

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



NGAMMINLUN KIPGEN (31 YEARS)

S/O THANGGIN KIPGEN

ADDRESS: LHANGKICHOI, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF INCIDENT: 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KANGCHUP, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED IN AMBUSH BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 21.10. 2024



203
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.

MEITEIS OPPOSE UNC DEMAND FOR DISTRICT ROLLBACK IN MANIPUR

The United Naga Council, the apex body of Nagas in Manipur, has met with stiff opposition from the Meiteis regarding their demand to roll back the district status of seven new districts created in 2016. It is important to note that the UNC has strongly opposed the creation of these seven new districts by the then Congress government in 2016, imposing an economic blockade for more than 100 days. Since then, they have held several rounds of talks with the government regarding their persistent demand to roll back the district status of these new districts. The UNC's move appears to specifically target Kangpokpi and Tengnoupal, which is a Kuki-dominated district.

The United Naga Council (UNC) imposed an indefinite economic blockade from November 1, 2016, in protest against the government's decision to create seven new districts in Manipur. The bone of contention was the creation of Kangpokpi district, as the new district included a few Naga villages. This change was made after bifurcating Senapati district, and the UNC was emphatic that, as one of the stakeholders, they were not consulted on the matter.

The government of Manipur maintained that the bifurcation of the new districts was done for the sake of administrative convenience, as the old districts were too large and cumbersome. Furthermore, the creation of new districts was expected to speed up developmental works and streamline administrative functions. The government also asserted that it was acting within its prerogatives and did not need to consult anyone on the matter. It proceeded with its decision and created the seven new districts.

The UNC demanded an immediate rollback of the government's decision, but the Okram Ibobi-led Congress government did not flinch. Indignant over the government's intransigence, the UNC intensified the blockade on the two national highways, NH-2 and NH-37, interdicting all movement of goods.



A few weeks after the imposition of the blockade, a counter-blockade was launched by the Meitei people. All goods and commodities being transported from Imphal to the hill districts were seized and pulled down from the vehicles carrying them. Even a loaf of bread, medicines, and clothes were confiscated by volunteers of the counter-blockades. This blockade and counter-blockade led to heightened tensions between the Meiteis and the Nagas.

Matters reached a flashpoint when Meitei civil societies started imposing a ban on the movement of Naga people from the Imphal valley to the hill districts. Thousands of tribals returning home for Christmas celebrations were stranded in Imphal. Vehicles ferrying stranded Naga passengers were intercepted and set on fire in many places. In the Khurai-lamlong area alone, more than 20 vehicles were burned. Tribal individuals who chose to walk home to their villages faced prohibitions, and many were abused, beaten, or even molested. The Meiteis and the Nagas were on the brink of war over this issue.

Strongly opposing any move to roll back the district status of the newly created seven districts, Advisor of JNGVO P. Somarendra publicly opposed plans to revoke the district status of Kakching, achieved on December 8, 2016. He emphasized

that Kakching's designation as a district resulted from years of dedicated efforts, and reversing this status would jeopardize local development and governance.

In a press conference held at the Library and Information Centre in Kakching, Somarendra recounted the history of activism that led to Kakching's district status, noting significant protests demanding Kakching's recognition as a district before the reorganization of Manipur's districts in 1983.

In 1994, the JNGVO took decisive action to improve local infrastructure by evicting unauthorized occupants and constructing road dividers, street lamps, footpaths, and drainage systems in the bustling Kakching market during President's Rule in Manipur.

Somarendra highlighted that on March 25, 1999, Kakching MLA Ksh Irabot successfully introduced a private member's resolution in the assembly to bifurcate Thoubal and Kakching.

The JNGVO was later invited to contribute to the Committee on the Reorganization of Administrative and Police Boundaries in Manipur, submitting a detailed proposal and presenting it in person on September 15, 2011. Following this, a memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister of Manipur on February 10, 2016.

