

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Grace Academy RELIEF CENTRE Tuibong, Lamka

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

Total Inmates Registered: 118*

■ Male: 54

■ Female: 64

*As on 31st July, 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.

ITLF URGES CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE MEITEI FORCES WITH IMPARTIAL SECURITY FORCE IN MOREH TO CURB VIOLENCE

Reiterating its call for the deployment of an impartial force in Moreh, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) emphasized that, to quell the violence in Moreh, the central government could easily substitute Meitei forces with unbiased central security forces.

In a press release circulated on Monday, ITLF insisted that any law enforcement personnel assigned to Moreh, including the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), should either come from a neutral community or from one of the Kuki-Zo tribes. Until this is implemented, local volunteers will be compelled to protect their land, the statement added.

Amidst the heightened tensions in Moreh due to recent clashes and arson committed by Meitei police personnel, ITLF pointed out that the Manipur government has exacerbated the situation by appointing a Meitei police officer as the new SDPO in the border town.

According to the release, local organizations in the area have consistently asserted that deploying Meitei forces in the Kuki-Zo-majority region during an ethnic conflict involving the two groups is the root cause of the violence. They argue that this strategy is an attempt by the State's Meitei Chief Minister to use state machinery to expel tribals from the area.

Recent events have only intensified the resentment against state forces. On January 17, Meitei police personnel, accompanied by well-armed Meitei insurgents, reportedly set fire to numerous houses and schools in Moreh, ITLF stated.

The release also referenced a news report by The Print, which suggested that CCTV footage from that day aligns with allegations made by local residents. These residents claimed that Assam Rifles personnel watched as individuals in uniform, purportedly Manipur Police commandos, entered localities in Moreh on January 17 and engaged in acts of arson.

Even residents of Moreh comprising of different communities; Nepali, Tamil, and Bihari have asserted that Manipur police commandos burned down houses,



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)
Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

File No: ITLF-PR-202476

Monday, 22 January 2024

PRESS RELEASE

As Moreh continues to be on edge due to the recent firefights and arson committed by Meitei police personnel, the Manipur government has shown its intent to keep the pot boiling by appointing a Meitei policeman as the border town's new SDPO.

Local organizations in the area have repeatedly said the deployment of Meitei forces in the Kuki-Zo-majority area during an ethnic conflict involving the two sides is the cause of the violence. The strategy is an attempt by the state's Meitei chief minister to drive out tribals from the area using state machinery.

Events in the past few days have only heightened the resentment against state forces. Meitei police personnel, joined by well-armed Meitei insurgents, burnt down multiple homes and schools in Moreh on January 17.

A news report by ThePrint said, "CCTV footage from that day appears to match allegations levelled by local residents that Assam Rifles personnel looked on as men in uniform, alleged to be Manipur Police commandos, entered localities in Moreh on 17 January and engaged in acts of arson."

Even Nepali, Tamil, and Bihari residents of Moreh say commandos of the Manipur police burnt the houses. This proves that they are a communal force that uses state-issued weapons to terrorize civilians.

If the central government really wants the violence to stop in Moreh, it can simply replace Meitei forces with neutral central security forces.

Any police personnel stationed in Moreh, including the SDPO, should be from a neutral community or from one of the Kuki-Zo tribes. Until that happens, local volunteers will have no choice but to defend their land.

Ginza Vualzong,
Media & Publicity,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)
Website: <https://www.itlfmediacell.com/>



To authenticate ITLF's press releases, please refer to our website <https://itlfmediacell.com>

indicating that the commandos are perceived as a communal force utilizing state-issued weapons to terrorize civilians, according to the release.

The simple and easy way for the central power if it so wished, to quell the violence in Moreh, thus remains to be the de-induction of Communal State Forces and replacing them with neutral and unbiased Central Security Forces which may either be the Para-Military forces or the Indian Army. The Kuki-Zo residents of the border town otherwise is compelled to defend its home from such evil forces whose only intention is to expel them and raze their properties to the ground.



ITLF AND KUKI-ZO STUDENT BODIES CLOSE GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN CHURACHANDPUR AND PHERZAWL

Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum and Kuki-Zo student bodies closed government offices in Churachandpur and Pherzawl district on Monday.

