

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



COMMEMORATING

**107** YEARS ANNIVERSARY

**ANGLO-KUKI**  
**War 1917-1919**

**17<sup>TH</sup> Oct** **2024**





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 11.09.2024



**199**  
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 GOVERNMENT'S SILENCE ON ANGLO-KUKI WAR EXPOSES DEEP-SEATED COMPLICITY IN KUKI MARGINALIZATION : KSO

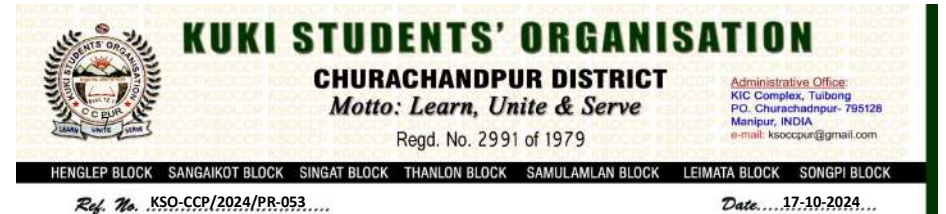
In a scathing statement, the Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) Churachandpur has condemned the Manipur government's ongoing refusal to officially commemorate the Anglo-Kuki War (1917-1919), accusing the Meitei-led administration of systematically erasing Kuki history. The KSO expressed outrage at the government's failure to declare a public holiday on October 17 to honor the anniversary of the historic anti-colonial uprising, labeling the silence as part of a deliberate attempt to suppress the identity and heritage of the Kuki people.

The KSO pointed out that the state had only once, in 2019, reluctantly acknowledged "Kuki Rising Day" as a restricted holiday after decades of appeals. However, the government has since abandoned this recognition, which the KSO attributes to pressure from dominant Meitei groups. The organization called this silence a "revelation" of the state's complicity in marginalizing the Kuki people, portraying the government's actions as a concerted effort to erase the contributions of the Kuki community to the region's anti-colonial history.

The Anglo-Kuki War, the statement said, was a pivotal event not only for the Kuki people but also for the history of Manipur, involving "the largest military operations conducted in this part of India" according to historical records. The KSO criticized the Manipur government for refusing to acknowledge these facts, likening the situation to an Orwellian agenda that seeks to "obliterate" Kuki history while elevating Meitei narratives.

"Can there be integrity when your history is attacked, omitted, and obliterated?" the KSO asked, accusing the government of pursuing a false sense of unity that disregards the emotional and historical integrity of the tribal people. The Kuki community, they said, is being forced to accept Meitei history as their own while their own past is systematically erased.

The KSO's statement went further, endorsing the demand for a Separate Administration for the Kuki



Press Statement

Another Silence, Another Revelation

In yet another revelation of the Meitei-led Manipur Government's empathy for the Meitei radical secessionists group's attempt to suppress and obliterate the history and culture of the minority tribal people in the state the feigned silence of the government this year on declaring a 'holiday' on 17 October to commemorate the anniversary of the Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-1919 (the Kuki Rising) is again significant. It has, for *only* once in 2019, reluctantly declared 17 October as "Kuki Rising Day" as a "restricted holiday" after several decades of prayer and appeal from the Kuki community. Since then, the state Government has again succumbed to pressure from the Meitei corners.

The Kuki community has been appealing to the government of Manipur to recognize the Anglo-Kuki War 1917-1919 as one important anti-colonial historical event in the state. Nobody denies the existence of the event as one of the most significant events in the history of Manipur in the colonial period, deserving state recognition and commemoration. The thousands of pages of official reports deposited in different archives of India and the United Kingdom, besides a good number of academic works circulating in the markets, are testimony to its existence. It was "*the most formidable with which Assam has been faced*" (Assam Government, 1920), "*The most serious incident in the history of Manipur*" (Reid, 1942), and, "*the largest series of military operations conducted on this side of India*" (Shakespeare, 1929). It would be too naïve to omit or silence such an important anti-colonial event in the history and memory of the post-colonial independent India.