Kakching was officially designated as a district on December 8, 2016, as part of the establishment of seven new districts in Manipur. Subsequently, the Ministry of Communications and the Department of Posts, Government of India, approved the construction of staff

quarters and a post office building in Kakching on July 21, 2017, which are now operational.

Somarendra maintained that Kakching has experienced significant infrastructure improvements since attaining district status. He condemned the inclusion of Kakching in the tripartite discussions regarding the potential rollback of the seven new districts.

He also stated that a memorandum was submitted to the Union Home Minister, the Chief Minister of Manipur, and the Chief Secretary of Manipur on October 4 regarding the rollback.

Somarendra urged officials to maintain Kakching's identity and administrative structure during the upcoming tripartite talks on November 15 in Senapati, where district boundary issues will be addressed.

He stressed that Kakching is a multi-ethnic community living in harmony and called for the avoidance of disputes. He advocated for the prohibition of any signage indicating another district within Kakching's revenue jurisdiction and urged that no other district names be incorporated during census operations.

Somarendra warned that revoking Kakching's district status could provoke renewed tensions and cautioned of significant protests if such actions were pursued.



**In time of war, the loudest patriots
are the greatest profiteers.**

— August Bebel

NAGA YOUTH OPPOSE HAC RESOLUTION TO CONSTITUTE TEMPORARY COMMITTEES FOR EACH ADC

The Manipur Naga Youth Organisation, Headquarter (MNYO-HQ) on Sunday decried the Hill Area Committee (HAC) Resolution No 59/2024, passed on October 14, under the leadership of HAC Chairman Dinganglung Gangmei, which proposes the creation of temporary committees for each ADC.

MNYO-HQ, in a release, vehemently opposed the unconstitutional order and resolution, alleging that it is in violation of democratic norms. The Resolution No 59/2024 was passed in response to the cancellation of the caretaker Chairmanships of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) under Order No. TA501/1/2022 e-TA&H, issued by the state government, it asserted.

It briefed that the resolution proposes the creation of temporary committees for each ADC, comprising 20 members, 18 of whom would be selected from former ADC members, local governance experts and prominent intellectuals, along with two nominees from the state government. These committees are expected to function until the next ADC elections, it added.

Invoking Article 371C of the Indian Constitution to justify such actions is problematic and undermines the foundations of democracy, MNYO stated. It alleged that the formation of temporary committees



without adequate consultation or representation is undemocratic and compromises grassroots governance.

It expressed concern that the decision, allegedly influenced by vested interests, could set a harmful precedent for the governance of hill areas in Manipur. The same is a direct affront to grassroots democracy in the state, and if not addressed, it could erode the democratic framework of the Nation, it asserted.

It urged the Manipur Governor, as the Custodian of Article 371C, along with the state authorities, to take immediate steps to reverse the unconstitutional measures. It further called for swift intervention to ensure the preservation of grassroots democracy and to prevent further actions that may harm the rights of the people of the state.

MANIPUR STILL AWAITS: CONG JIBE AT MODI AHEAD OF HIS RUSSIA VISIT

The Congress on Monday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his visit to Russia for the BRICS Summit, and said Kazan certainly beckons but sadly Manipur still awaits. Notably, the grand old party has been attacking the PM for not visiting the strife-torn state of Manipur.

The party general secretary in-charge of Communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Tomorrow the BRICS+ Summit begins in Kazan, Russia. Like most things the non-biological PM claims credit for, there is a solid pre-2014 history to such a Summit."

"It was in November 2001 that the British economist Jim O' Neill first coined the term BRIC—Brazil, Russia, India and China—to draw attention to a quartet that could become major economic powers of the world by 2050. In September 2006, Foreign Ministers of these four countries met in New York to explore how they could give political weight to O'Neill's economic concept," he recalled.

Ramesh, who is also the Congress MP in Rajya Sabha, said, "In June 2009, the Presidents of China,

Contd.

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Brazil, and Russia, and the Prime Minister of India, met in Russia for the first ever BRIC Summit. South Africa was included in the group two years later when BRIC became BRICS. New Delhi hosted the BRICS Summit in March 2012.”