The offices which were closed on Monday are Agriculture Office, Sericulture District Information Office, Public Works Department, Public Health and Engineering Department, Cooperative Society, Electricity, District Statistical Office, Forest, Telecom and Mini Secretariat (partially closed).

ITLF on January 21 has declared that they have decided to close all government offices in Churachandpur and Pherzawl district from January 22 until the demand to release the two Kuki-Zo innocent civilians Philip Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate is accomplished.

Condemning the detention of the two by Manipur Commandos at Moreh on January 15, ITLF and COTU on January 16 had demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the two Kuki-Zo.



However, two of them are still in the custody of the Manipur state commandos till today.

On January 19, the Joint Students Body Lamka and Kuki Students Organisation had also locked the District Administration Office, Chuarachandpur and Pherzawl in protest against the disaffiliation of 25 schools from CBSE, the unfair suspension of three Kuki Zo ZEO officials and torching of schools in Moreh by Manipur state commandos.

AK MISHRA LED MHA TEAM ARRIVES IN IMPHAL TO ASSESS PRESENT SITUATION

In a bid to gauge the current scenario in Manipur, a three-member special team from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) spearheaded by advisor AK Mishra landed in Imphal on January 22 at approximately 5:45 pm.

The team consists of Interlocutor AK Mishra, Mandeep Singh Tuli (Joint Director, SIB New Delhi), Rajesh Kumble (Joint Director, SIB Imphal).

The purpose of the visit is to assess the prevailing situation in the region and ensure a firsthand understanding of the ground realities.



It is reported that the team met with Arambai Tenggol leaders including Korounganba Khuman at the residence of Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba in Imphal. It is further reported that the meeting will further continue tomorrow.

RULING MLAs SANS KUKIS ADOPTS 4 POINT RESOLUTIONS ON MANIPUR UNREST; CALLS FOR URGENT INTERVENTION OF CENTRAL GOVT

The ruling MLAs of Manipur Legislative Assembly sans Kuki MLAs today adopted a four point resolutions on Manipur unrest, urging the central government to take immediate action at the earliest. The meeting was attended by 35 ruling MLAs.

1. The Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreements with the armed militant groups, and the immunity it provides to these groups from a firm reaction from Central forces is the main cause of the never-ending cycle of violence. Thus, Suspension of Operation with militants who indulge in killing of innocent civilians and violation of ground rules should be abrogated immediately. The SoO agreement with other militant groups who also indulge in anti-state activities should not be extended beyond its expiry date of 29/2/2024.

2. Complete Disarmament of all illegal arms in the possession of miscreants and unauthorized persons in the entire State at the earliest by the Central and State forces.

3. Armed attacks (using sophisticated weaponry such as Rocket Propelled Grenade launchers) on Indian soil, Indian citizens and State security forces by Myanmar-based Armed Militants must be stopped at all costs. It will be to the detriment of the prestige of the Republic of India if this cannot be achieved in short order.

4. In many of the sensitive areas, Assam Rifles are not responsive and remain mute spectators when unarmed civilians (particularly farmers) are being indiscriminately fired upon frequently. The claim that their deployment is providing security to the communities residing in these areas has been questioned. These forces and their leadership (chain of command) need to give strict instructions and be held accountable and replaced with forces that have the ability to act by returning suppressive fire when they observe that unarmed civilians are being fired upon, to enable civilians to get to cover and safety. Such a reaction, which is

RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 21/1/2024 BY THE LEGISLATORS OF 12TH MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The following Members of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly resolved the following on the 21st January 2024 (Sunday) at 2:00 pm

1. The Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreements with the armed militant groups, and the immunity it provides to these groups from a firm reaction from Central forces, is the main cause of the never-ending cycle of violence. Thus, Suspension of Operation with militants who indulge in killing of innocent civilians and violation of ground rules should be abrogated immediately. The SoO agreement with other militant groups who also indulge in anti-state activities should not be extended beyond its expiry date of 29/2/2024.
2. Complete Disarmament of all illegal arms in the possession of miscreants and unauthorized persons in the entire State at the earliest by the Central and State forces.
3. Armed attacks (using sophisticated weaponry such as Rocket Propelled Grenade launchers) on Indian soil, Indian citizens and State security forces by Myanmar-based Armed Militants must be stopped at all costs. It will be to the detriment of the prestige of the Republic of India if this cannot be achieved in short order.
4. In many of the sensitive areas, Assam Rifles are not responsive and remain mute spectators when unarmed civilians (particularly farmers) are being indiscriminately fired upon frequently. The claim that their deployment is providing security to the communities residing in these areas has been questioned. These forces and their leadership (chain of command) need to give strict instructions and be held accountable and replaced with forces that have the ability to act by returning suppressive fire when they observe that unarmed civilians are being fired upon, to enable civilians to get to cover and safety. Such a reaction, which is wholly appropriate to safeguard the lives of civilians under fire, has been non-existent which is why the public's faith and trust in the forces presently deployed at places such as Moreh, Bishnupur, Imphal West, Kakching etc. has been shattered.

