

Thingkho Le Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



RESISTANCE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION & OPPRESSION



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 23.04.2024



176
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.

FRESH VIOLENT ONSLAUGHT STRIKES KANGPOKPI; CO TU VEHEMENTLY CONDEMNS UNABATED AGGRESSION ON KUKI TERRITORY

Days after the conduct of the first phase of Lok Sabha polls in Manipur, a fresh wave of violence has engulfed Kangpokpi District on Tuesday afternoon, following the heavy onslaught unleashed by the armed Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol goons in the Phaileng-Luwangsanggol area, situated on the fringe areas between Kangpokpi and Imphal West.

The Meiteis' narcissistic Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts' private militia groups- Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and VBIGs have seen enormous backfires from the Meitei commoners following the widespread poll riggings perpetrated by them in favour of the present regime. To divert the internal conflicts within the Meitei populace amidst a declining trend of support from their own people, the militia groups have renewed an aggressive attack on the Kukis' territory situated near the "Line of Control".

The Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol rained down a barrage of mortar shells and bombs on the Kuki villages, engulfing them in a relentless crossfire that persisted until nightfall.

Although there is no official confirmation, sources indicated that at least two armed Meitei militants were killed during the crossfire, with no reported casualties among the Kuki village volunteers.

As per a viral video footage, personnel of the central security forces who were on their way to control the escalating tension between the two warring communities were blocked at Sekmai, Imphal West, by the infamous communal Meitei womenfolk- the Meira Paibis.

The heavy exchange of gunfight continued till the filing of this report late in the evening.

Meanwhile, the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills vehemently condemned the unabated



aggression of the armed Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol on the Kuki community.

Ng. Lun Kipgen, the Media Cell Coordinator of CoTU, asserted that the fresh attack on Kukis at Phaileng-Luwangsanggol area is a blatant ploy by the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Militants to salvage their tarnished image following their interference in the recently concluded first phase Lok Sabha Polls.

Kipgen vividly recounted the harrowing events of April 14 at Phailengmol, marking it as one of the most egregious violations of human rights in recent memory while adding that in the incident two Kuki volunteers fell victim to a brutal massacre and mutilation orchestrated by Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol, leaving an indelible scar on the conscience of society.

Kipgen pointed out that, till now authorities concerned are yet to act on the brutal murder incident of Phailengmol.

He claimed that the lack of action from the relevant authorities empowered and emboldened the armed Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol,

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to carry out another attack on the Kukis just a week after the tragic killing of Phailengmol.

“Enough is enough. How many more sacrifices must we make to maintain peace in the region? The central government must intervene and instruct an unfit leader like Mr. Biren Singh to cease the unprovoked attacks on the Kuki people”, Kipgen asserted.

“Biren Singh must reckon the damage he’s brought, both within his own community and among the Kuki people, and gracefully exit the stage”, he further added.

The Committee on Tribal Unity vehemently denounced

the assault on the Phaileng-Luwangsanggol area, branding it as a brutal and unjustified act of aggression.

Regarding the tragic killing of Phailengmol on April 14, Ng. Lun Kipgen, the Media Cell Coordinator for CoTU, mentioned that a petition has been submitted to the relevant district authority.

He also stated that if the case regarding the gruesome killing of two Kuki village volunteers in Phailengmol is not resolved promptly, extreme measures may be considered.

SEIKHOHAO HAOKIP (33 years)
H/o Nu Kimneineng
S/o (L) Letkam Haokip & (L) Lhingkhohoi Haokip of
Boljol Village, Leimata, Kangvai Subdivision, Lamka

- Mr. Seikhohao Haokip was a man of immense grit who volunteered himself around Joujantek area to guard his people from the enemies’ seizure.

- Owing to an ailment, he breathed his last at District Hospital in the morning of 22nd April. His condolence program was initiated in KKL office and he was buried that very day at Martyrs’ Park, Sehken, with full tribute and respect commanding of a hero.

- He leaves behind a wife, two daughters and one son.

- Though a physical malady took his life, his courage and grit in the face of the ethnic warfare remains exemplary.

- Joining the revered ranks of our martyrs today, we will ceaselessly remain indebted for his imperishable sacrifice.

May his soul rest in eternal peace!