Yet, to the Meitei-dominated Manipur Government, the Anglo-Kuki War has remained an elephant in the room. Succumbed to the majoritarian Meitei groups, the objective truth is inimical to the government. They are afraid of revealing the truth of the past because they believe that it was, and it will always be, only the Meiteis and the Meitei history that ever existed in Manipur. As it was always known to beso, the Orwellian dystopic state will never bow down to tribal history but will continue to pursue its dystopian agenda. It will continue to pretend silence as it is committed to its Orwellian ideology: "The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history".

The state government talked of "integrity" but acted otherwise. Can there be integrity of the people unless there is emotional integrity first? Or is your language of "integrity" all about bullying the tribal people to emotionally accept the Meitei history as theirs and completely forget their own? Can there be any "integrity" when your history is attacked, omitted and obliterated? No way. This is the reason why the Kuki students have wholeheartedly supported the demand for *Separate Administration* for the Kuki people, an Administration that would keep us away from your dystopic control, and that Administration which would respect, recognize, and promote our history, culture, and identity.

people, citing the government's failure to respect their culture and identity. They declared that the Anglo-Kuki War would forever remain a central part of their history, regardless of state recognition.

In a powerful closing statement, the KSO warned that "TRUTH will always prevail," emphasizing that the ongoing erasure of Kuki history by what they termed "habitual deceivers" would not succeed in silencing their people. They urged the broader Indian public to recognize the contributions of the Kuki people, who had supported India's freedom struggle without demanding anything in return, only to face continued marginalization today.



# 107TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANGLO-KUKI WAR OBSERVED IN LAMKA

The 107th anniversary of the Anglo-Kuki War (1917-1919) was observed today with deep patriotism and reflection in Churachandpur district. The event began with a ceremony at Leisang village, where the Anglo-Kuki War Centenary Gate stands proudly. During this observance, a monolith commemorating the anniversary was unveiled by Solet Lhungdim, Kumpi Pa of Kuki Inpi, alongside various leaders from Kuki civil society organizations (CSOs).

In a gesture of remembrance and renewal, leaders from the Kuki community participated in a sapling plantation drive, symbolizing growth and resilience in honoring their history.

Following the commemorative activities at the Centenary Gate, a national seminar titled "Preserving Heritage, Celebrating Courage" was held at M. Songgel Community Hall. The seminar featured prominent speakers, including Col. (Dr.) Vijay Chenji, author of The

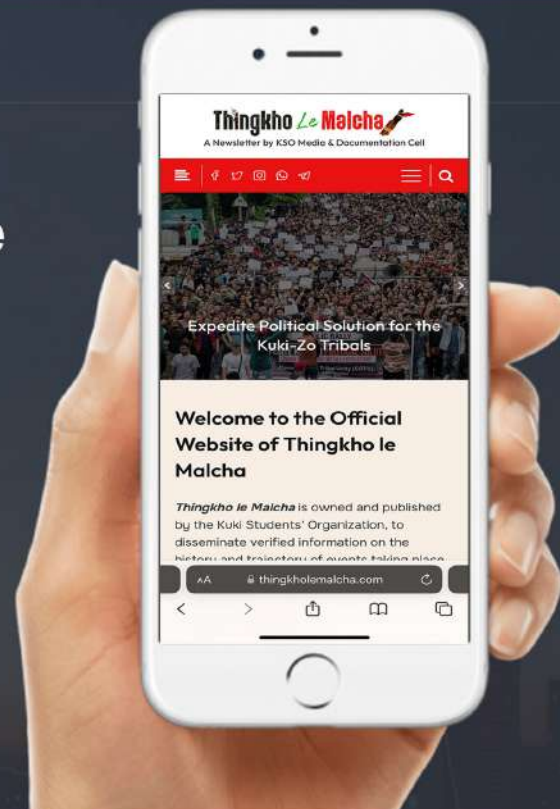


Anglo-Kuki War: Victory in Defeat, Dr. Shonthang from Lamka College, and Dr. Letkhomang from Rayburn College. Discussions centered on the significance of the war in shaping Kuki identity and the importance of preserving this critical chapter in history.