Legislators have unanimously resolved that Government of India should take up appropriate action at the earliest. If Government of India is unable to take any positive action as per these demands, we the legislators will take appropriate action in consultation with the public.

wholly appropriate to safeguard the lives of civilians under fire, has been non-existent which is why the public's faith and trust in the forces presently deployed at places such as Moreh, Bishnupur, Imphal West, Kakching etc. has been shattered.

The legislators also unanimously resolved that the government of India should take up appropriate action at the earliest. If Government of India is unable to take any positive action as per these demands, we the legislators will take appropriate action in consultation with the public.

MIZORAM APEX STUDENT BODY MZP OPPOSES BORDER FENCING, SUBMITS MEMO TO PM

The Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), the apex student body of Mizoram, has presented a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi vehemently opposing the Central Government's move to abolish the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and implement border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border. The memorandum, submitted through Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, was also shared with the Vice President of India, the Union Home Minister, and the Union Home Secretary.

MZP, an umbrella organization representing students from Mizo and related tribes, collectively known as Zo people, and symbolizing the younger generation of Mizoram and adjacent regions, conveyed their concerns to the Prime Minister. They highlighted the historical divisions imposed on Zo people by administrative boundaries since the colonial era and international borders in the post-colonial period. Despite these divisions, the Free Movement Regime, instituted by the Government of India, has facilitated essential cultural and social interactions, such as participation in funeral rites, marriage ceremonies, visiting patients, attending religious gatherings, and engaging in local sports tournaments.

Expressing shock at the recent decision to terminate this regime, MZP emphasized that it is stripping away fundamental aspects and infringing upon their rights as human beings, echoing the sentiments of various communities worldwide. The organization pointed out the irony of the decision, considering India's status as a global power and signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007 (UNDRIP). Article 36 of the declaration explicitly recognizes the rights of indigenous people divided by international borders to maintain and develop connections, relations, and cooperation across borders for various purposes.

In light of these considerations, the memorandum earnestly implores the Indian Government to reconsider its decision. MZP believes that alternative measures can be explored to address concerns like drug trafficking and smuggling without resorting to actions that divide indigenous communities. The petition serves as a plea for thoughtful reconsideration, emphasizing the preservation of the cultural and social fabric of the Zo people across the India-Myanmar border.

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA

SiamPhaipi
@SiamPhaipi

Seen this before in #Manipur when the #ArambaiMilitants hoisted their flags on top of the #Kuki_Zo Tribal Churches they burnt.

Welcome to new Indian. Manipur was just a testing ground. More Manipur soon to come all over India. When even 9 months of the Manipur state continuously burning doesn't make a difference, then rest assured, the message and destination is clear.

Congratulations on the people you voted for. 🎉🎉🎉

#ManipurViolence



CONFUSION SURROUNDS ALLEGED IMPOSITION OF ARTICLE 355 IN MANIPUR; CM CLAIM ITS IMPOSITION, STATUS REPORT TO MHRC SAYS OTHERWISE

In another perplexing turn of events, Manipur's Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, has asserted that Article 355 has been invoked in the state. However, a status report submitted by Manipur's Chief Secretary and Commissioner (Home) to the Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) on June 14, 2023, contradicts this claim, stating that Article 355 has not been imposed in Manipur. The report was submitted in response to the ongoing unrest in the state since May 3.

MPCC President K Meghachandra made a noteworthy announcement after convening an all-political-party meeting with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at his secretariat office on Sunday. The meeting was a response to the appeal made by 10 political parties in Manipur to address the prolonged unrest in the region.

