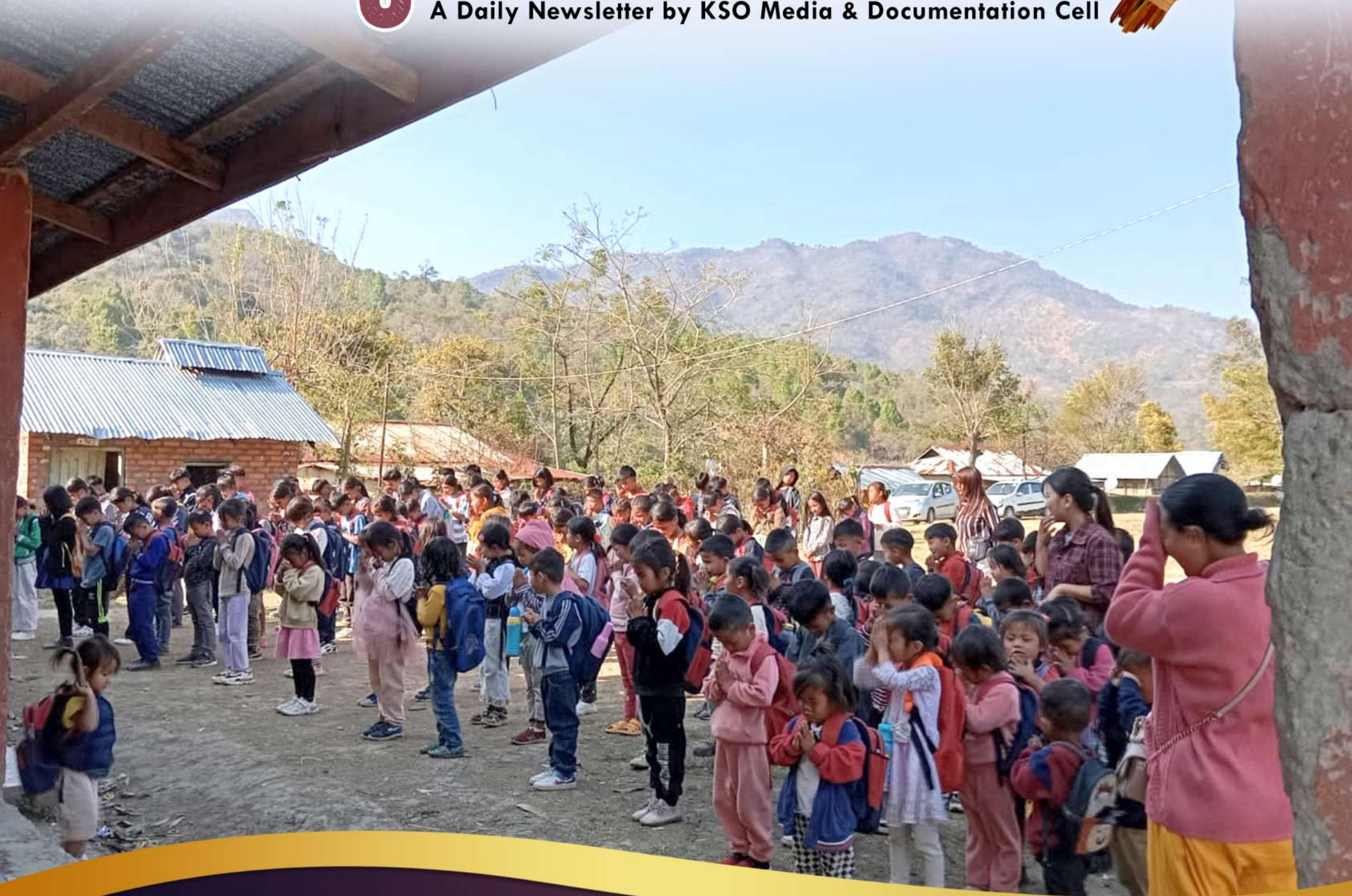


# Thingkho *Le* Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Bungpi LHANGSUNG SCHOOL

Twisomjang Village, Sadar Hills

Managed by  
KSO Bungpi, Kuki Inpi  
& Blossom School

**No. of Students Enrolled: 190+**



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 20.02.2024



**164**  
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.

# MANIPUR HC MODIFIES ITS CONTENTIOUS ORDER ON ST STATUS FOR MEITEIS

A Bench of the Manipur High Court on Wednesday modified its own March 27, 2023 order, ordering the removal of Paragraph 17(iii), which had instructed the Manipur government to consider the inclusion of Meiteis in the list of Scheduled Tribes. This direction is said to have triggered the ongoing ethnic conflict between the Meiteis and the tribal Kuki-Zo communities in the State.