KSO Media & Documentation Cell
23.04.2024 (Tuesday)

Eulogy TO OUR FALLEN HERO



US RIGHTS REPORT ON INDIA CITES ABUSES IN MANIPUR, HARASSMENT OF MEDIA AND MINORITIES

The U.S. State Department's annual human rights assessment found "significant" abuses in India's northeastern Manipur state last year and attacks on minorities, journalists and dissenting voices in the rest of the country.

Manipur has seen fierce fighting between its tribal Kuki-Zo and majority Meitei populations after a court order a year ago suggested the Kuki's minority privileges be extended to the Meitei. More than 200 people have been killed.

The State Department report said over 60,000 people were displaced between May and November in Manipur.

There was no immediate comment on the report from the Indian embassy in Washington.

In the rest of India, the State Department reported "numerous instances" in which the government and its allies "allegedly pressured or harassed media outlets critical of the government."

For example, the Income Tax Department searched the BBC's offices in early 2023 after it released a documentary critical of Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Indian government said at the time the search was not vindictive.

Reporters Without Borders ranked India at 161 out of 180 countries on its press freedom index in 2023, the country's lowest position ever.

The U.S. assessment said religious minorities in India reported discrimination including calls for violence and spread of misinformation.



Modi, who is favored to win a record-equaling third term in an election under way until June 1, denies abuse of minorities and says his policies aim to benefit all Indians.

Human rights groups allege the climate has deteriorated under Modi. They point to rise in hate speech, the revoking of Muslim-majority Kashmir's special status, a citizenship law that the U.N. calls "fundamentally discriminatory" and the demolition of Muslim properties in the name of removing illegal construction.

While the U.S. report hit on themes similar to recent years, political analysts say Washington is restrained in its public criticism of New Delhi because the U.S. hopes India will act as a counterweight to an expansionist China.

Source: [Reuters](#)

LAW AND DISORDER: UNLAWFUL ARAMBAI TENGGOL FIRE SEVERAL GUNSHOTS TO AVOID POLICE FRISKING IN IMPHAL

As the first phase of Lok Sabha polls in Manipur concluded, the unlawful Arambai Tenggol militia is back to its usual self of creating chaos in the Meiteis' death valley of Imphal to regain their degrading popularity.

Cadres of N. Biren's private militia group were actively engaged in the Parliamentary Elections and were allegedly involved in large-scale riggings and violence during the first phase of the polls just to clear the mandate for their chosen candidate, Th. Bashanta of BJP.

As April 23 is a day for the Meiteis to pay homage to the fighters of Anglo-Manipuri War 1891, the cadres of Arambai Tenggol, heading towards Khongjom to commemorate Khongjom Day, were intercepted by the police near Kakwa police station. It was learnt that the private militia cadres who came by buses, cars, gypsies and two wheelers were carrying looted arms while travelling towards Khongjom War Memorial Park. They were intercepted by the personnel of the security forces performing their normal routine checks and frisking.

However, the Arambai Tenggol combatants refused to obey the command of the police and a commotion ensued. In the melee, the Arambai goons started firing several rounds to escape the frisking and eventually fled from the scene. The incident could have turned ugly had the police retaliated, sources said. But, the Meitei police personnel, as usual, failed to perform their lawful duties against the Arambai Tenggol owing to obvious reasons.

With the help of the central security forces, the police overpowered some of the goons and reportedly apprehended the armed radicals along with arms and ammunition in their possession. The incident



once again exemplifies the apparent reign of the Arambai Tenggol over the State's law enforcing agencies. It also marked the complete breakdown of law and order in the Meiteis' valley of Imphal.

The Government of India must note that in order to contain the talibanized state of affairs under the present regime, the central armed forces should be given a free hand or more powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958.

To divert attention from their unlawful activities, the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei militants renewed their aggressive mode of attacking the Kuki areas later in the afternoon. Videos

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have circulated on various social media platforms wherein Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol cadres could be seen firing towards Kuki villages near the buffer zone of Phaileng-Luwangsanggol area situated on the fringe areas between Kangpokpi and Imphal West.

Mention may be made that owing to their active involvement in the LS election in favour of the BJP's candidate, Th. Bashanta, the Arambai Tenggol and their sinister design have now been exposed by and to the Meitei populace thereby invoking widespread criticism from Meiteis themselves. In a bid to tackle such criticisms and regain the trust of the Meitei populace, the Arambai Tenggol could not come up with anything but to resort to violence and resume attacking the Kuki villages in peripheral areas.