K Meghachandra, expressing dissatisfaction with both the central and state governments, accused them of insincerity. He revealed that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh himself stated during the meeting that Article 355 was imposed in Manipur, terming it an unfortunate situation. The gathering included Works Minister Govindas Konthoujam, Education Minister Th Basanta Kumar, Relief and Disaster Management Minister Awangbow Newmai, Lilong MLA Abdul Nasir, Moirang MLA Th Shanti, Congress leader O Ibobi, MPCC vice president Hareswar Goswami, and representatives from 10 political parties.

It is noteworthy that these 10 political parties had submitted various memorandums addressing the unrest and had met with different ministers, excluding the Prime Minister. On a parallel note, the ruling party MLAs' meeting convened by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Sunday ended inconclusively.

The MHRC, taking cognizance of an immediate complaint filed by the secretary of All India Lawyers Union (AILU), Manipur State Committee Salam Pari Luwang, sought a status report from both the Chief Secretary and the Secretary of Home Affairs, Union of India. The complaint aimed to inquire into human rights violations and the State Government's

failure to prevent violence in Manipur.

Article 355 of the Constitution of India mandates that the Union of India should protect every state against external aggression and internal disturbance, ensuring that all state governments adhere to the provisions of the Constitution.

It is noteworthy that the state of Manipur has been gripped by violence since May 3 of the previous year. During a press conference held on May 6, 2023, to provide updates on the prevailing situation in Manipur, the head of the state police made an unusual declaration. According to the officer, Article 355 of the Indian Constitution had been applied in the state, leading to the Union government assigning a security advisor to the state government.

Adding to the complexity, the communication of the imposition of Article 355 in Manipur raised concerns. An elected MLA from the ruling party tweeted that Article 355 had been "implemented" in the state, implying its imposition. Subsequently, the head of the state police indicated during a press conference that Article 355 was indeed imposed.

Crucially, it should be highlighted that, as of today, no formal order from the Union government has been issued to impose or invoke Article 355 in Manipur. This presents two potential scenarios. Either the statements made by the Chief Minister and the Director-General of Police (DGP) are inaccurate, or the Union government clandestinely imposed Article 355 in the state without publicly announcing the decision. If the latter scenario holds true, it raises serious concerns, as a decision of this nature, lacking a legal and publicly disclosed announcement, may be deemed unlawful.

The unfolding developments in this case warrant close attention, considering the far-reaching implications for our democratic society.

COCOMI COORDINATOR WARNS OF PROLONGED CRISIS IN MANIPUR WITHOUT OLD AND NEW KUKI SEGREGATION: ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DISINTEGRATE KUKI-ZO UNITY?

The newly appointed coordinator of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), Somendro Thokchom, has asserted that the prevailing crisis in Manipur could persist unless segregation between old and new Kukis is initiated.

If old Kukis wish to reside in Manipur, they should take the lead in segregating from the new Kukis, and COCOMI is prepared to offer support in this endeavour, said the coordinator of COCOMI.

Somendro made the statement in a function held at the COCOMI office in Lamphelpat, Imphal on Sunday. Somendro highlighted that the ongoing crisis is not a routine issue faced by the state but a severe external aggression by foreigners.

Such statements from a Meitei apex body amidst the crisis in the State could be another ploy of the Meiteis to disintegrate the Kuki-Zo tribes who have been resisting and fighting unitedly against the Meitei and the Meitei government in the ongoing crisis.

The ongoing crisis which started following the burning of the Anglo-Kuki War Gate by Arambai Tenggol amidst the rally organised by All Tribal Students Union Manipur against the Meitei Schedule Tribe demand on May 3, 2022



Even though the same rally was organised in other tribal districts, there were no reports of any untoward incident. Since then, the Meitei leaders and the public have been trying hard to build a better relationship with the Naga tribes in order to disintegrate the tribal unity.

Meiteis have also started accepting the claims made by some of their leaders that the Tangkhuls and Meiteis are brothers. The Meitei government have announced various schemes in the Naga districts and the Meitei CSO leaders are also quick enough to tender apology when any member of Naga community are affected in the ongoing crisis.



If yet your blood does not rage, then it is water that flows in your veins. For what is the flush of youth. If it is not of service to the motherland.