The contentious paragraph said that the State government “shall consider the case of the petitioners for inclusion of the Meetei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list, expeditiously...”, a direction that the Supreme Court of India had called into question when tribal bodies appealed the High Court’s order last year.

When the order was made public and within days of the violence breaking out, tribal bodies such as the All Manipur Tribal Students’ Union were quick to appeal the entirety of the March 2023 order in the High Court. But after a significant delay, the original Meitei petitioners in the case filed a review petition, seeking only that Paragraph 17(iii) be modified, while objecting to the tribal bodies’ right to file an appeal.

## Paragraph deleted

The appeal filed by the tribal bodies remains pending before a Bench headed by Chief Justice Siddharth Mridul, and is set to come up for a hearing on Thursday. The review petition of the Meitei petitioners was, in the meantime, heard and decided by a Bench of Justice Golmei Gaiphulshillu, which dismissed the tribal bodies’ application to be impleaded in the case and delivered its order on Wednesday.

“I am satisfied and of the view that the direction given at Paragraph No. 17(iii) of the Hon’ble Single Judge dated 27.03.2023... needs to be reviewed, as the direction... is against the observation made in the Constitution Bench of the Hon’ble Supreme Court,” the court noted.



While the Meitei petitioners had called for a change in the language, allowing for the State government to exercise its discretion, the court decided to delete the said paragraph altogether.

## ‘Bid to derail appeal process’

Advocate Colin Gonsalves, who has been arguing for tribal bodies in these cases, told The Hindu, “This makes no difference. The rest of the March 27 order remains. So even with the deletion, the effect of the order is the same: the State government is being directed to reply to the Centre on inclusion in the ST list. Our appeal challenges the entirety of this.”

While Paragraph 17(iii) was removed on Wednesday, the previous paragraph of the March 2023 order had also directed the Manipur government to “submit the recommendation in reply” to the Union government.

The tribal bodies have argued that the Meitei petitioners, in this case, members of the Meitei Tribes Union, had deliberately filed their review petition with the intent to derail the appeal process and have their way with a “lesser but similar in effect” order. They argued that even though one part had been deleted, the other part, which has the same effect, remains.

*Contd.*

**'Sabotaging tribal appeal'**

Throughout the review proceedings, neither the Manipur government nor the Union government filed any counter-affidavit, with the High Court recording that "they have nothing to say as they have not received any instructions from their concerned authority".

In the hearings in the appeal case filed by the tribal bodies, Mr. Gonsalves has been arguing that the Meitei petitioners were sabotaging their efforts. "On the one hand, we are not allowed to join the review matter. Our appeal to that remains pending. On the other hand, the appeal matter is being delayed by seeking adjournments," he said.

Meanwhile, members of the All Manipur Bar Association and Manipur High Court staged a day-long sit-in protest in Imphal on Wednesday. Their protest was against the unauthorised entry of the Rapid Action Force in response to an agitation by women activists inside the Cheirap court complex in Imphal on Tuesday. The women were demanding the unconditional release of

six people arrested for looting weapons from an India Reserve Battalion armoury in Imphal East on February 13.

**Conflict trigger**

The March 2023 order of the Manipur High Court's Single Judge Bench of then-Acting Chief Justice M.V. Muralidharan had caused widespread unrest and protests from all tribal communities in Manipur the moment it was made public in April. Within weeks, the agitation spilled over into violence in the form of the ongoing ethnic conflict.

This conflict between the Scheduled Tribe hills-based Kuki-Zomi people and the dominant Valley-based Meitei people has gone on since May 3, 2023, and has resulted in the deaths of 200 people so far, injuring thousands of others and internally displacing tens of thousands.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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## ARAMBAI TENGGOL ABDUCTS SIX KUKI VILLAGERS IN JIRIBAM, PEACE COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS AT RISK

Six Kuki villagers from Kaimai area in Tamenglong district were abducted today at around 10 AM in Jiribam, by members of the Arambai Tenggol. The incident occurred when the villagers were traveling towards Silchar for marketing in an Ecco Van from Tamenglong. Prompt action by the Jiribam police led to the rescue of the villagers, who were freed at around 5 PM after signing a statement of understanding.