“Now BRICS includes Egypt, Iran, UAE, and Ethiopia as full members. A number of other countries are waiting to join. The New Development Bank formally launched by BRICS in July 2014 is headquartered in Shanghai,” he wrote on X.

Referring to Manipur, Ramesh said, “Kazan certainly beckons but sadly Manipur still awaits (PM’s visit).”

Earlier, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had said the PM’s abject failure in Manipur was unforgivable. He also demanded dismissal of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh and a Supreme Court-monitored investigation into the ongoing violence. (The Statesman)

PROPOSED WORLD-CLASS FOOTBALL STADIUM IN MANIPUR SHEDS LIGHT ON ONGOING DEVELOPMENT DISPARITIES BETWEEN HILLS AND VALLEY

In a recent meeting in New Delhi, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, accompanied by Public Works Department Minister Govindas Konthoujam and other officials, engaged with Union Minister Kiren Rijiju to discuss vital development projects under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. A significant focus of the discussion was the proposal for a world-class football stadium in Manipur, aimed at nurturing local talent and enhancing the state’s sports infrastructure.

Taking to X, CM Singh expressed his commitment to advancing major projects in Manipur, highlighting the importance of such a facility in elevating local athletes. He stated, “Developing a world-class football stadium in Manipur will play a crucial role in nurturing local football talent and uplifting our sportspersons.” This initiative aligns with the state government’s ongoing efforts to promote sports and improve infrastructure for athletes.

However, the discussions also highlighted the disparities in development between the valley and hill districts of Manipur. The valley districts of Manipur rank among the most developed areas in Northeast India. According to the North East Region District Development Infrastructure Index 2009, which assesses development based on seven criteria—transport, energy, irrigation, banking, communication, education, and health—Imphal West is the top district in the entire region, followed by Imphal East at sixth and Thoubal at eleventh. In contrast, tribal districts like Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Churachandpur, and Chandel are much

lower on the list, ranked 68th, 75th, 76th, and 78th, respectively. The valley is the most fertile region in Manipur, with good connectivity via three national highways and an international airport.

In the coming years, Imphal is set to transform into an international market and will soon have a railway connection. The district-wise Development Infrastructure Index reveals that the top rankings go to Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, and Senapati, while hill districts consistently fall behind, highlighting decades of neglect.

Manipur is home to eight universities, including Central Agricultural University, Dhanamanjuri University, and National Sports University, as well as two medical institutes and three technical institutes, all situated in the valley. The only university in the hills, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, is just 22.8 km from Imphal.

These factors emphasize the need for a more equitable approach to development that considers the unique political geography of the hill districts. Current government policies tend to prioritize the interests of valley populations, while hill district representatives often receive only token gestures of attention. Furthermore, both past and present administrations have maximized resource extraction from the central government under the guise of supporting hill districts.



Since, the advent of the new millennium the state was plague by frequent and long drawn-out agitations in the form of Bandhs, general strikes, shutdowns and economic blockades. When any of these pressure groups/CSOs operating in Manipur are not satisfied on certain issues or policy matters they resort to violent forms of agitations in order to pressurize the people in power.

This led to the closure of governmental offices and educational institutions in the state with little activity in other areas too. Inter-state and inter-district transportation and communication are thrown out of gear. Trade and commercial activities are brought to a standstill as markets are shut for fear of reprisal.

Economic blockade is an abomination that often plagues the Manipur. Manipur is a landlocked state abounded by mountains with three national highways viz. NH-2, NH-37 and NH-150 connecting the state with the outside world. NH-2 and NH-37 are regarded as the two 'Lifeline of Manipur'. Transportation of goods and all essential commodities are done through these two national highways. All goods and essential commodities including food items are imported from outside.

When economic blockade is launched all vehicles ferrying essential goods are interdicted so as to ensure that no goods or commodities reach the capital. Essential commodities evaporated from the markets in a jiffy and price of commodities hit the roof thereby making the lives of the common man miserable.