– Chandra Shekhar Azad



ANALYSIS

Manipur is Now Triumvirate Turf viz : Arambai Tenggol, the Think Tank and Meira Paibis, India's PM Modi is No Longer the Most Powerful Man in Manipur

Name any heinous crime you can think of. It would be a surprise if it has not been committed against the Kukis by the Meiteis spearheaded by Arambai Tenggol with the help of Manipur Meitei police. Almost every cruel crime since the advent of humanity has been committed against the Kuki-Zo, but our Prime Minister can be seen observing a Maun Vrat until yesterday. It was however believed, by the Kuki-Zo, to be a strategy on his part to talk less but Work Hard. But his post on X yesterday, on the occasion of Manipur Statehood Day took us by surprise.

Our PM, described as the most popular leader in the world according to a weekly survey by Morning Consult, is coerced to become, despite his intention, to be an insensitive, idiot, ignorant and apathetic man by his social media team when without proper research and understanding of the present situation of Manipur posted a tweet on X wishing Manipur on its Statehood Day and praised its Art and Culture. One cannot help but wonder if they let him praise the gun loot culture, rape, Murder, and humiliation of our armed forces, racial discrimination, ethnic cleansing and human rights violations to name a few. Manipur is now known for the above issues today. So, is he wishing the people of Manipur for the continuous development on its path of being the most dangerous state in India? They make our PM look like a Clown in the circus. Then again, they

must have been a victim of half-baked lies fueled by the Propaganda of Mr Biren like many others.

As a proud Indian who knew every tweet from his X handle are taken as his belief and ideology, we took the humiliation personally as well, thus we believe it is our duty to update him on the ground reality of Manipur. The time has come for him to stop being Biren's slave and save the integrity and sovereignty of India. If it is A Little Too Late, he will be remembered as a Prime Minister who got fooled by one of his own party's State Chief Minister and lost significant territory for India.

Tacitly it is now the Triumvirate Rule in Manipur: Learning from History playbook, The triumvirate discreetly established an autonomy synonymous to an independent country but tacitly. India isn't foreign to the dirty politics of a Provincial Government asserting an autonomy blindsiding the Government in Delhi. This triumvirate consists of Arambai Tenggol, a Think-Tank group whose members include Biren Singh, the Maharaja of Manipur cum Rajya sabha MP of Manipur Leishembam Sanajaoba, Pramod Singh etc, and Meira Paibis.

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Arambai Tenggol is responsible for waging war against the minority Kuki-Zo community, for the Kukis represent a perfect victim, their fight against colonial rule during the Anglo-Kuki War, our numbers today in the Indian Army in proportion to our population to defend and protect the country, we represent India and its sovereignty, an attack on us is seen by them as an attack on Indian Sovereignty as well and the population of our tribes in Myanmar is a bonus point for them to defame us as illegal immigrants. They are also responsible for ruling the state with fear and terror of other minorities as well by engaging in crimes like kidnapping, murder and violence.

Biren's main responsibility is to deceive the Central Government with the ground reality in Manipur, enhance their propaganda to the central power, requesting help from the central government both in finance and military prowess when Arambai Tenggol is vulnerable, amassing the state taxes for Arambai Tenggol's warfare, and controlling the state and central employees on the behest of the triumvirate. They both viz Arambai Tenggol and meira paibis in turn help him when his position as the CM is under threat.

Meira Paibi's main responsibility is to control central military forces, rescue Meitei criminals from the same forces, prohibit central agencies from performing their duties on such matters that could harm the triumvirate and meitei populace's interest, perform the scripted drama to and along with state police whenever compelled to arrest Arambai Tenggol members and other terrorist outfit belonging to Meitei community, moral policing and to exercise the role of Khap Panchayat on critics of the triumvirate.

Administration:

Biren is the De-jury head of both the executive and legislature. Arambai Tenggols holds the real power. Arambai Tenggol in turn took the aid and advice of the other partners viz the Think-Tank and Meira Paibis

before any decision. The consensual decision is published and declared in the name of Arambai Tenggol. Meitei supremacy and racial discrimination against the Kuki-Zo are promoted by Meitei employees from all government departments.

Judiciary:

It works with the principle that so long as you are Meitei, you are innocent. In the new Kangleipak aka old Manipur, the arrest of Meitei rapists is seen as a murder of justice but the release of Meitei criminals arrested under UAPA for possession of illegal sophisticated weapons is seen as a victory of justice. One can go viral with proof of his murder like a head he butchered off, but the judiciary will turn a blind eye to it so long as he or she is a meitei. The judiciary system is however misused against the Kuki-Zo.