Jiribam, known for maintaining peace amid the communal tension in Manipur, has been a beacon of hope. Following the attack on the Kuki locality of Raniveng-Mission Compound and Phaitol village on May 4, 2023, by unidentified miscreants, the Jiribam Peace Committee was formed on May 5, 2023. Comprising representatives from all communities including civil and military administrative heads, the committee aims to prevent further violence.



Despite occasional altercations, Jiribam had remained relatively calm. However, today's incident poses a significant challenge to the area's peace process. The Kuki Inpi Jiri, Tamenglong & Noney (KIJTN) has issued an advisory notice urging the Kuki people to avoid traveling to market areas for safety reasons. This incident underscores the fragility of peace efforts in the region.

## REPORTS OF CRIME SURGE IN IMPHAL VALLEY LINKED TO UNLF PAMBEI FACTION DESPITE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

In addition to their active participation in the ongoing violence, the Pambei faction of the United Nations Liberation Front (UNLF) has been implicated in various criminal activities throughout the Imphal valley.

Since the signing of the ceasefire agreement with the Government, there have been numerous reports of abductions, killings, looting, and extortion perpetrated.

The ceasefire agreement appears to have emboldened the group to unleash a reign of terror in the Imphal valley, with many individuals falling victim to their oppressive tactics. They openly brandish weapons in public places and utilize vehicles belonging to the state forces to instill fear among their own people, enforcing their directives on the Meitei populace.

It seems that the signing of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) serves as a permit to engage in their unlawful activities, including illegal extortion, taxation, and kidnapping.

In a latest case of their many atrocities, the president of All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU), Kongbrailatpam Haridev Sharma along with another student leader was abducted by suspected UNLF Pambei faction at the Manipur University gate in the afternoon on Tuesday, officials said.

The whereabouts of the president is still unknown but the other student leader was released at Phayeng village of Imphal West district in the late afternoon, the source said.



The student leaders were returning to their home after attending a meeting at the Manipur University.

Meanwhile, nine powerful women organizations along with AMSU have demanded the immediate release of the students' leader without any precondition.

Th. Devi, Convenor of All Manipur Women's Social Reformation and Development Samaj (NUPI SAMAJ) told the media-persons that there is a piece of information that the AMSU president was reportedly kidnapped by cadres of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF-P). However, the outfit has so far not claimed responsibility for the said case. Notably, the UNLF-P is currently under peace talks with the government at both the centre and state.



**I don't care if I fall as long as someone else picks up my guns and keeps on shooting.**

*– Che Guevara*

# DISCRIMINATION PLAGUES MANIPUR: CONCERNS OVER DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND CONDOLENCES

The long-standing discriminatory practices of the Manipur government towards the Kuki community have been a persistent issue. Despite this, there is an expectation of basic decency, especially during times of mourning.

Discrimination against the Kukis is pervasive across various aspects, including education, essential services, healthcare, and government policies. This discriminatory treatment extends even to matters concerning death.

An illustrative instance of this discrimination is evident in the discrepancy in ex-gratia payments to deceased state police personnel. While S.I Onkhomang Haokip, from the Kuki community, received a sum of Rs 10 Lakhs, Chongtham Anand Singh, from the Meitei community, received a significantly higher amount of Rs 50 Lakhs. Both individuals served in the same department under the same state government.

Another example is the differential treatment by the Manipur Civil Service Association (MCSA) in conveying condolences. While the association offered its condolence to Ngathingshim Lunghar, a 2014 batch MCS officer, it failed to do so for Lunminthang Haokip, another MCS officer who passed away on November 6, 2023. This selective approach to offering condolences, even within the same association, further exacerbates the feeling of discrimination amongst the Kuki community.

The open bias displayed by the MCSA in extending condolences to one individual while ignoring another raised questions about the fairness and equality of an esteemed association of civil servants.

It is notable that Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh, the General Secretary of MCSA, also holding a position as a



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*General Secretary*

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Email: mveto87@gmail.com

### CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

Imphal, the 18th February, 2024

Members of Manipur Civil Service Association are deeply shocked to learn about the sad and sudden demise of our colleague, Mr. Ngathingshim Lunghar on the 18th February, 2024 due to his illness.

2. Mr. Ngathingshim Lunghar, 2014 batch MCS Officer served the State of Manipur in different capacities as member of Manipur Civil Service. The Association lost a gem who is known for his cool and warm hospitality towards everyone.

3. In this hour of grief, MCS Association expresses heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family and prays the Almighty that his soul may rest in peace. The Association also shares grief and sorrow of the bereaved family.