Meanwhile, thousands of Arambai Tenggol members have renewed their commitment to safeguarding and preserving the territorial integrity of Manipur, disregarding the fact they have been the main actor

in the physical and emotional disintegration of the present Manipur.

The commander in chief of the AT led the ceremony in Khongjom wherein the members of the AT reaffirmed their vows to safeguard Manipur. It must be noted that the erstwhile Manipur has been split into pieces with no chance of re-uniting again in the foreseeable future. A line has been drawn separating the Kuki and the Meitei territories.

Physically, emotionally, ethnographically and demographically, the Kukis and Meiteis have now been separated and the only thing left is for the formalisation of this separation by granting some form of a Separate Administration for the Kukis. There is no merit for the Kukis in living together with the community that committed unspeakable crimes against them in particular and humanity in general, but to co-exist as good neighbours.



The banner features a purple speech bubble on the left with the text "we're COMING SOON" in white and yellow. To the right is the "Thinkkho Le Malcha" logo with a hand holding a torch. Below the logo is a yellow rounded rectangle containing the text "OFFICIAL WEBSITE". Underneath that is the text "LOADING..." above a purple progress bar that is approximately 75% full.

VALLEY BASED MEDIA HOUSE PUBLISH IMAGINARY, ADVANCE REPORT OF EVENT YET TO BE HELD

Valley based daily evening, Imphal Times, which has been regularly publishing unconfirmed, biased and exaggerated reports in connection with the present crisis in Manipur has published an imaginary report of event yet to be held in its April 23 publication.

Media houses based in Imphal valley have been known to published unverified, false, inaccurate and one-sided news in this ongoing conflict, drawing criticism from the Editors Guild of India fact finding team. The EGI released a report of its 'Fact-Finding Mission on Media's Reportage of the Ethnic Violence in Manipur' last year which claimed that the media's reports on the ethnic violence in Manipur were one-sided and accused the state leadership of being partisan.

Resident Doctors Association on April 22 issued a release that the association with all the resident Doctors/CMOs of JNIMS will be organising a sit-in protest on April 24 in response to the alarming recent incidents where doctors have received death threats from unknown gunmen in the ATC, JNIMS.

However, the evening as expected had published a report on its April 23 publication that the doctors have staged a sit in protest on April 23 at the premises of JNIMS.

Reacting to the news report, the Resident Doctors Association has issued a notice on April 23 clarifying that no such events has happened in the premises of JNIMS on April 23.

The association requested Imphal Times to retract the false news and clear the doubt at the earliest.

If a media house could make such mistakes from a press release issued, the authenticity of the reports



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Ref. No : 09/24

Date : 23/04/24

NOTICE

It came to the notice of the Residents Doctors' Association (RDA), JNIMS that an issue of the Imphal Times (Volume 8, Issue 794, Tuesday, April 23, 2024) has wrongfully posted the news of a sit in protest organized by the Residents Doctors of JNIMS along with its Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) on this particular day of 23rd April 2024. The association clarifies that no such events has happened in the premises of JNIMS or elsewhere.

In addition, the association further adds that it bears no responsibility either at individual or at the organizational level (whoever is concerned) for any consequences that may arise from the dissemination of such false news at this public platform.

Further, we request the Imphal Times to retract this false news and clear this doubt on the same platform at the earliest.

With regards,

Resident Doctors' Association, JNIMS

Resident Doctors stage sit-in protest at JNIMS

IT News
Imphal, April 23:

The Resident Doctors Association, along with Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), organized a sit-in protest at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of

Medical Sciences (JNIMS) in response to death threats from unidentified gunmen. The threats have raised concerns over the safety of healthcare professionals.

The protesting doctors have demanded immediate ac-

tion to safeguard the security of all healthcare professionals at JNIMS. They urge authorities to take necessary measures to prevent such incidents in the future and condemned acts of intimidation and violence against healthcare workers.

published by the valley media house in regards to different incidents is highly questionable and not trustworthy.

The question is how will such media houses have the skill and publish accurate reports regarding incidents in different parts of the State and inform the masses about the real happenings. Even if they do publish it, the reports are bound to be factually incorrect.

POLLING AGENTS THREATENED DURING REPOLL

In a disturbing turn of events, two polling agents representing the INC candidate, Dr. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, were reportedly threatened during a fresh poll conducted at 11 polling stations in Manipur's Inner Parliamentary Constituency. The incidents, which occurred on Monday, have sparked concerns over the safety and integrity of the electoral process.