Society:

Apart from Kuki, Indians from other mainland States of India are the vulnerable victims of the triumvirate. They could be physically assaulted anytime by any members of the Meitei community who would walk free of police charges, and they are also victims of money extortion from Arambai Punggol and other Meitei militant/terrorist outfits. Kidnapping and ransom against other minorities is a common phenomena. Murder for non-compliance against the Whims and fancies of Arambai Tenggol is the New Normal.

Media:

It is an adapted version of North Korea's national media with a change in character where South Korea and the USA are substituted by the Kuki and the central government respectively.

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Art and culture:

Tapta who sang demeaning and defamatory songs against the Kukis, the Central Government, and central forces. The lewd and derogatory lyrics against Kuki-Zo women were hailed as a patriotic song by the Meitei public. Meitei stars like Bala Hijam, Soma Laishram and others propagated and promoted the songs on their social media accounts.

External affairs and PR mechanism:

Now that they managed to control the 3 organs of the state, to ensure that there exist no disruptions in the consolidation process of the triumvirate in the Re-establishment of Kangleipak and conceal their real intention of waging the war against the Kukis, they created a team of PR who divided among themselves into 3 different groups, each with different assigned task but with the same goal, to create a mirage so as to conceal their real aspirations until Kangleipak is fully consolidated. One section is given the role of propagating the theory that Hindu Meitei faces an existential crisis in Manipur and Kuki-zo are illegal immigrants who engage in Narco-Terrorism against other Hindu extremist groups. To knock on the doors of various central government departments and ministries with baseless allegations, complaints and theories to create headlines in the media. The likes of Mahesh Thounaojam are in charge of this team.

Organisations like COCOMI and individuals like Licypriya Kangujam, a self acclaimed climate activist, represent them at UN conferences and the other international stages.

Last but not least, Bina Lakshmi Nepram, Bimol Akoijam and others are in charge of defending the act of indefensible Arambai Tenggol's heinous crimes and the nexus between Arambai Tenggol, the state government and the Meira Paibis for waging an ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kukis in various national media through their lies. They shamelessly defend the cruel beheading and dismembering of bodies as proof

of them being tribals to the National media. They stoop to a level this low, all for Meitei interest.

Source of revenue:

Funds from the Indian government, taxation of taxes on the state list outside GST, crowd funding, extortion from mainland Indians working in Manipur and other minorities, and ransom from kidnapping.

The national flag of Kangleipak:

The *Salai - Taret* flag.

The proof for all the above points is readily available online. The Prime Minister can give them the benefit of doubt and conduct a research himself.

Since the Triumvirate era begins, the trajectory of our prime minister's popularity and influence in the state have been deflating harder than the Adani Stock Market Crash due to the Hindenburg report. Manipur is now Triumvirate Turf, where the influencing power of The triumvirate and restricted access of the Central Government Agencies in the valley districts is comparable to the Forbidden City of Beijing. Thus, as Indians, although we are his responsibility and have the right to be heard as well, since the situation in Manipur is so dire, that one can no longer distinguish who is a state force personnel and who is not, as the state's official police uniform, it's weapons and vehicles became the property of Triumvirate, we ask ourselves, Do we want to lose another PM in the assassination? Since the answer is No. We request the Prime Minister to stay safe in Delhi but listen to what our representatives have to say. It is our prayer to him to be enlightened on the ground reality of Manipur and understand Mr Biren for what a sly and dangerous person he truly is to India's integrity and sovereignty.



FEATURED NEWS ARTICLE

Burnt Houses, Schools — Manipur Commandos ‘Led Arson Spree’ in Moreh, Myanmar Fire Dept ‘Came to Rescue’

SOURAV ROY BARMAN

A little after noon on 17 January, the fire brigade department of Myanmar’s Tamu town started receiving frantic calls for help from the residents of Moreh, a settlement in Manipur on the Indian side widely known for being a flourishing, yet largely informal, cross-border trade outpost between the two countries.

With three schools, an equal number of shops, one Christian assembly hall, and at least 17 houses ablaze, the 10-odd members of the Manipur fire brigade stationed in the town were struggling to douse the flames using the four engines at their disposal. The Menal river, located four km away, was the nearest water refilling point.