## Welcome to the Official Website of Thingkho le Malcha

Thingkho le Malcha is owned and published by the Kuki Students' Organization, to disseminate verified information on the history and trajectory of events taking place in the deeply divided state of Manipur. It is an indispensable locus for truth and sanctum of resistance towards the antithesis of justice and peace... [Read More](#)





# 107TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANGLO-KUKI WAR COMMEMORATED IN MOREH

The Hill Tribal Council (HTC) hosted a significant commemoration marking the 107th anniversary of the Anglo-Kuki War (1917-1919), honoring the bravery and sacrifices of the Kuki people in their resistance against British colonial rule.

The event commenced with traditional ceremonies aimed at paying tribute to the fallen warriors. A heartfelt garlanding ceremony took place at the Pu Chengjapao Aisan Pa Statue Campus in Phaicham Veng, where community members gathered to remember those who fought for their freedom and identity.

Esteemed leaders and historians took the stage at the HTC Conference Hall, delivering impactful speeches that highlighted the war's significance and its ongoing relevance to the Kuki community. Their reflections emphasized the enduring themes of unity, resilience, and pride in cultural heritage.



In a message from the HTC, leaders called on all Kuki-Zo people and their supporters to recognize the importance of this historical event as a reminder of their journey toward self-determination and justice. The commemoration served not only as a remembrance of past struggles but also as a beacon of hope for future generations.

## THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

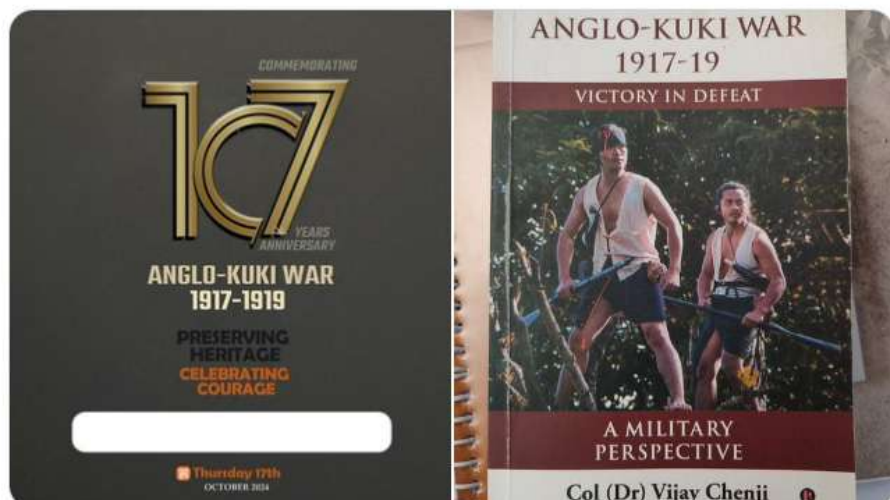
Indian Christian Community  
@ChristianIndia\_

Today marks 107th year of the ANGLO-KUKI WAR

The Kuki are not only the prominent tribe in India but for the whole world who stood up against the mighty British.

Their love for their indigenous land and contribution to India's freedom struggle is noteworthy.

#Anglo\_KukiWar



4:20 PM · Oct 17, 2024 · 1,343 Views

Sushma Sharma  
@SushmaSh22

Few Facts from the Anglo-Kuki War (1917-1919):

- 86 villages destroyed
- 112 surrendered
- 970+ muskets confiscated
- Casualties on both sides were high.

(Source: History of Assam Rifles, Col. LW Shakespeare, 1929)

#AngloKukiWar1917\_1919  
#Pushpa2TheRule #bambam #RohitSharma #ViratKohli #budda  
#LingOrm #digitalart



1:56 PM · Oct 17, 2024 · 1,792 Views



# KSO-GHQ EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH NMC TO FACILITATE ENGINEERING EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS

In a significant initiative, the Kuki Students' Organization (KSO) GHQ Education Department, in collaboration with the National Minority Commission (NMC), has successfully enabled 10 Kuki students to pursue their Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech) degrees at the CSI Institute of Technology in Tamil Nadu.