*Manipur Civil Service Association*

Ref. No.: MCSA/2023/04:

Imphal, the 18th February, 2024

Copy to:

1. News Editors, AIR/ Doordarshan/ ISTV/Impact TV are requested for reading out the message as news item.
2. Editor, The Sangai Express (Manipuri Edition) / The People's Chronicle, Imphal to publish the above message as paid advertisement for 2 days.

(Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh)

General Secretary, MCSA

(Laishram Radhakanta Singh)

President, MCSA

Joint Secretary in the Home Department which is responsible for Law and Order and overseeing the Commission of Inquiry into the Manipur Violence, is implicated in this discriminatory behavior.

The presence of such biased individuals in a crucial position within the government raise concerns about the integrity and fairness of the decision-making processes within the Home Department.

# ST DEMAND COMMITTEE RESPONDS TO ANSAM, SAYS OPPOSITION TO MEITEI ST DEMAND MAY LEAD TO UNNECESSARY MISUNDERSTANDINGS

The Schedule Tribe Demand Committee (STDCM) appealed to all other communities in Manipur, especially the “indigenous ones”, to not oppose Meitei/Meetei’s ST status demand while apprising that their demand does not intend to infringe upon the interests of other communities already included in the ST list.

STDCM issued a press release on Wednesday in response to the Memorandum submitted by All Naga Students’ Association, Manipur (ANSAM) to the Governor of Manipur on February 17, opposing STDCM’s demand for inclusion of indigenous Meitei/Meetei tribe of Manipur in the ST list.

The release stated that STDCM finds ANSAM’s step unfortunate and uncalled for and added that if ANSAM or any other organization or community has grievances, they should approach the State Government for redressal instead of opposing a fellow indigenous tribe’s claim for Constitutional safeguards.

STDCM stated that an opposition to their demand may lead to unnecessary misunderstandings among the indigenous communities residing in Manipur.

Reiterating that its demand for ST status for the indigenous Meitei/Meetei community is in accordance with the Constitution of India, STDCM added that the Indian Government has established procedures, modalities, and criteria for considering claims for inclusion in the ST list. As such it is for the Government to decide whether such inclusion is justified, stated the release.

The goal is to secure constitutional safeguards for the survival of the indigenous Meitei/Meetei tribe in Manipur, STDCM stated and added that a united effort is needed to address the challenges posed by external forces. It is a constitutional demand crucial for their survival in their ancestral land. Opposing it implies denying their right to survival, which is unjust, stated the release.

STDCM is committed to promoting unity amongst all indigenous communities in Manipur, fostering peaceful co-existence and mutual progress, it added.



*PIC: File Photo*

It will not be wrong to say that the Meitei’s ST demand is the genesis of the present Kuki-Meitei conflict in Manipur. On the 3rd of May 2023, all tribal communities in Manipur, in opposition to the Meitei’s demand for ST, held a solidarity March in all the hill districts and peaceful rallies were conducted at places. However, the Meiteis who underestimated the Kukis responded and set on fire the Anglo-Kuki War Centenary Gate at Leisang Village, Churachandpur on the same day the rally was held. Since then violence escalated in other areas of Churachandpur.

The rally was organised in all other districts as well but the Meiteis chose to attack the Kuki inhabited Churachandpur district. Had they not set the Anglo-Kuki centenary gate on fire, the conflict engulfing the state since then, could have been averted. Meiteis could have gone on with their demand which they claim is in accordance with the Constitution of India. In the same manner, the Kuki or other tribes, if willing can also utilize their fundamental right of “Right to assembly and peaceful protest” against the demand and leave it for the government to decide on the matter.

As TLM has stated in its previous issue, the Meiteis should not be of the opinion that they can dictate every other community within the State to live under their arbitrary control and at their whims and fancies. As they seem to have claimed their rights to demand a certain status from the Government, it is necessary for them to remember that other indigenous communities also do have the right to protest and oppose the ST demand of the Meiteis.

# KUKI THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS EXCELLENCE TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT IBTS GRADUATION 2024



In a defining moment at the 21st graduation ceremony held on February 21, 2024, the spotlight gleams on the extraordinary achievements of the Kuki community at IBTS India Baptist Theological Seminary.

## A Symphony of Academic Brilliance:

**1. Academic Excellence Award:** The pages of achievement unfold with Miss Lamdeithem Sitlhou, M.Div., from Manipur, securing the distinguished Academic Excellence Award. Her unwavering dedication to scholarship echoes through the halls.