According to Kh Devabrata, the working president of Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC), two polling agents stationed at Moirangkampu Sajeb Upper Primary School and S Ibobi Primary School in Khurai AC were subjected to threats by unidentified individuals. One of the agents, Ajitkumar, received a menacing call from a mobile phone number, wherein the caller issued a chilling threat implying imminent harm. Similarly, another agent, Ningthoujam Sheetalaxhmi, was reportedly threatened through her family members while fulfilling her duties at Moirang Kampu Upper Primary School polling station.

MPCC promptly filed a written complaint with the Returning Officer (RO) regarding these distressing incidents, urging swift action to apprehend the perpetrators and ensure justice for the affected individuals. Devabrata condemned the actions as reprehensible and called upon the authorities to address the matter urgently.



Furthermore, Devabrata accused the BJP of engaging in egregious malpractices during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, including poll rigging, booth capture, and destruction of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). He alleged that the BJP's tactics extended to threatening polling agents and orchestrating violence through armed henchmen, resulting in injuries to numerous individuals.

In response to these allegations, MPCC submitted a complaint to the relevant authority, advocating for a fresh poll at 36 polling stations in Inner Manipur PC and 11 polling stations in Outer Manipur PC. However, the Election Commission of India (ECI) issued a notification for a fresh poll at only 11 polling stations in the Inner Manipur constituency.

Source: [India Today NE](#)



A Nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.

— Nelson Mandela

**NEWS ANALYSIS****Recurring Blockades by Meira Paibis on Movement of Central Security Forces Exacerbates Violent Situation**

One common phenomena witnessed during these 11-month long violence in strife-torn Manipur is the recurring blockades on movement of Central Security Forces by the Meitei Paibis.

On Tuesday afternoon, a fresh wave of violence engulfed Kangpokpi District following heavy onslaught unleashed by armed Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol in the Phaileng-Luwangsanggol area, situated on the fringe between Kangpokpi and Imphal West.

The Meitei militants, and the Arambai Tenggol, armed with deadly precision rain down a barrage of mortar shells and bombs on the Kuki villages, engulfing them in a relentless crossfire that persists until nightfall.

As usual, the Meitei womenfolks – the Meira Paibis, started blocking the movement of central security forces who were on their way to the conflict area at Sekmai. The Meira Paibis halted the security forces convoy at the middle of the road, asking the security personnel's to return back, indirectly aiding Meitei militants and Meitei radical groups in attacking Kuki villages.

On June 2023, the Indian Army had to release 12 militants of Kanglei Yawol Kunna Lup (KYKL), including self-styled “Lt Col” Moirangthem Tamba alias Uttam— a wanted militant identified as the mastermind of the 2015 Chandel ambush in which 18 soldiers of the six Dogra Regiment, after they were surrounded by Meira Paibis on their way to Imphal from Thoubal district.

Later, the defence ministry in a statement said they had to let go of the militants in order to avoid any collateral damage.

Meitei womenfolks – the Meira Paibis, who were considered as the “guardians of civil society” have become detrimental to central security forces in maintaining law and order situation. On several occasions, there have been instances of this women group becoming obstacles for law enforcing agencies when executing their primary duty. Every single time Meitei insurgents start shooting at Kuki villages, Meira Paibis will start blocking critical roads to prevent security forces from helping or saving the Kuki villages and from retaliating against

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the Meitei attackers. We have seen this drama repeated over and over for the past 11 months.

Meanwhile, the failure on the part of law enforcing agency to effectively deal with the menace posed by women groups in obstructing them from performing their duties is intriguing, highlighting the perceived inability of security forces to effectively counter them.

How many blockades by Meira Paibis will it take for the Central Security Forces to devise a strategy to counter the Meira Paibi menace? Are they so incapable that they can be easily choked by the Meira Paibis all the time? The repeated cycle of violence, with Meitei insurgents

targeting Kuki villages and Meira Paibis obstructing security forces' efforts to intervene, highlights a concerning breakdown in law and order.

The apparent ineffectiveness of the Indian Army, despite its formidable reputation, in dealing with the persistent challenges posed by Meira Paibis is concerning. The situation, characterized by recurring incidents over the past 11 months, reflects a troubling pattern of lawlessness and impunity.