This partnership, spearheaded by Mr. Pau of the NMC and KSO GHQ Education Secretary Thangmoi Haokip, comes in response to the ongoing civil unrest in Manipur, which has severely impacted students' educational pursuits. The KSO GHQ education department has been actively working to support students affected by the turmoil since May 3, ensuring that their academic careers are not compromised.

Amidst the challenges faced by medical and engineering students in the region, the KSO has remained committed to advocating for educational opportunities for those displaced by the unrest. With NMC's assistance, the organization has successfully facilitated the enrollment of various students in institutes across South India, furthering their educational journeys.

Thangmoi Haokip expressed gratitude to the NMC, the CSI Institute, and the donors who have made it possible for disadvantaged students from Manipur to



receive free education. He emphasized that the KSO GHQ education department will continue its efforts to support the welfare of all Kuki-Zo students, regardless of their tribal affiliations.

With the recent admission of 37 Kuki-Zo students into engineering programs, this marks the conclusion of the KSO-GHQ education department's external education mission for the year. The KSO remains dedicated to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to pursue their academic goals despite the prevailing challenges in the region.



**You cannot prevent and prepare for war at the same time.**

— *Albert Einstein*





## Commemorating the Anglo-Kuki War: Honoring the Legacy of Resistance

As we mark the 107th anniversary of the Anglo-Kuki War (1917-1919), notifications from KSO representatives in various districts inform us of the closure of educational institutions to commemorate this pivotal event. This development prompts reflection on the significance and historical relevance of this occasion.

“The Anglo-Kuki War was a defining moment in Kuki history, showcasing their resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to their way of life.” - N. Kipgen (Kipgen, 2013)

The Anglo-Kuki War was a protracted conflict between the British colonial powers and the indigenous Kuki people, inhabiting the Kuki Hills in present-day Manipur and Mizoram, India. The war began when the British attempted to recruit Kuki laborers for World War I, despite their opposition to fighting in a foreign war (Guite, 2014). The Kukis employed guerrilla tactics against British forces, leading to a devastating conflict that lasted until 1919 (Shakespeare, 1912).

“The Kukis were known for their bravery, loyalty, and determination. They fought against the British with all their might, and their resistance will always be remembered as a testament to their unwavering

commitment to freedom.” - J. Shakespeare (Shakespeare, 1929)

This resistance was fueled by the Kukis’ desire to maintain their sovereignty and cultural identity, which they saw threatened by British colonial expansion. The war’s impact was devastating for the Kuki people, resulting in significant loss of life, displacement, and cultural heritage.

“The Anglo-Kuki War was a significant challenge to British authority, forcing them to reassess their policies in the region.” - J. Guite (Guite, 2014)

The British responded to Kuki resistance with force, employing aerial bombing and artillery to quell the uprising (Shadang, 2017). The ultimate defeat of the Kuki people led to British control over their territories, lasting impacts on Kuki-British relations, and a redefinition of Kuki identity.

“The Kuki uprising was a remarkable instance of tribal resistance against colonial rule. It demonstrated the Kukis’ capacity for collective action and their determination to defend their

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land and culture.” - R. Reid (Reid, 1942)

As Chief Seattle, a Native American leader, once said, “We are part of the earth and the earth is part of us... The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth.” This sentiment resonates deeply with the Kuki people’s connection to their land and their struggle to preserve their cultural identity.

Similarly, Crazy Horse, a legendary Lakota warrior, emphasized the importance of unity and resistance, stating, “We are all one, and must remain one if we would survive.”

The legacy of the Anglo-Kuki War continues to influence the politics and social dynamics of the region today.

“The Anglo-Kuki War holds profound significance as a pivotal tribal resistance against British colonial rule in Southeast Asia.” - J. Guite (Guite, 2014)

As we commemorate this significant event, we honor the sacrifices and contributions of our ancestors, who etched their names in the pages of history. Their legacy serves as a reminder of the importance of unity, self-determination, and cultural preservation.

