the Naxal problem

While addressing the 60th Foundation Day of the Sashastra Seema Bal in north-central Assam's Tezpur earlier in the day, Mr. Shah claimed that the entire country would be 100% free from the Naxal problem within the next three years under the Narendra Modi-led government.

He accused the Congress of having kept alive both Naxalism and the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir. He also slammed the previous Congress regime for fanning the culture of paying bribes to get government jobs, which he said was now a thing of the past.

On the pran pratistha ceremony for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, he said that Lord Ram would return home after 550 "disrespectful" years. (Source: The Hindu)

# DISREGARD FOR GOVERNMENT PROPERTY BY MEITEIS: ANOTHER ATTEMPTED RAID ON ARMORY

In a recent happening, a Meitei mob attempted to loot weapons from an Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) camp in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Thursday night, resulting in gunfire that injured five youths, two of them critically, officials reported on Friday.

The incident unfolded after a rally held at Ningthoukhong Kha Khunou locality of the same district, protesting over the alleged killing of four civilians, including a father and son, by Village Volunteers earlier that day.

The peaceful protest escalated into the mob attempting to breach the camp of the 2nd IRB Battalion in Naransena area, aiming to pilfer arms and ammunition from the camp's armory.

A clash with the forces ensued. IRB and BSF personnel stationed at the camp intervened to control the situation, resorting to firing to thwart the looting attempt.

Five individuals—Huirem Boynao (21), Oinam Umakanta (24), Pebam Sana (21), Oinam Naobi (29), and Kongkham Tondonba (46)—sustained gunshot wounds and were rushed to Raj Medicity, Imphal, for treatment. The conditions of Huirem Boynao and Pebam Sana, who suffered chest and head injuries, respectively, are reported to be critical.

Amidst the ongoing violence in Manipur, multiple incidents of armory looting, particularly by the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei mobs, have been documented. Notably, on 1st November 2023, around



*Pic: Representational Image*

700 suspected radicalized Meitei individuals stormed the 1st Bn. Manipur Rifle campus with the intent to snatch arms and ammunition.

The repercussions of such incidents extend beyond theft, as Meitei youths, particularly the Arambai Tenggol members, have been using the looted arms to attack Kuki villages. Disturbingly, these individuals openly display the looted automatic weapons in public gatherings, sharing videos and photos on social media.

Despite the authorities being aware of the identity of Arambai Tenggol leaders and members, no action has yet been taken to recover the looted arms, raising concerns about the lenient approach towards these activities by the state government and the political motivation behind such leniency."

# ARMED GROUP ARAMBAI TENGGOL LEADER LECTURES AT IMPHAL UNIVERSITIES, SPARKS CONCERN OVER ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, RADICALIZATION IMPACT

Challenging the fundamental principles of academic institution, the leader of the armed group Arambai Tenggol, Korounganba Khuman, is seen delivering lecture to students at Dhanamanjuri University and Ibotombi Institute of Education in Imphal. It is indeed puzzling how an individual associated with an armed group and radicalization of youths and students is granted a platform in an educational institution designed for the cultivation of knowledge.

The decision to allow a terrorist leader to lecture at a university is not only morally reprehensible but also poses a grave threat to the principles of education and security. It undermines the core values of academic institution, which are meant to foster knowledge, critical thinking, and the pursuit of truth. Allowing a platform to a figure associated with violence and terror sends a wrong message to students, compromising the integrity of the educational environment.

It is a disservice to the community and the nation, as universities are meant to be places where ideas are exchanged for the betterment of the society. Welcoming a terrorist leader not only legitimizes their action but also puts the safety and well-being of students and faculty at risk. Educational institution should prioritize the safety and intellectual and cognitive development of their community members, and hosting such figure with links to terrorism contradicts the fundamental principles.

Furthermore, it could have legal implications, as supporting or providing platform for individuals associated with terrorism goes against the law and norms that aim to maintain national security. It is crucial for universities to uphold ethical standards and ensure that their platforms are not misused to propagate violence, hatred, or ideologies that pose a threat to the well-being of the society they serve.