Around 3 pm, three fire engines rumbled in from the other side of the border, adding a new dimension to the Manipur ethnic conflict, which erupted in May last year.

“I want to say this categorically, had the fire engines from Myanmar not come to our rescue, over 50 houses would have been gutted as the flames would have spread,” said Lily, who said her husband is a soldier of the Indian Army. ThePrint reached Moreh — located nearly 110 km from Imphal — on the morning of 20 January.

Manipur fire department officials posted in the town corroborated Lily’s version. “Three fire engines came from Myanmar around 3 pm. They returned after some time. It took us two days to douse the fire,” said one of the fire officials, requesting anonymity.

Former IPS Kuldiep Singh, security advisor to Chief

Minister N. Biren Singh, and chairman of the unified command, said a probe has been ordered into these claims. Eight months into the Manipur crisis, Moreh, situated in Tengnoupal district bordering Myanmar, has emerged as the epicentre of a fresh bout of tension that has gripped the state.

CCTV footage from that day appears to match allegations levelled by local residents that Assam Rifles personnel looked on as men in uniform, alleged to be Manipur Police commandos, entered localities in Moreh on 17 January and engaged in acts of arson.



ThePrint reached Manipur Police (DGP Manipur, SP Tengnoupal) and Assam Rifles (spokesperson) for comment but had not received a response by the time of publication. This report will be updated if and when a response is received.

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Sources in the Assam Rifles, however, rejected allegations that the force did not act to prevent arson, adding that “fire engines of the Assam Rifles also helped douse the incidents of fire”.

‘Police commandos set houses, school on fire’

When ThePrint reached Moreh on the morning of 20 January, it found the border town, sliced by the strategically important Asian Highway 1, overrun by security personnel drawn from the Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF) and state police. However, it is the Manipur Police commandos, also deployed in the area where Kukis presently outnumber all other ethnicities, who are in the cross hairs of local residents.



The Kuki, Nepali, Tamil and Bihari residents of the town allege that the commandos of the Manipur Police carried out the acts of arson after entering their houses between 12 pm and 3.30 pm on 17 January, hours after the killings of Wangkhem Somorjit, an India Reserve Battalion (IRB) commando attached to Manipur Rifles, and havildar Takhellambam Saileshwor by suspected Kuki militants who attacked multiple security posts in the town.

ThePrint, upon reaching Moreh, found several houses in two localities, Canan Veng and Phaicham Veng, reduced to ashes. Three private schools, namely Bethsaida Academy, Mount Moreh and Dr Colvin Academy, were also completely gutted along with the Moreh Christian Assembly Hall premises.

CCTVs installed by the local Hill Tribe Council in the area captured men in uniform — alleged to be Manipur Police commandos and Meitei radical outfit Arambai

Tenggol by the local residents — opening fire in the lanes of Phaicham Veng. Timestamps displayed in the CCTV footage from 17 January appear to align with local residents’ version that the commandos entered and fired gunshots in the area around 1 PM.



“Armoured vehicles of the Assam Rifles stood by as Manipur Police commandos set the school and adjoining houses on fire. I am in college now but I have studied in this school as well. When we tried to stop them, they threatened to shoot us. We could not save our school, our homes,” said Lhinghoithem Baite, a resident of Canan Veng.

Nothing remains of the three schools apart from heaps of ash, charred desks and benches, piles of twisted metal and tin sheets. While Mount Moreh, established in 1995, had nearly 800 students enrolled in pre-primary classes to grade X, Bethsaida Academy had 230.

“I have filed a complaint with the police who have not yet lodged an FIR in the case. I have submitted the CCTV footage along with videos shot by locals from their balconies and rooftops of the commandos indulging in acts of arson,” said Tongkhoha Zou, the principal of Bathsaide Academy.

Thangboi Vaiphei, whose house adjoining the prayer hall was also torched, said the police has not carried out any investigation so far despite complaints.

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A man of Nepali origin whose house shares a boundary with Bathsaide Academy suffered burn injuries on his left hand and neck as the blaze threatened to engulf his two-story wooden structure. “I was resting on the balcony with my wife and children when the commandos fired at us. We rushed inside and then the fire prompted us to run out to save our lives,” he said, requesting anonymity.