Neither the government nor the armed forces have learned anything, even after 11 months. This is total and complete lawlessness.



SAMUEL T KHONGSAI
@SamKhongsai_



INFAMOUS MEIRA PAIBIS BLOCK SECURITY FORCES AGAIN.

While Meitei Terrorists attack Phaileng Kuki-Zo area, their mothers blocked @official_dgar from conducting combing operations in the area. This has been the modus operandi of Meiteis.



6:02 pm · 23 Apr 24 · 1,400 Views



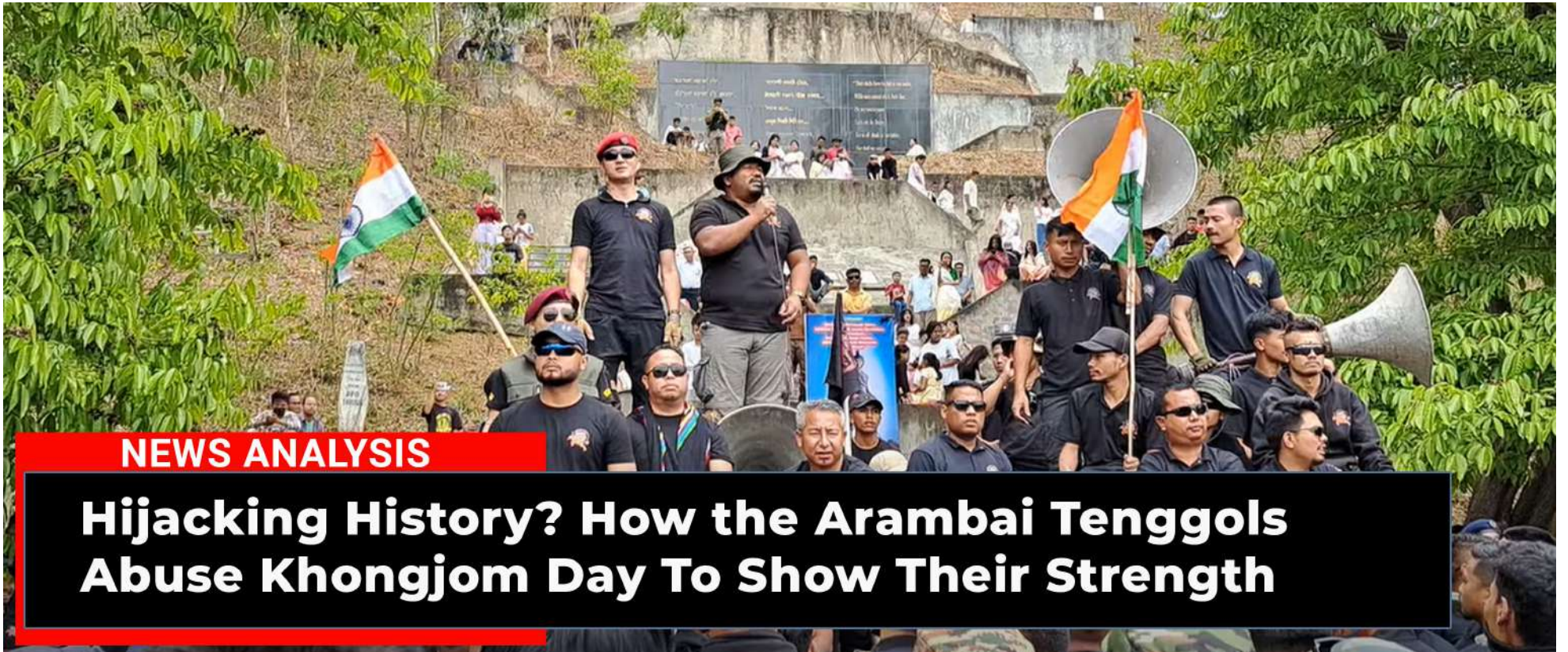
Rajshri
@Rajshri4567

The unfortunate events that began in Manipur on 3 May 2023 are the Gujarat model. Rajat Sethi (former advisor to the Chief Minister of Manipur) Ram Madhav (RSS) had made this plan at the behest of Amit Shah and they had left Manipur before May 3. These people distributed the weapons of the police station among the people of Manipur. , Weapons which should have been with the army were distributed to spread unrest Assam Students Union is also involved in this, they work for Shah. Imagine if these people come back to power, there will be anarchy in the entire country. Do remember @RahulGandhi's statement that if the government wants, our army will control this situation within 2 days, he was right. Think carefully before voting. Vote for Congress to ensure the security of the country. Look at the record of Modi/Shah in the last decade, what has this government done for the welfare of the people. Save the Constitution. Save your country. Do vote this time to protect your daughters. #LokSabhaElections2024



