

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



THANGGUNLEN HAOKIP (15 YEARS)

S/O SEILAL HAOKIP

ADDRESS: S. CANAN VENG, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 15TH FEBRUARY, 2024

PLACE OF INCIDENT: TUIBONG, LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: VICTIM OF WALL OF REMEMBRANCE MASSACRE



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 28. 11. 2024



222
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT

1. Thangtinmang Khongsai



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.

MIZORAM CM LALDUHOMA CALLS FOR PRESIDENT'S RULE IN MANIPUR

Mizoram chief minister Lalduhoma on Thursday, November 28, strongly criticised his Manipur counterpart N Biren Singh, calling him a “liability” to the state, its people and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In an interview with Hindustan Times, Lalduhoma said president’s rule would be preferable to the current administration, citing the ongoing ethnic violence that has plagued Manipur for 18 months.

Lalduhoma, who leads the Zoram People’s Movement, accused Singh of failing to address the crisis in the state and suggested that a new leadership was necessary.

“I am sorry to say that he is a liability to the state of Manipur. He has been a liability to his own people and his party,” Lalduhoma told Hindustan Times. “If his service is still needed, in my opinion, it is a necessary evil. More evil and less necessary.”

“If we are going to compare president’s rule with the present government, then president’s rule is much more preferable. But if there can be a responsible government, elected body with a different leader, who can acknowledge the significant contribution made by tribal people for freedom struggle of this country, who recognises them as an integral part of India and genuine citizens of this country – then in that case, it may be better to have that kind of CM,” Lalduhoma further told Hindustan Times.

The violence in Manipur, which began in May 2023 between the Meitei and Kuki communities, has claimed around 260 lives and continues to escalate. Recent incidents, including the killing of 10 tribal people and six Meitei individuals, have further inflamed tensions.

Despite mounting pressure from within and outside the BJP, Singh has resisted calls for his removal. Last week, the National People’s Party withdrew its support from his government, even as union home minister

Amit Shah held emergency meetings in Delhi.

Lalduhoma suggested banning armed groups and disarming militias as the first step toward peace. “All the arms and ammunition held by militias in Manipur should be surrendered. If these people continue keeping all these sophisticated weapons, who knows – one day they may point their guns at Delhi,” he told Hindustan Times.

He also called for sincere negotiations with tribal leaders, adding, “They may not like to have this discussion in the presence of the chief minister and Meitei leaders. Maybe they want to have a separate meeting.”

The clamour for president’s rule in Manipur has been going on for over a year now, having recently picked up momentum after MPs and journalists across Northeast started demanding it, with no alternative solution in sight.

The Mizoram chief minister also opposed the proposed fencing along the India-Myanmar border, arguing that it would hinder the reunification of the Zo people. “How can we have a border fencing when we are talking about reunification? Once we have a border fencing, our brothers and sisters will never look towards us. Forever we will be divided,” he told Hindustan Times.

He claimed to have raised the issue with Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While acknowledging concerns over smuggling across the porous border, Lalduhoma dismissed the effectiveness of fencing in stopping illegal activities. “These things could not be stopped despite the Indo-Bangladesh border fence,” he told Hindustan Times.

CoTU ANNOUNCES 12-HOUR TOTAL SHUTDOWN IN KANGPOKPI ON NOVEMBER 30

The Committee on Tribal Unity (Sadar Hills), Kangpokpi district has announced a 12-hour total shutdown in the district on November 30 from 4:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The announcement follows the abduction of an MES employee from the Army cantonment at Leimakhong, an incident the committee strongly condemned while expressing full support for the ongoing search and rescue efforts.

Laishram Kamalbabu, a 56-year-old supervisor employed with M/s L. Binod Construction, disappeared on November 25, 2024, while working inside the 57 Mountain Division Army Camp at Leimakhong.

Highlighting the tense situation in Manipur, the committee pointed that since May 3, 2023, the Kuki-Zo community has been 'evicted' from the Imphal valley by the Meitei community, leading to a complete geographical divide.

The Kuki-Zo now inhabit the hills, while the Meitei are confined to the valley, with neither group able to move freely through the other's territory.

The committee stressed the need for secure and unrestricted road connectivity for hill residents, citing persistent threats from valley-based Meitei militants. It called for immediate action to address the security concerns without imposing unnecessary restrictions, declaring the shutdown as a mark of protest.



The committee urged all stakeholders to ensure the safety and freedom of movement for the hill communities.

According to the committee, mass protests will also be simultaneously held at strategic locations, including Gamgiphai, Saparmeina, Keithelmanbi Military Colony, and Brig. M. Thomas Ground Kangpokpi, with parallel demonstrations across Saikul, Leimakhong, Kangchup, New Keithelmanbi, and the Twilang Region.