This is the reason why economic blockade is an emotive issue in Manipur as it engendered bitterness, rancor and even conflagration between one or the other community.

All the three national highways have to passed through very substantial areas of inhabited by the hill people for whom launching economic blockade is the only way to settle their score with the Meitei people and the state government whose raison deter is the welfare of only the Meitei population.

Economic blockade was a pretext used by Meitei Leipun to spark of the ongoing violence and the demolition of ATSUM's office at Imphal.



Ravinder Kapur.
@RavinderKapur2



#DebunkingMeiteiLies

When truth speakers are silenced the truth speaks for itself.

Many #Meiteis are dying to erase #AngloKukiWar but remember the glorified Khongjom War of #Manipur lasted 4 less than a MONTH & the #AngloKukiWar lasted for 3 long YEARS.

DIFFERENCE IS CRYSTAL CLEAR...



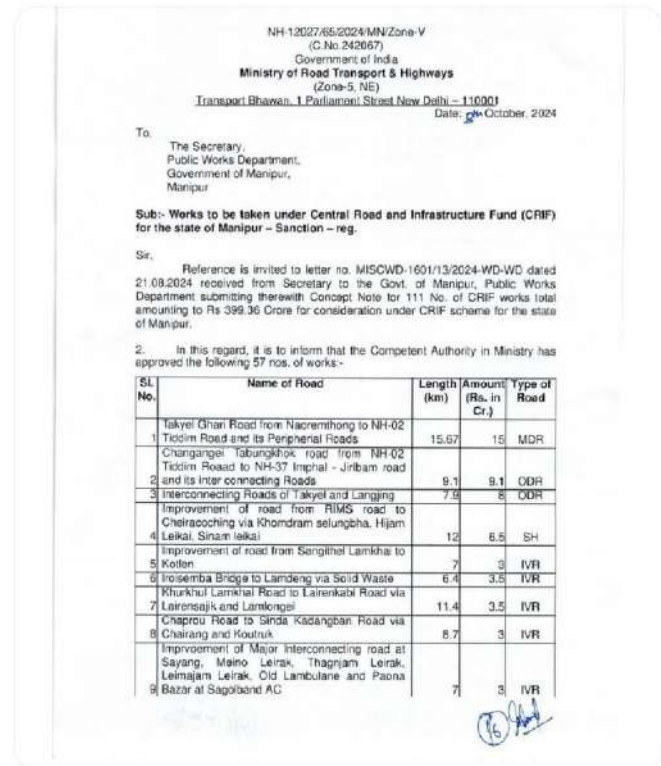
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The Proud Indian
@DynastyDoungel