8:45 PM · Apr 23, 2024 · 479 Views





NEWS ANALYSIS

Hijacking History? How the Arambai Tenggols Abuse Khongjom Day To Show Their Strength

In Manipur, the 23rd of April is observed every year as a State Holiday on account of Khongjom Day. Anyone with even a cursory knowledge of Manipur's history, or those born and brought up in the state, is aware of its significance.

The *Khongjom Lan* (Khongjom War) which unfolded against the backdrop of confrontations between the British and the Manipuri royal family stemmed from a palace revolt led by Tikendrajit Singh on 21st September, 1890. The revolt aimed to depose Maharaja Surachandra Singh and install Kulachandra Singh as the ruler.

Surachandra initially agreed to abdicate the throne but soon sought British assistance, resulting in the execution of Chief Commissioner Quinton and his party, including Grimwood. This event led to the Battle of Khongjom on 23rd April 1891 (although some historians are of the opinion that the Battle was fought on 25th April). In the Battle of Khongjom, 2 British soldiers were killed and 11 injured, while over 128 Manipuris, including high-ranking officials like Major Paona Brajabasi, Heirang Kongja, and Chinglensana, lost their lives. Subsequently, Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General were also hanged in public on 13th August which is now being observed as Patriots' Day in the state.

It may also be noted that following the First Anglo-

Burmese War (1824-26), the British aided the prince of Manipur, Gambhir Singh, in reclaiming his kingdom from Burmese occupation. Subsequently, a British Political Agent was stationed in Imphal from 1835 to look after the affairs of the administration of the princely state.

Dr. Pum Khan Pau (*Strategic Analysis*, 36 (5), 2012: 776-86) recorded that, "Manipur then became a British protectorate although final annexation was only to take place in 1891. "However, since there was no treaty between the British and Manipur, the Manipuris tended to regard themselves as an independent state. Noted Indian Historian R.C. Majumdar (*British Paramountcy and Indian Renaissance*, Part I, 2002: 732-3) stated that "[The Treaty of Yandabo] leaves vague and undefined the exact status of the Manipur State, and there is no subsequent treaty to indicate that it was a vassal State, either of Burma or of the British." According to Prof. N. Lokendra Singh (*The Unquiet Valley*, 1998: 26-7), "Legally, however, Manipur never acknowledged the suzerainty of the British Government."

To cut a long story short, the Manipuri soldiers faced a humiliating defeat in the Battle of Khongjom

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and thereby Manipur lost its status as an independent political entity. This was mainly because the British soldiers were armed with the most advanced weapons of the time including .303 Rifles and Cannons, whereas the Manipuri soldiers depend only on their cavalry and foot soldiers who were armed with bows and arrows, spears, and swords. Some scholars hinted that they might also use Arambai, a dart weapon attached with an iron arrow head and feathers of peacocks as the tail, used by the Meitei cavalry mounted on Manipuri Ponies.

According to Meitei historians including Maj. (Dr.) Bhabananda Singh Takhellambam, the Manipuri soldiers were not even aware of the kind of weapons the British soldiers used. They thought they would be able to defend themselves from the bullets fired by the British soldiers by simply swinging their swords, and that no harm would be incurred since their priests (*Maibi-Maibas*) had performed war rituals for them. However, when the British soldiers actually started firing their Rifles, they were clueless and had to run for life. Some even opined that most of the Manipuri soldiers were killed while trying to escape from the battle and not in the battlefield itself.

This kind of narration, though appearing to be disrespectful of the martyrs who made supreme sacrifices, says something about the true picture of the battle and the degree to which the war was glorified by historians. Keeping aside how the sequence of events in the Battle of Khongjom, or the Anglo-Manipuri War 1891, unfolds, it is a historical fact that it was a very short armed conflict between the British Empire and the Manipur Kingdom.