Moreh Tamil Sangam general secretary K.P.S. Mani said while the fight is primarily between the Meteis and the Kukis, Tamils, who number around 2,500 in the town, and other communities such as Nepalis, Gorkhas and Bengalis have also been affected.

“We were not specifically targeted on the 17th but no community was untouched. We are encountering such a situation after having lived here for the last 55 years,” Mani said, pointing to the long history of Moreh’s association with Tamils, many of whom settled in the town — its population pegged at 16,847 in the 2011 census — after being evicted by the Burmese military junta in the 1960s.

The accounts of locals such as Mani had one common refrain: the commandos were “specifically looking for Kuki men in the houses”.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, Manipur Rifles personnel, however, claimed they fired in self defence after “Kuki village volunteers rained bullets on us”, while an Assam Rifles officer rejected charges of being a mute spectator saying the force can only get as involved as its “mandate” permits.

Local residents also alleged that a nexus of uniformed men, valley-based insurgent groups and Meitei militants is active in the area. Manipur Police, however, denied these allegations in a post on X (formerly Twitter) Saturday, terming them “baseless and misleading”.

‘We are Indians as much as anyone else’

Moreh has also been witnessing protests by local residents against last week’s arrest of Philip Khaikholal Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate, who the police say are among the main suspects in the killing of sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Chingtham Anand Kumar last October.

“All Kukis have been driven out of Imphal and the adjoining areas. How can we be expected to welcome the presence of Meitei commandos in our area then? It may well be the case that the Meitei commandos died when our village volunteers tried to protect our area from them. They should be withdrawn from our area immediately,” said Victor, president of the Hill Tribal Council of Moreh.

These allegations and counter-allegations aside, the fact that both Kuki and Meitei groups are armed with weapons and ammunition remains undisputed. What remains a matter of dispute is the question of the alleged involvement of foreign insurgents operating out of Myanmar, with Kuldiep Singh telling ThePrint that despite the presence of intelligence inputs about their presence, no evidence has been found so far to establish such claims.

Members of the Kuki community in Moreh vehemently deny suggestions that the community is involved in drug trafficking or narco-terrorism — a term which has repeatedly been used by the Manipur CM himself.

On the road to Moreh, which snakes through undulating hills, several culverts have been spray-painted with the message: “N Biren Singh, you are the source of all evil in Manipur.”

“In the name of the Wildlife Protection Act, they are trying to claim our land bypassing hills area councils. This is the root cause of the conflict. They say we are planting poppies. They call us foreigners. We are Indians as much as anyone else,” added Victor.

The Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar, which came into force in 2018, allows members of tribal communities on either side to travel up to 16 km inside the other country without a visa, owing to deep familial and ethnic ties between them. It was aimed at providing a fillip to cross-border trade which always had a robust informal structure.

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On Saturday, addressing the passing out parade of the newly-appointed commandos of the Assam Police, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the government was reconsidering the FMR agreement with Myanmar.

Meanwhile, notwithstanding the sharp divide along ethnic lines, the fact that secession from India, advocated by insurgent outfits of both sides, has no popular appeal finds reflection not just in such statements but also everyday realities.

For instance, even as Moreh remained on a knife-edge, barely 20 km away at the Tengnoupal district headquarters, children lined up Saturday to board Assam Rifles vehicles.

Their destination was the Assam Rifles camp at Pallel — which is a buffer zone separating the hills from the valley — where the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) entrance examination was held Saturday.

“Around 120 children are being taken from this particular point itself. Parents know that only good education will offer a key to their children to build a better future. No wonder JNV is in such high demand,” said Dedei Haokip, a member of the Kuki Students’ Organisation which coordinated with the Assam Rifles to send the children to the exam centre.

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THE FARMER- RULED STATE





VVE

(Village Volunteer Forces)

*The nights have passed,
And a radiant morning star illuminates the sky,
Birds in varied hues, sang their melodies,
Squirrels' footsteps, once a comfort, now evoke fear.*

*Church bells in our hometown that rang every Sunday
Are now distant memories as I kneel in the jungle's embrace.
Traditional guns, armored coat, a dance with mortality,
I am now between life and death.*

*Once a stranger to jungles, now a guardian,
Dedicating thyself to protect my beloved nation, Kuki.
Amidst the hateful words, love propels me forward.
I have taken a resolution to sacrifice myself for the future of the Kukis.*

~ Pasei Kuki