The current intense admiration or following for the Arambai Chief is unparalleled, as he manages to influence and radicalize the minds of young and impressionable Meiteis who may struggle to distinguish between right and wrong. Many Meiteis perceive him as a messianic figure, unaware of the potential long-term repercussions for the society. Numerous intellectuals who have voiced concerns about the alarming consequences of this radicalization have faced criticism and censure from the armed group, instilling a sense of fear among Meiteis and inhibiting their expression of opinions on various issues affecting their society.

# MANIPUR GOVERNOR RAISES STATE'S ISSUE IN PLENARY OF NEC IN SHILLONG

Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey on Friday raised the prevailing situation in Manipur in the 71st Plenary of the North Eastern Council (NEC) held in Shillong of Meghalaya under the chair of Union home minister Amit Shah. Union minister of DoNER G Kishan Reddy, Union minister of state for DoNER BL Verma, Governors and chief ministers of northeastern states and senior officers of the Union ministry of home affairs and DoNER were among other who attended the meeting chaired by the Union home minister.

A press communiqué of Imphal Raj Bhavan said that during the interaction session, AnusuiyaUikey extended her warm greetings to Union home minister and chairman of the NEC Amit Shah and expressed gratitude to the Central government for continuous support and guidance in the socio-economic development of the northeast region.

In view of the prevailing situation of the state, the Governor informed that many people were presently living in relief camps and they need to be sent to their homes. She stressed the need to immediately give relief amount or interim relief amount to those whose properties have been damaged.

It may be noted that since the outbreak of the ethnic conflict in Manipur, over 60,000 people have been displaced after their houses were torched or damaged. They were currently taking shelter at the relief camps opened in the safer places of the violent hit districts. Uikey suggested providing self-employment and housing to the victims on priority, the communiqué said.

She further stressed that highways will have to be secured to increase trade and business. Tea gardens can be developed in the state as an alternative to poppy cultivation as it will provide alternative business to those who cultivate poppy.



For north eastern states, the Governor suggested that for the implementation of government schemes, a situation arises to pay salaries to the employees from the amount of development works.

To avoid this, a lump sum amount should be given to the state as a grant so that it can be used for paying salaries as per requirement, she added. As Manipur known as the powerhouse of sports in the country, the state Governor suggested that training, encouragement and sports facilities to the players should be increased as there was innate sports talent in the state.

She mentioned that Manipur is a naturally and environmentally rich state and as such, tourism can be promoted there. Manipur's art, culture and handicrafts are of high quality which can be used to increase employment, trade and business, she added.

With the cooperation of the Central leaders, she expressed hope that the state will be back on the path of development and peace in the near future, the press communiqué added.



## MEITEI COMMUNITY'S ANTI-INDIAN STANCE: BAN ON HINDI FILMS, BOYCOTT OF NATIONAL HOLIDAYS REFLECTS ONGOING SECESSIONIST AGENDA

The Meitei community has repeatedly taken an anti-Indian stance on various issues affecting the state, ranging from prohibition of Bollywood movies to boycotting holidays of national importance. The ban on Hindi movies, both in theatres and by cable TV operators, was imposed on 12th September 2000, following a diktat from the Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF), the political wing of the Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA), a Meitei militant group based in the Imphal Valley. Since the release of Shahrukh Khan's 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' in 1998, Hindi movies have been excluded from public screening in the valley. Though English, Manipuri and Korean movies are screened in movie theatres in Imphal, the capital city, Hindi movies have been kept away ever since.

Every year, Meitei militant groups under a common banner boycott holidays of national importance, including Independence Day and Republic Day, as part of their secessionist agenda to detach from the Indian Union—an inherently anti-Indian stance. There is a clear distinction in the aspirations of Meiteis and Kukis; the latter seeks a political solution under the Indian Constitution, while the Meitei insurgent groups demand an independent Meitei Kingdom, expressing their desire to sever ties with the Indian government and alter India's geographical boundaries.

Persisting in their secessionist endeavours, numerous Meitei influencers and social activists advocate for the



hoisting of 'Black Flags' on the upcoming India's Republic Day on January 26. Displaying black flags on holidays of national importance is considered an anti-Indian act, symbolizing dissent or opposition to the nation's significance and unity. It contradicts the spirit of patriotism and solidarity, conveying a message of protest or disapproval towards the values and principles associated with these crucial occasions. Such action may be perceived as undermining the collective identity and shared heritage of the nation, going against the spirit of unity and celebration on these special days.