However, Meitei historians like Yumkhaibam Shyam Singh, writing for a predatory journal (*Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 6(8), 2022: 4471–8) argued that among the famous battles fought at Thoubal, Kakching and Khongjom in the eastern front of the war, the “Battle of Khongjom was the most horrific.” Some historians also argued that the Anglo-Manipuri War lasted from 31st March, the day the British declared war, till 27th April 1891.

Apart from this, some Meitei historians also often portrayed the event as a war fought basically by the Manipuris (Meiteis) alone leaving aside the role played by other communities including the Meitei-Pangals and the tribals. Whereas glorification of one’s history is common in every community, the manner in which the Meitei soldiers were almost exclusively glorified even after 75 years of India’s independence shows the “exclusivist attitude” of the dominant community. Surprisingly, even Thangal General is frequently portrayed as a Meitei hero! As such, the absence of critical minds in the [re]interpretation of the past events shows the lack of academic zeal among the scholars of the state, not to forget the controversy surrounding the date of Khongjom Battle.

What is worse is the manner in which the newly formed militia groups, which many including Dr. A. Bimol Akoijam termed as private militias, exploit such important historical events for their personal interests presumably to get moral support from the innocent Meitei masses. In fact, since last year, Khongjom Day has become more of a show of strength for these radicalized Meitei groups rather than a day to show respect to the fallen heroes of 1891. The 23rd April 2023 was notably the first day a State Level program had been hijacked by the Arambai Tenggols to capture the socio-political space in Imphal. Since then they have been portraying themselves as some form of nationalist organisation to take charge of defending their beloved Kangleipak Kingdom as the valiant Manipuri soldiers did back in 1891.

This is not only a grave injustice to the souls of those brave soldiers who fought the mighty British but is also morally unethical. In fact the humiliating defeat of the Manipuri soldiers in the hands of the British was one of the reasons why the Kukis once again rose against the colonial power two decades later in the “Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-1919.”

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But these terrorist-like organisations have indoctrinated the innocent Meitei masses to the extent that most of them seem to disagree with the Anglo-Kuki war as a historical event. It may be remembered that even influential Meitei leaders such as Chingakham Sanachaoba and their followers were in support of the fight against British colonialism though he was soon arrested and deported by the then Meitei King with the help of the British.

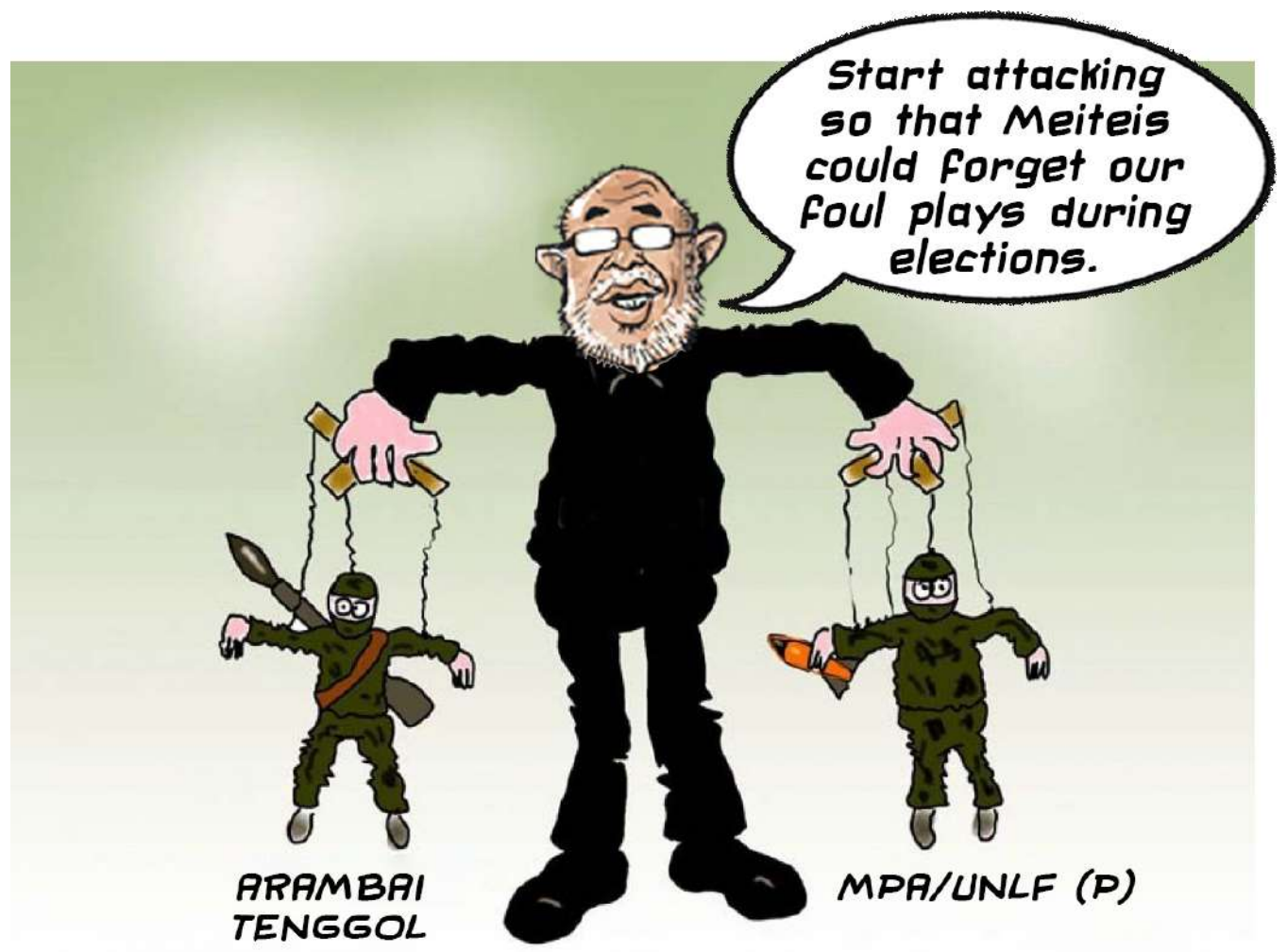
Now that the Arambai Tenggols with the open support of Mr. N. Biren Singh and his government have run a parallel government in Imphal, state level functions such as Khongjom Day seems to be a day for its cadres to come together to show its strength. And it is also surprising that the Meitei intellectuals remain silent till date, giving space to the half-educated and unemployed youths like Korounganba Khuman, M. Barish Sharma, Maheshwar Thounaojam, and even criminals like Kh. Robin Mangang to shape the future of Meitei society.