The CoTU has ordered the complete suspension of all travel, fieldwork, business operations, and activities in government and private institutions, demanding absolute participation from the Kuki-Zo community.



**History offers examples of winning in
diplomacy after losing in war.**

— *Shigeru Yoshida*

MANIPUR CS CALLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SC-ST ACT

The Chief Secretary of the Manipur Government, Vineet Joshi has called for the implementation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA Act) and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1989 (PCR Act) in the state.

In an official statement issued on Friday, the Chief Secretary said that cooperation among various stakeholder Departments including the Police and District Administration to effectively implement the provisions given in these Acts is the right approach.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act seeks to prevent offences against members of SCs and STs by criminalizing discriminatory behaviours and acts of violence.

Similarly, the Protection of Civil Rights Act outlaws practices such as untouchability, ensuring that SCs and STs enjoy the full range of civil rights guaranteed under Article 17 of the Constitution of India (Abolition of Untouchability).

The Chief Secretary also chaired a meeting attended by the Director General of Police, Commissioners, and other officers of Home, OBC and SC, Tribal Affairs and Hills, and Law Departments of the Government of Manipur.

Various issues include the functioning and strengthening of the SC/ST Protection Cell at the State Police HQ and the Special Police Stations for registering offences under these Acts, functioning and strengthening of the Judicial Machinery such as Special Courts and Exclusive Special Courts for speedy trials of crimes registered under these Acts, relief and rehabilitation of atrocity victims, the incentive of inter-caste marriages, generating awareness in public and training and sensitization of public officials were discussed during the meeting.

The Chief Secretary said the implementation of these Acts in letter and spirit and said that the Home Department would be the appropriate Department to coordinate the implementation of CSS related to these Acts, as coordination for prosecuting cases would be easier for the Home Department.

He also directed the TA and Hills Department to submit the Annual Reports to the Ministry as soon as possible and added that a review meeting on the implementation of these Acts will be held every three months.

TRIPARTITE TALKS ON CREATION OF NEW DISTRICTS REMAIN INCONCLUSIVE

The tripartite talks between the Centre, Manipur government and the United Naga Council (UNC), over the Naga body's demand for rollback of the 'arbitrary creation' of seven new districts in the state, remained inconclusive on Friday.

A joint statement said that in the tripartite meeting, held at Senapati District Headquarters, discussions focused on the creation of seven new districts by the state government on December 8, 2016, and UNC's demand for rollback of the creation of these districts.

"The representatives of the Manipur government expressed inability to present a concrete proposal in view of certain difficulties. However, the UNC expressed

strong exceptions over the state government's non-submission of the concrete proposal and insisted that it be submitted in the next round of talk", mentioned the release.

Further, the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and it was mutually agreed that further progress would be made by engaging in a sustained manner in order to resolve the issue politically in a time-bound manner keeping in view the previous commitments.

The next round of tripartite talks would be held in the last week of January at Senapati district headquarters. (India Today NE)

CONGRESS FLAGS ADANI ISSUE, MANIPUR VIOLENCE DURING CWC MEET DAYS AFTER POLL DEBACLE, KHARGE STRESSES NEED FOR UNITY

Senior members of the Congress met on Friday to take stock of its 'below-expectations' performance in recent elections. The Congress Working Committee also passed a resolution highlighting the 'Adani issue', the ongoing Manipur conflict and "systematic attempts by BJP to foment communal tensions".

"In many states, our organisation is not up to expectations. Our biggest need is to strengthen the organisation...We need to immediately learn from the election results and correct all our weaknesses and shortcomings at the organisational level. These results are a message for us," urged Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Kharge also hit out at internal bickering in the party, and asserting that the lack of unity and statements against own party leaders harms the party a lot.

"Unless we fight elections unitedly and stop making statements against each other, how will we be able to defeat our opponents politically?" the Congress president said.

The CWC resolution insisted that the Maharashtra election results defied 'normal understanding' and appeared to be a "clear case of targeted manipulation".

"Increasing sections of society becoming apprehensive of electoral process...Congress will take these public concerns as national movement. Free, fair elections, a constitutional mandate, being called into serious question by partisan functioning of EC," it added.

The grouping also reiterated its "firmed commitment" for the Places of Worship act and accused the BJP of 'brazen' violations.

The Congress Working Committee meeting was attended by Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi and other senior senior leaders including his sister and fellow Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar were also in attendance.