The Meiteis have consistently opposed anything associated with Indians, with various instances of violence against mainland Indians in the Imphal valley. Racial discrimination, Taxation, Ransom and Loot on mainland Indians in the Imphal valley has also been a longstanding issue.



**Better to die fighting for freedom than  
be a prisoner all the days of your life..**

*– Bob Marley*



**FEATURED ARTICLE**

## **Closing of India-Myanmar Border Will Not Restore Peace in Manipur**

**Angshuman Choudhury**

In better days, the 400-kilometer border between Myanmar and the northeastern Indian state of Manipur was almost an afterthought for the many ethnic communities that straddle the frontier and crisscross it to trade and visit relatives.

These are not such times. On the Myanmar side of the frontier, the country's raging civil war is growing in intensity, with hundreds of civilians dying in government air and artillery strikes in the border regions of Sagaing and Chin. On the Manipur side, civilians have been dying at a high rate too since clashes erupted last May between two of the state's largest ethnic groups.

Against this backdrop, the Indian government this month signaled its intention to revoke the longstanding visa-free mobility regime that covers the Myanmar border and, reportedly, erect fencing along a 300-km stretch.

The cross-border mobility policy, officially called the Free Movement Regime (FMR), was only formalized by New Delhi and Naypyitaw in 2018. Its cancellation stems from a demand by Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, who has said the open border is allowing "illegal immigrants" to enter to stoke violence in his state. Allies have suggested "interlopers" are also smuggling narcotics and arms into Manipur and disturbing the state's ethnic equilibrium.

The conflict in Manipur, though, is between the Meiteis,

who mostly inhabit the Imphal Valley and dominate state political and economic circles, and the Kuki-Zo, a protected tribal community living in the hills around the valley.

The Kuki-Zo population is spread over both sides of the international border, so members are keen to preserve the open frontier and see Meitei demands for a hard border as an assault against their community.

Yet blaming the open border for Manipur's ethnic conflagration is counterproductive. The roots of the current bloody conflict lie inside the state, not beyond its boundaries. Lasting peace can come only when New Delhi encourages the state government to address questions around the sociopolitical marginalization and economic underdevelopment of Kuki-Zo communities and ensures that heavily armed Meitei militias are disarmed and disbanded.

Instead, New Delhi has allowed Singh, who belongs to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, to dodge a political solution in favor of a focus on narrow security concerns.

The FMR thus may be a political red herring to distract from the state's failures in conflict

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

prevention. But closing the border could have devastating consequences. By further alienating the Kuki-Zo, it could end up feeding back into Manipur's cycle of violence.

The federal and state governments should see the open border as an asset, not a liability. It is what makes the India-Myanmar transborder space a unique bridge between two ethnopolitical geographies.

The FMR itself is a distinct policy regime that reflects the coming together of two postcolonial states to challenge and rectify the colonial politics of border-making and demographic partitioning. It is, therefore, a kind of living heritage worth protecting, even a model that other countries might emulate.

Not only the Kuki-Zo have cultural affinities and family ties across the border. The Meitei themselves have long-cherished links with western Myanmar, owing to a history of invasions and forced relocations by Burmese monarchs.

The Nagas, an umbrella group of various congruent tribes, are evenly spread across Sagaing, Manipur and India's Nagaland state. The Singphos of Arunachal Pradesh state are directly related to the Kachin of northern Myanmar. The Mizos of Mizoram state belong to the same ethnic stock as Myanmar's Chin.

By sealing the open border and stopping these local communities from moving across it, India would be pulling apart a rich ethnic tapestry that animates the borderland in spectacular ways.

The open border policy has also allowed a unique political economy to flourish and has protected intergenerational trading practices between local communities on both sides of the frontier. There may be an argument to be made in favor of formalizing part of this border trade, but that can be done without sealing the border and imposing a blanket ban on free movement.

Similarly, it is possible to address security concerns around an unfenced border without erecting fences.