Now, what happened in the last 11 months compelled us to ponder over this: If gang rape, murder, and open looting of Kukis' property is what the 2000 years of Meitei civilization stands for, the Meitei intellectuals must not be ashamed of how anti-social elements like the Arambai Tenggols hijacked an important historical event such as Khongjom Day to their advantage.

Anyway, the Arambai Tenggols have been officially handed the charge of the affairs of the state by all the 39 Meitei legislators including the Chief Minister Mr. N. Biren Singh and two Members of Parliament including the titular King of the Meiteis Mr. Leishemba Sanajaoba on 24th January 2024! And the United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of the Naga tribes of Manipur, had disowned the current state government as exclusively of the valley.



**THE
POST-POLL
DIRECTION**





A MORNING IN THE VERDANT HILLSIDE

In the enchanting Thinglhang Gam,

Where Khupting and Ngambom once dwelled,
Guardian of this land, Galngam's watchful eyes.
A new day unfolds, fresh and tender,
Exhaustion of yesterday fades, replaced by
vigour and hope.

Joutwi theng, crystal clear, sings and dances
downhill,
Its laughter echoing through ancient rocks,
Nourishing the land, quenching thirst,
As villagers gather, hearts brimming with
gratitude.

Plenty of chang le mim, a generous bounty,
Shared among neighbours, laughter in
abundance.

Jing Ninou peeks over distant hills,
Casting golden hues on saheipah.

Huilhi, the morning breeze, whispers secrets,
Caressing petals, stirring memories.

Birds join the chorus, their songs sweet,
A symphony of dawn, a celebration of life.

Old souls sit on kemchung, weaving stories,
Plaiting beng le nam, threads of tradition.
Their hands weathered, hearts young,
Preserving heritage, passing wisdom to the wind.

Children laugh, riding their kangtalai and playing
kang (kangkap),
Merrily spinning kangchongs on dusty ground.
In hidden corners, traps are set,
Wild animals, elusive and free.

And the members of Lompi/Lomcha,
Shoulder their chempongs and tuchas.
Their labour weaves the fabric of existence,
Life dances on as joy and togetherness fills the air.

In the enchanting Thinglhang Gam.

~ *Seimental Singisit*