"81 people attended today's CWC meeting. We analysed the performance of the party in the recently concluded Assembly election. The CWC has decided to constitute internal committees to look into matters related to electoral performance and organisational issues in the blocks and districts," added Congress general secretary KC Venugopal. (Mint)

MOBILE INTERNET SUSPENDED FOR TWO MORE DAYS IN NINE DISTRICTS

The Manipur government on Friday extended the suspension of mobile internet and data services for two more days in nine districts including the trouble-torn Jiribam district.

Home Department officials said that though except for a person missing on November 25 from Kangpokpi district, no major incident was reported from any of the nine districts since November 18, the suspension of mobile internet and data services has been extended for two more days as a precautionary measure.

In nine districts, the suspension of mobile internet and data services would be effective till 5.15 p.m. on December 1.

The nine districts, comprising both the valley and hills, where the suspension of mobile internet and data services were enforced are Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Kakching, Kangpokpi, Churachandpur, Jiribam, and Pherzawl.

FEATURED ARTICLE

**‘Even RSS Office in BJP-Ruled State Not Spared’.
Manipur MLAs & Sangh Workers, All Live in Fear**

Moushumi Das Gupta

On a June night this year, a little after 11.30 pm, over two dozen men brandishing guns arrived in jeeps outside the Imphal residence of Yumnam Khemchand Singh, rural development and panchayati raj minister in the N. Biren Singh-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Manipur.

Once there, they stepped out of their vehicles and started moving towards the gate of Khemchand Singh’s house. The CCTV installed at the gates captured the commotion outside. The security personnel guarding his residence came to the gate, the police were alerted and the armed men were forced to retreat, two state BJP leaders and a security official, who wished to not be named, told ThePrint.

The incident came close on the heels of Khemchand telling Biren Singh to step down as chief minister in a meeting. BJP sources aware of the development said that Khemchand told the CM that public anger over his government’s inability to handle the Manipur situation is growing and that the elected representatives are looking up to the elected leadership to restore peace.

A similar incident happened towards the second half of October, when about two dozen men armed with guns landed at the house of a close aide of Tongbram Robindro Singh, the BJP MLA from Thanga, a little before midnight. The aide’s house, the second state BJP leader said, was just a stone’s throw away from the house of Robindro, who was in Delhi at that time.

“The aide snuck out of the house from the back side on hearing the commotion. The armed men threatened the family of the aide and told them to hand him over. The aide called the MLA for help who, in turn, dialled the security agencies in Imphal and asked for protection. Following their intervention, the armed men left,” the leader said, adding that the incident came a couple of days after 19 BJP MLAs, including some ministers, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding the resignation of CM Biren Singh.

Robindro, one of the signatories of the letter, was among the MLAs involved in coordinating and drafting the letter, the BJP leader quoted earlier said.

These are not isolated incidents. It has been in continuity over the last several months that Manipur BJP leaders, including MLAs quoted above, are living under a climate of fear that has gripped the state. In June last year, the house of former BJP minister of state Rajkumar Ranjan Singh was set on fire despite heavy security presence.

ThePrint spoke to several BJP leaders in the state to understand why the elected representatives are not talking openly about what is happening in Manipur and why there is a delay in addressing

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the situation. None of them wanted to talk on record or to be identified in any way, fearing repercussions by armed groups.

“Nobody wants to speak. Even we, MLAs, who are facing such threats, are afraid to come out in the open and say anything, fearing for our safety,” a BJP MLA said.

Talking about how the atmosphere of fear is playing out, the second MLA told ThePrint that all the assembly constituencies in the Imphal Valley now have a unit of Arambai Tenggol (AT), a Meitei socio-cultural group, which transformed into a radical armed outfit operating like militia since the ethnic conflict with the Kukis broke out last May.

“AT has a unit in all constituencies. Their members move around freely in broad daylight, brandishing weapons. Even the MLAs are expected to give them donations for buying arms, ration, etc. It’s happening openly but nobody dare speak about it out of fear. Have you heard something like this in any other Indian state?” the MLA said.

And then, there are several other armed groups as well that have become active in Manipur following the ethnic clashes that broke out last May, that are accused of extortions and threats among others.

Even ministers houses not spared

The MLA added that what played out on 16 and 17 November in Imphal, when houses of several MLAs and ministers, were vandalised by a mob, many of whom were armed, is like an eye opener. Among the houses that were vandalised included those belonging to ministers and MLAs who were signatory to the letter sent to the PM.

Senior officers of Manipur Police, who wished to not be named, said that while the front row of the mob comprised angry civilians demanding action against the perpetrators of the Jiribam violence, they did not rule out involvement of underground groups in the attack.

“Shots were fired... the men were carrying arms,” one of the police officers said.