It is true that an open-border policy encourages predatory activities such as the trafficking of drugs and arms. Indeed, the Indian security establishment, especially the Assam Rifles, the paramilitary force tasked with guarding the border, sees the FMR as a challenge. Large-scale cross-border insurgent attacks against Indian forces in 2015 and 2021 have only heightened such concerns.

Yet the impracticality of fencing this rough frontier is widely acknowledged by even the most orthodox security thinkers in India. The border runs through some of India's toughest terrain, cutting through densely forested hills and remote riverine valleys. Successive Indian leaders and security planners have also recognized that fencing off the close-knit border would mean partitioning ethnic communities.

There are ways to put in place robust checks against dangerous trespassing without sealing the border or stopping the movement of local communities. This could entail incorporating new technologies, such as drones, and strengthening existing human intelligence capabilities.

By fencing the border, India risks losing the goodwill of local communities whose cooperation is integral to an effective border management strategy.

Once upon a time, the India-Myanmar border divided two colonies. Then it came to divide two new nations. Today, it risks dividing ethnic communities.

The Indian government needs to step in and stop that from happening. The first step would be to withdraw all plans to seal the border and go back to the drawing board to create a strategy that leverages the openness of this unique frontier at the crossroads of South and Southeast Asia rather than subverts it.

First published by [Nikkei Asia](#)

*(Angshuman Choudhury is an associate fellow with the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.)*

# THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

Chandragupta Chauhan  
@Chandra\_Gupta\_X

The #ModiGovt is now trying to spread #ManipurViolence to other states & burn whole India. Even Tripura #Meiteis are ready to go to #Manipur & kill #Kukis whom they call GARBAGE. #ManipurKukiZoGENOCIDE IS JUST A START OF ENSLAVING WEAKER INDIANS TO SERVE THE UPCOMING DICTATORSHIP



4:04 PM · Jan 20, 2024 · 1,660 Views

Anushka Roy  
@AnushkaRoy57377

#Meitei is compiling random videos, showing their acts of burning #Kuki\_Zo houses, schools & churches in #Moreh, attempting to portray them as victims on crimes they committed. #Manipur Meitei has reached a new level of depravity & unjust. #Manipur\_Violence #VVAL #RamLalia

BHARAT is a Hindu Rashtra @Hindus\_Unity\_ · 21h  
Where are the UN Human Rights Now

#StopGenocideOfMeiteis :  
Can you believe these things are happening in india

Show more



3:38 PM · Jan 20, 2024 · 4,520 Views

## Post MORTEM

### KOROU AT SCRIPTING WORK





# FORWARD MY KINSMEN KUKIS TO THE LAND OF OUR FOREFATHERS

*Forward my kinsmen Kuki brethren march with pride,  
To the land where our forefathers reside(d).  
In the echoes of hills and ancestral calls,  
May victory embrace you Kuki in all.  
A prayer rises for victory strong and clear,  
Against Meiteis foes let no fear appear.*

*Through valleys and rivers your path unfolds,  
In the face of Meitei foes brave and bold.  
Oh! KUKI, may your spirit soar high,  
As you defend with courage 'neath the sky.  
May your algorithms pierce the darkest night,  
Bring triumph to Kuki in the virtual light.  
Forward Kuki brethren let our legacy shine.*

*To the land of our ancestors press ahead,  
In the fight against enemies let none be misled.  
Under the sun's gaze and the moon's soft light,  
March as one in the day and at the night.  
With unity and strength let triumph ignite,  
May Kuki prevail in the challenging fight.*

*Through fields of struggle where honor is sown,  
May the victory of Kukis firmly be known.  
In the tapestry of history weave a tale,  
Of Kuki strength that will never frail.  
Together we stand formidable kin,  
Forward Kuki brethren, let victory begin.  
Forward Kuki brethren, in courage and might,  
To the land of our forefathers radiant and bright.*

*Nihei changbang hung pal'o  
Lenlhang kumkho  
Pupa Gamlei gah mano tading'e  
Pupa Gamlei gah mano tading'e  
Namdang vaihomna noi'a um kachimtai!  
NIKHAT CHU JONA PON SILTEI UHITE!*

*~ Ginkhosiem Haokip*