**2. Hebrew Award:** Kamlalsiem Singsit, M.Div., carves a niche for excellence by understanding the ancient Hebrew scriptural language, underscoring a profound connection to theological roots.

**3. Social Acceptance Award:** Lamkhanlian Hangshing, Mth Counseling, is lauded for fostering inclusivity and

acceptance within the community, a beacon of camaraderie and unity.

**4. Best Preaching Award:** Lamdeithem Sitlhou, M. Div, captures hearts with the eloquent and impactful delivery of theological messages, earning the esteemed Best Preaching Award.

These accolades, etched in the annals of achievement, not only underscore the academic brilliance but also illuminate the cultural richness of the Kuki community at IBTS.

The graduation event was also attended by the Kuki Students' Organization Kerela, Kuki Worship Service and Eimi Christian Fellowship.



# Bridges On The Borders

**FEATURED ARTICLE**

## Fencing of Indo-Myanmar Border is Not the Solution to the Problems in Manipur

**SK Sood**

The government of India has expressed its intentions to end the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar, especially on the Indian border in the state of Manipur. This was stated by home minister Amit Shah during his address at the Border Security Force (BSF) Raising Day parade on 1 December 2023 at Hazaribag.

While there were reports that the government was also considering fencing the India-Myanmar border, the confirmation of its intentions came from Shah's address during the passing out parade of newly appointed commandos of the Assam Police in Guwahati on 20 January 2024. Shah said, "Our border with Myanmar is an open border. The Narendra Modi government has taken a decision that the India-Myanmar border will be secure and the whole border will be fenced like the Bangladesh border. The government is reconsidering our Free Movement Regime (FMR) agreement with Myanmar and is going to end this ease of coming and going." This announcement comes after reported requests by the chief minister of Manipur to suspend FMR due to ethnic strife in Manipur.

Before we attempt an analysis of the impact of ending FMR and fencing the India-Myanmar border, it is important to put things in perspective by understanding the significance of FMR for locals and the economy of the border region in this area. The British while culling out a separate Burmese (Myanmar) territory divided communities on both sides of the border. The border was no impediment for local tribes to retain their age-old ethnic ties. Marriages and exchange of local goods

between the villages located within the vicinity of the border continued unhampered. The FMR was, therefore, necessitated in order to regularise these informal arrangements and to ease the problems of local tribes created by the division in 1937. FMR aimed to safeguard the interest and welfare of local tribes residing on both sides of the border. The FMR therefore gave impetus to local trade and business by simplifying movement of local tribals across the border by doing away with the formalities of documentation and the related financial burden on them for obtaining those documents.

The introduction of FMR dates back to 1950. Paragraph 41 under Section VII of the report of the ministry of home affairs 1950-51 is reproduced below for context.

"41. Exemption from the Indian Passport Rules.

(a) Members of hill tribes on the Indo-Burmese border—As a result of the revision of the Indian Passport Rules the free movement between India and Burma of members of Indian and Burmese hill tribes living in the territories adjacent to the Indo-Burmese land frontier who habitually travel between these countries, was hampered. In order to remove this difficulty and since members of Indian hill tribes entering Burma by land who do

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not proceed beyond 25 miles from the land border are exempt from the provisions of the Burma Passport Rules, similar exemption has been granted to members of hill tribes entering India by land.”

Initially, FMR provided that residents of Myanmar (then Burma) could stay in India for 72 hours whereas the residents of India were permitted to stay in Myanmar for 24 hours. Provisions of FMR were tightened by the Government of India in 1960 after the rise of insurgency was witnessed in Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. A permit system to be issued by both sides was also introduced. In 2004, the provisions were further tightened by restricting the crossing points to only three from the multiple entry points from where they could enter and exist earlier. These crossing points were Pangasu in Arunachal, Moreh in Manipur and Zokhrawthar in Mizoram. The distance from the border to where they could now travel was also reduced to 16 kilometres.

The FMR was strengthened in 2018 when India and Myanmar signed an agreement on land border crossing to facilitate regulation and harmonisation of already existing free movement rights for people ordinarily residing in the border area of both countries. It also aimed to facilitate the movement of those people who were travelling on valid passports and visas. The aim of this agreement was to enhance economic and social interaction between the countries.

The FMR has been more or less defunct since 2020 because of restrictions imposed on international movement due to the Covid pandemic and thereafter, the coup in Myanmar, leading the government of India to suspend its operation in September 2022 because of the influx of undocumented refugees in Mizoram and Manipur.