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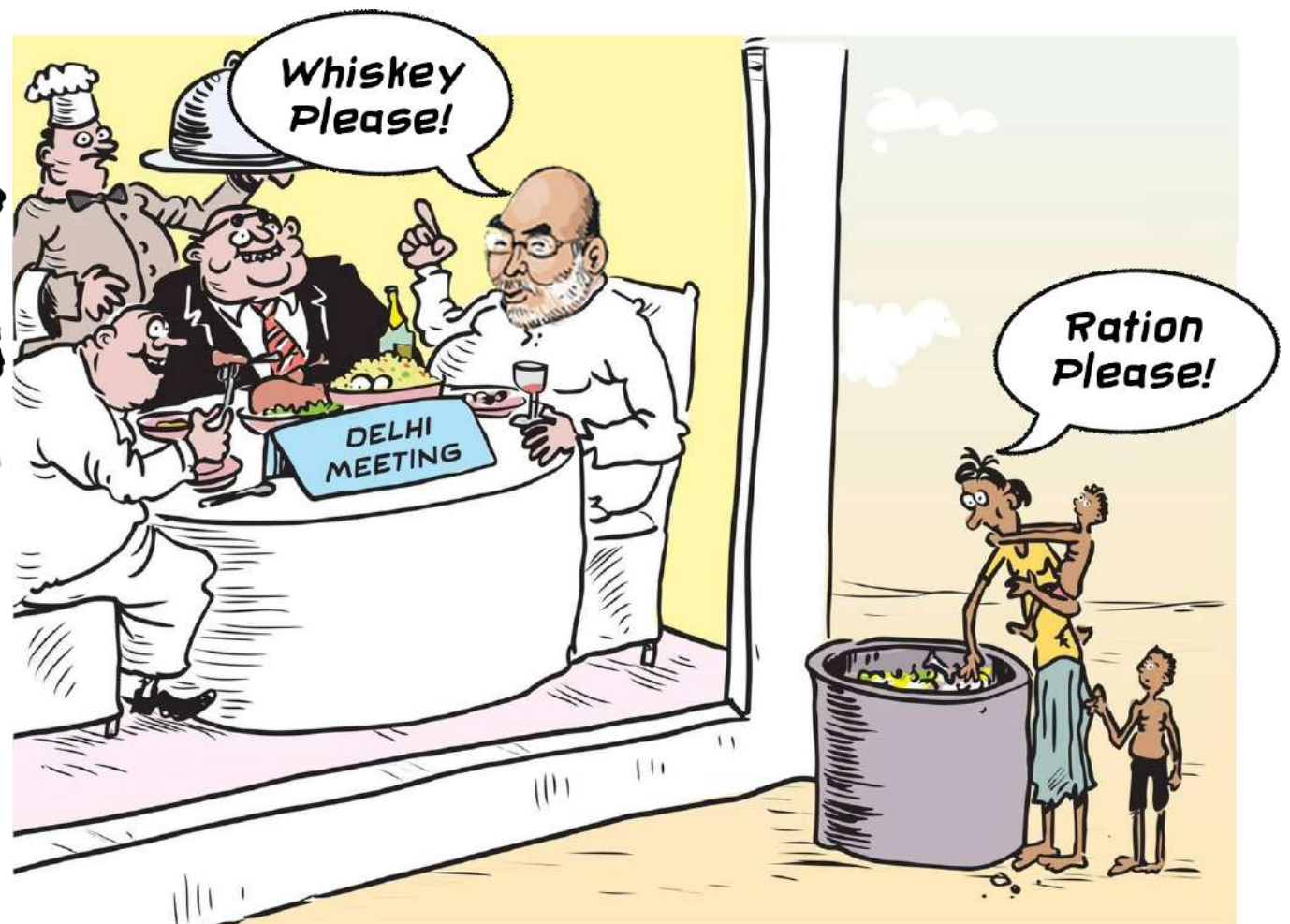
@MORTHIndia has recently approved construction of 57 roads in Manipur, for which funds have been sanctioned under CRIF. Sadly, all of these roads are only confined to the valley; not even 1 for the hill. Total Km - 317.49, total fund - 217.50 Cr. Why this kolavari @nitin_gadkari



22:34 · 21 Oct 24 · 78 Views



'DELHI MEETING' VERSUS GROUND REALITY



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RESISTANCE

Why do we bother with this fight,
When victory is out of sight?
We fight not just for triumph's glow,
But to defend what's ours and that they should know.

To remind them of each cruel act,
The horrors etched, the lives they wracked.
While we breathe, they'll feel the cost,
A haunting truth for all they've lost.

No remorse? Then we'll rebel,
A thorn in their side, a living hell.
If guilt won't pierce their hardened guise,
We'll echo the pain they won't recognize.

They can't escape the wrong they've done,
The shadows cast where there's no sun.
Forgiveness? but where's the plea?
An apology's absence leaves no key.

They deny the killings, the arsons, the robbery,
Twist the truth till nothing's left.
Forgiveness? No, not for us,
Not till they face reality.

We know what's inhumane and vile,
They crossed that line by many miles.
If we let this darkness have its course,
Then what's left for our future?
So, resistance, the sole way out,
For us and generations to follow.

~SD William Haokip