To truly honor our forefathers, we must:

1. Uphold their principles and practices, following in their footsteps.
2. Emulate their love for the land, protection of sovereignty, and mutual respect.
3. Foster brotherhood, truth, and justice, values that defined the Kuki Hills.

In the face of colonialism, our ancestors demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability. Their strategic resistance, leveraging guerrilla warfare and diplomacy,

inspired future generations to continue the fight for independence.

“The Kukis employed innovative tactics, combining traditional warfare with modern strategies. Their resistance was a testament to their resourcefulness and determination.” - J. Guite (Guite, 2014)

Today, as we reflect on our past, we must also address the disunity among our brethren. We must recognize the factors that have led to our decline from the once-renowned warriors of the hills.

Let us:

1. Ponder upon the principles of our ancestors.
2. Reclaim our glorious past.
3. Unite in our quest for self-preservation.

As we commemorate this significant event, we call upon the spirits of our ancestors to guide us. May their legacy inspire us to restore the glorious days of Zalengam, and may their blessings upon our generation be a beacon of hope.

Furthermore, we must acknowledge the significance of this event in the broader context of India’s struggle for independence. The Anglo-Kuki War serves as a powerful reminder of the complexities of colonial rule and the agency of indigenous communities.

In conclusion, as we reflect on the Anglo-Kuki War, we are reminded of the indomitable spirit of our ancestors, who fought valiantly against colonial oppression. Their legacy is etched in the hills and valleys of our homeland, a testament to their unwavering commitment to freedom and self-determination.

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## Contd.

Like the phoenix that rises from the ashes, our community has emerged stronger and more resilient, its cultural identity and traditions intact. The Anglo-Kuki War serves as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards a brighter future, where our sovereignty and heritage are cherished and protected.

As we honor the memories of our forefathers, we rekindle the flame of resistance, fueling our determination to preserve our land, language, and culture. May their sacrifices not be in vain, and may their bravery inspire generations to come.

In the words of Wilma Mankiller, a Cherokee Nation principal chief, "The spirit of the people is still alive and well, and it will endure."

May our collective spirit continue to endure, guiding us towards a future where our children can thrive, proud of their heritage and the sacrifices of those who came before them.

## References:

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# 'DELHI CHALO'







**KWOHR**

**KUKI WOMEN ORGANISATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**3RD PHASE**

**JANGNA  
DOPNA  
HOPDOHNA KINGON**

**ON SATURDAY  
OCTOBER**

**19TH 2024**

**AT THOMAS GROUND  
KANGPOKPI DISTRICT**







# WHERE WAS THE GOVERNMENT?

~ D William Haokip

We stand before the smoldering haze,  
Where once our people spent their days.  
Where children laughed and elders spoke,  
Now silence lies beneath the smoke.

Government, where were your hands,  
When hatred swept across our lands?  
Where were your words when fire spread,  
When streets ran crimson, thick with dread?

We pleaded for help, we called for peace,  
But you stood still, let the violence increase.  
Turned a blind eye to the cries of pain,  
As families shattered, nothing remained.

Was our blood so cheap, our lives so small,  
That justice was never meant for us at all?  
Why did you watch and never defend,  
While our homes crumbled, as lives would end?

Your silence was more than a failure to act,  
A shield for the guilty, complicit in fact.  
The riots raged, unchecked, unbound,  
And you stood still without a sound.  
Where are the trials? Where is the blame?  
Where is the law to reclaim our name?  
We seek the truth, but the truth you hide,  
Justice denied, our wounds open wide.

No answers come, no solace given,  
While killers walk, their sins forgiven.  
Is this the rule you choose to keep?  
A system that sows and nurtures grief?

We question your honor, we question your power,  
Where was your might in our darkest hour?  
You say you protect, you say you are just,  
Yet you left us all to rot in dust.

Until justice is served, our voices won't cease,  
We'll call out your lies, demand our peace.  
Our people deserve to see the day,  
When those complicit have a price to pay.