Ending the FMR completely and enforcing it will be extremely difficult because of several factors. Firstly, even though the formal crossings are allowed only from three designated points, informal crossings take place from all across the border. It is extremely difficult to supervise these unregistered crossings because, firstly, the villages are located very close to the border.

Some of the villages have houses located on both sides of the border. Secondly, the borders are not under continuous supervision as these are not manned in forward position as is the practice along India's borders with other countries. This forward posture is also not possible even in the midterm future because of the difficult terrain and logistical difficulties in establishing and maintaining border outposts (BOPs). The practice therefore is likely to continue uninterrupted even if it is formally ended. The second factor is that ending of the FMR will put the tribes living along the border in extreme hardship. It will deprive people from both sides of the opportunity to dispose of their local produce which is mostly perishable. The existing road and transport infrastructure makes it more difficult for them to bring their produce to the interior as it will perish and will remain of no use by the time it reaches there.

Enforcement of the termination of FMR will not only be difficult as discussed above, but it will also alienate people living close to the border unless alternate markets and means of sustenance are made available in these remote areas. This will convert these soft borders into hard ones and adversely affect relations with Myanmar.

In fact, besides retaining the FMR, the government should consider further softening this border by expanding the network of border haats as agreed upon in the memorandum of understanding signed between the representatives of the two countries on 28 May 2012. Some of these are already successfully functioning at a few places along the Myanmar border. Such border haats also have proved very beneficial along the India-Bangladesh border. These haats are a great help to the locals in the early disposal of their produce. These also have the advantage of facilitating transactions in either of the currencies and even barter.

By expanding the network of border haats and their frequency, the necessity and dependence

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of border residents on FMR will gradually reduce, thus facilitating better regulation of movement of personnel across the border. An added advantage is that this will facilitate the development of a wider area closer to the border without affecting the fragile ecology, flora and fauna of the area. This will go a long way in integrating the border residents into the mainstream.

Of course, security concerns are paramount, and all necessary steps should be taken to ensure it. However, a total end to FMR is not the solution. This brings us to the second issue of fencing of the India-Myanmar border.

The question is whether this is a proportional, practical and feasible solution to the prevailing security concerns. There are some other pertinent questions too. What has been the past experience of India with fence and militaristic infrastructure along India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders? What has been the experience of other countries having such hard borders? How will this move affect the bilateral relations with Myanmar? These are some other considerations that the government must factor in while making a decision. Apparently, the move to fence the border is an overreaction. If the plan is actually implemented, then the only unfenced Indian borders will be with Nepal and Bhutan which incidentally also permit free movement of citizens across the border. Undoubtedly, the security of the nation cannot be compromised; however, the moot point is whether the apprehension expressed by the chief minister about strife in Manipur being fuelled from outside stands the scrutiny of dispassionate analysis and whether these warrant an extreme action of placing militaristic border guarding systems and infrastructure in place and convert this border too into a hard one?

While instances of some hostile elements infiltrating from Myanmar mixed with refugees trying to take shelter in India due to internal strife there cannot be ruled out, the apprehensions are clearly over hyped. The strife in Manipur is mainly due to internal factors resulting from governance deficit both in ensuring development in remote hill areas as well as inability to enforce rule of law.

Further, the claims that weapons to fuel the strife in Manipur are being brought from Myanmar also does not pass scrutiny because over 6,000 weapons and ammunition have been looted from the state police armouries during the nine month long on-going violence. The appeal by the government to return these looted weapons and ammunition has mostly been ignored and they are being openly used by the parties in conflict.

That the on-going violence in Manipur has roots within the state is further established by the fact that the India-Myanmar border along three other states namely Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal, are equally open. The ethnic linkages across the border along these states are just as strong. These states too have witnessed an influx of refugees. But these states have not witnessed any violence, nor have the refugees have been found indulging in any illegal activity. It is therefore not surprising that the chief minister of Mizoram, Lalduhoma, has taken strong exception to the plan to abandon both FMR and fencing of the border in Mizoram. He has reportedly openly declared that they will not allow fencing of the 400 kilometre long border along Mizoram state. The deputy chief minister of Nagaland has also opposed the plan to fence the border. He has proposed a meeting of the north-eastern states sharing the border with Myanmar to discuss the issue and approach the centre to reconsider the plan.

The fencing along the India-Pakistan border has undoubtedly been very successful in controlling crime, besides having a major role in controlling militancy in Punjab by cutting off logistics and finances to the militants from their Pakistani handlers. It has compelled the militants and criminals to modify their methodology. However, it has to be manned 24/7 to prevent it from being breached, besides deploying technical devices to keep it under continuous surveillance.

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The fencing along the Bangladesh border has witnessed mixed success. Like on the Myanmar border, many villages along the India-Bangladesh border are located close to the border and lie ahead of the fence as they can't be relocated. Similar to the Myanmar border, the border cuts across many villages. At places the border pillars are even located within the compound of houses. It is especially difficult to keep the activities of the population residing ahead of the fence under surveillance.

The population on these borders has age old family bonds and had stoutly resisted construction of the fence when it was initially planned. They frequently breach the fence to commit crimes. The tribes living on both sides along the Myanmar border have very close ethnic ties, which have remained strong due to continued and formalised movement of people under the provisions of the FMR regime. Any attempts to fence these borders are therefore likely to meet with heavy resistance as already apparent by the pronouncements of political leaders of both Nagaland and Mizoram. Even in Manipur the tribes living in hill areas close to the border will resist the move stoutly as they had done with the earlier abandoned attempt to fence the border near Moreh town after construction of a couple of kilometres, in 2004.

Construction of a fence along over 1,600 kilometres of difficult hilly and jungle terrain is also going to be a logistical nightmare besides being very time consuming and costly. Even if the planning for the fence is immediately started, it will take at least a couple of decades to complete the entire process. Further, a stand-alone fence will be subject to being breached; it will not be effective unless troops are physically deployed to keep it under constant surveillance. This will require additional security forces to be raised besides providing for construction of BOPs apart from roads and tracks required to maintain troops at these BOPs.

Israel's recent failure to safeguard its border along Gaza even though heavily fortified with a fence under constant surveillance with modern technological devices besides being strongly guarded physically, points to the ineffectiveness of any such obstacle in the face of persons determined to breach it.

Fencing this border or ending the FMR is perhaps not the best option to secure the borders. As suggested above, better monitoring of people crossing over, and creation of alternative means of informal border trade by way of border haats etc., must be considered. The aim has to be to ease the hardships of the border population and integrate them. This can be achieved by ensuring better visibility of the administration in remote border areas, and carrying out development activities while ensuring that the fragile ecology of the area is not adversely affected. Fence and ending of FMR will adversely impact the traditional bonds between the tribes and lead to tension and heavier investment to contain the resultant tensions. It may not be out of place to mention that a fenced border and militaristic infrastructure has invariably led to increased violence along that border. The India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders have the dubious distinction of being placed amongst the 10 most dangerous borders of the world along with the border between North and South Korea.

India therefore needs to put better border management efforts in place besides working in close coordination with the government of Myanmar to manage the border effectively. Better intelligence effort is also imperative to detect illegal drug and weapon smuggling.

The trend internationally is to convert borders into bridges instead of them being barriers. Ending FMR and constructing the fence will be reversing the trend which India has in fact initiated along other borders in the shape of border haats, Integrated Check Posts (ICP) and Land Customs Stations (LCS), and frequent interaction between border guarding authorities of counterpart countries besides other agencies involved in border management.

First published by [Force India](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA  
THE BUZZ



Kautilya3  
@Kautilya33

Follow Back

New Delhi Television batting for Imphal claims that the Manipur government has "intervened" to put to rest the "claims and counter-claims".

Nothing could be further from truth. In fact, the government's sledgehammer actions setting aside settlement orders for 38 villages in the whole forest, which it had itself issued some 50 years ago, prove that the Ukha Loikhai villagers were probably telling the truth. That is why the government panicked and cancelled the entire batch of settlement orders citing nonsensical technicalities. Jingbang words like "fabricated" and "concocted" don't cut it. /1  
[ndtv.com/india-news/tha...](https://ndtv.com/india-news/tha...)

9:18 pm · 20 Feb 24 · 5,331 Views



namita  
@namitaj68

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While Manipur is fine under its CM.

Hindustan Times @htTweets · 2d

'Bengal needs President's rule': NCW chairperson at #Sandeshkhali

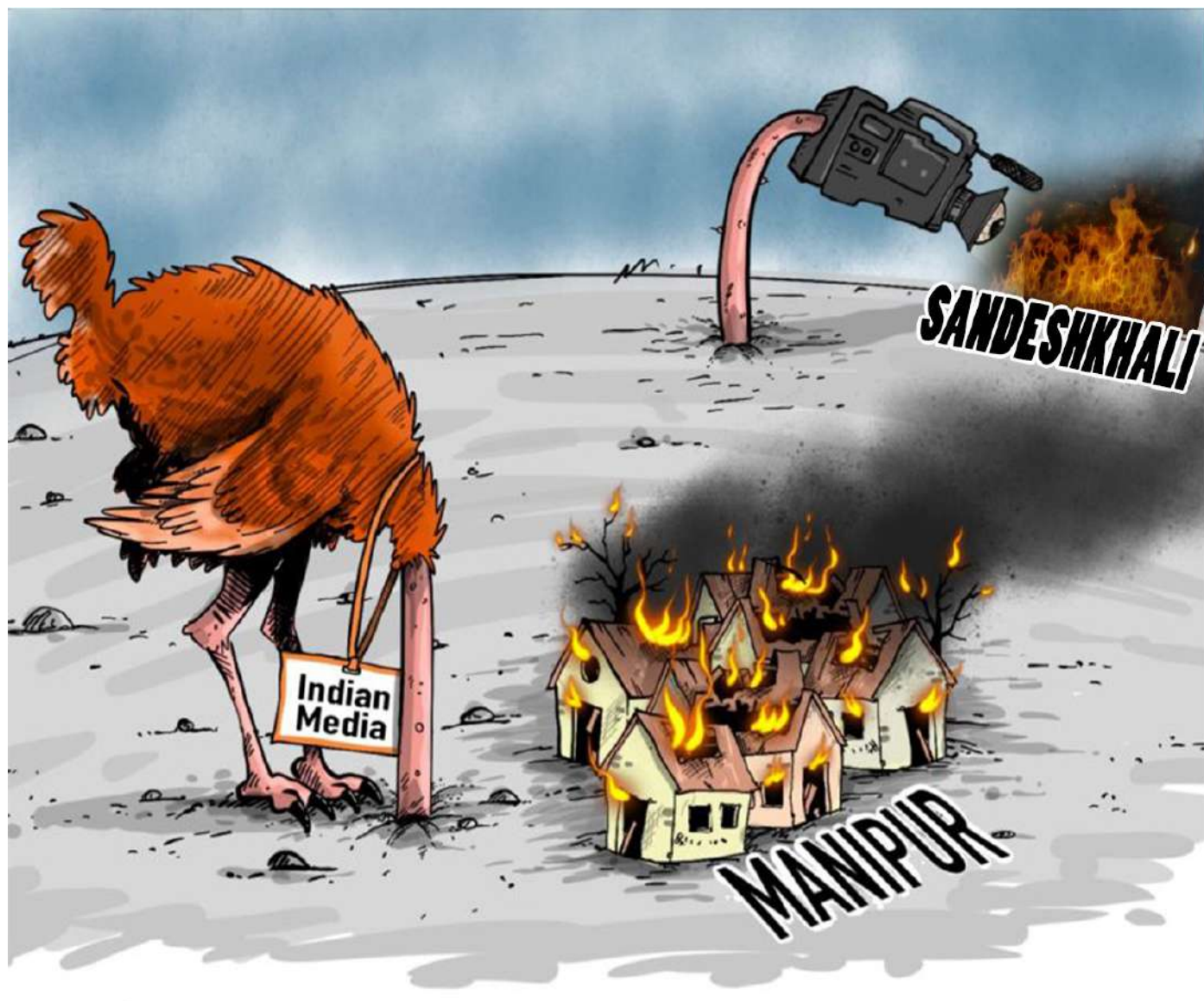
[hindustantimes.com/cities/kolkata...](https://hindustantimes.com/cities/kolkata...)



9:23 pm · 19 Feb 24 · 29.8K Views



THE FORGOTTEN STATE





# My Brother IS AN ORDINARY MAN

- Alish Nengnunnem Singkom

My brother is fearless.  
I told him every time he took out his bag,  
"This is a war, a real battlefield."  
He ain't a saint or a noble,  
or a gunman or a soldier.  
My brother is just an ordinary guy.

Every time he walks out of the door,  
I hold my breath and close my eyes.  
He strides confidently to the field,  
with each step followed by an army of Angels.  
Until he returns home, I dare not blink.

He doesn't have a weapon like the army,  
neither is he trained like the Navies or Marines.  
I doubt he has a duffle bag of duvet,  
an equipped pouch of meals, or a first aid kit.  
My brother is just an ordinary juvenile.

I remember looking at his fearlessness;  
he leans all his fears and nervousness behind  
in my arms while I unceasingly pray.  
His confidence is never in the gun he holds,  
but rather in the soft beat of his heart  
where the Almighty resides.

My brother is ordinary yet the bravest.  
I am safe again today.