Even the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh’s prakhand

(block) office in Haraorou, located some 15 km from Imphal city, was not spared. A mob comprising about 150 people stormed the premises on the morning of 17 November, damaging whatever came their way—the ambulance parked inside, window panes, doors, computer, television sets, furniture, and solar panels on the roof, among other things.

BSF personnel now guard the office round the clock. “We do not know who they were, or why they targeted us. It was completely uncalled for. We had three-four staff inside the office, who ran away after seeing the mob,” a RSS worker at the Haraorou office told ThePrint.

On 22 November, at a press conference in his office, Manipur security adviser Kuldiep Singh said that so far 32 people have been arrested in connection with the 16-17 November attacks.

“Even the RSS office in a BJP-ruled state was not spared. Can you imagine the state of things here? We don’t know if all the people who came to attack were locals or if there were miscreants from armed groups involved,” a third BJP MLA told ThePrint.

Last week, the Sangh’s Manipur unit released a statement urging the central and the state governments to “sincerely” resolve the ongoing conflict at the earliest. “It is unfortunate that 19 months old violence in Manipur starting from 3 May, 2023, has remained unresolved,” the statement reads.

RSS’ Manipur pranth pracharak Mrityunjay refused to talk about the incident or the situation in the Northeast state.

ThePrint came across an Arambai Tenggol office (Unit 16) operating approximately 2 km from the Sangh office in Haraorou.

The third MLA cited the January instance, where Arambai Tenggol summoned the 37 BJP MLAs from Manipur and 2 MPs for a meeting in Imphal’s

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Kangla Fort. The elected MLAs seemingly did not have a choice, but to attend the meeting.

A couple of MLAs were also beaten up by AT members at the meeting, the third MLA added. "It was shocking that all this was playing out openly where armed men were giving diktats to elected representatives and were even beating those who protested," the MLA said.

"Arambai Tenggol started as a Hindu revivalist group in 2020 but political patronage has empowered them. They have turned into this feared gun-toting group openly going around threatening people, including the elected representatives," the MLA said.

In the initial days of the conflict, the MLA added, Arambai Tenggol and other groups had the support of the public, who saw them as somebody who would protect the people against attacks by the armed Kuki groups.

ThePrint reached CM N. Biren Singh via calls to know what is being done to counter the fear prevailing among the people of Manipur. This report will be updated if and when a response is received.

There are rumblings of dissent within the BJP Manipur unit with many MLAs, including the Meitei MLAs in the Imphal Valley, writing to PM Modi, seeking replacement of CM Biren Singh.

"The MLAs know their constituents are getting angry over the inaction to bring things under control for the past 19 months. They have faced public ire too many times. Many of their houses have been vandalised. But still they are not coming out in the open and talking about it," the second BJP MLA quoted above said.

Paolienlal Haokip, the BJP MLA from Saikot in Churachandpur district, told ThePrint, "The persons who created such an environment of fear, the CM and the party's Rajya Sabha MP, are no longer responsible. It is the central government that has allowed such an environment of fear to prolong."

"The MLAs who kept quiet can only be accomplices to the persons responsible by either commission or omission," Haokip, who belongs to the tribal Kuki community, added.

Since last May's ethnic conflict, all the 10 Kuki MLAs have moved out of the Imphal Valley and are living either in the hills or outside Manipur.

It's not that security agencies in Manipur are oblivious to what is happening. "Yes, we are aware of Arambai Tenggol members or other armed groups moving around openly with sophisticated weapons. Underground groups, including the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), are openly extorting money and threatening people. We have taken action wherever we have received complaints," a senior officer in the state's security establishment told ThePrint.

The officer added that armed groups like Arambai Tenggol seem to have the support of the public, who see them as their protectors from the Kuki armed groups. "So, we also have to be very cautious while taking action against them."

The officer added that ever since the ethnic clashes started in Manipur last May, some 23 underground groups have become active in Imphal alone. "We have information of around 72 underground groups in Manipur of which 23 groups are operational in the Valley."

An officer from the Manipur Police added, "There are times when directions are given to act against an armed group moving around with sophisticated weapons. But it's not carried out either because the local police are reluctant, or there are contrary directions."

The officer added that since the reintroduction of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 14 November in six police station areas, instances of armed groups moving around openly with guns have declined.

ThePrint reached Rajiv Singh, Director General of Police, Manipur Police, via calls. This report will be updated if and when a response is received.

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THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



NinglunHanghal
@ninglunhanghal

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What late riser ! We have had enough debate and analysis! Please go and visit Manipur. Try to bring peace, not debate please,



Savio Rodrigues 🇮🇳 @PrinceArihan · 23h

No debate on any national TV on the death of 10-month-old boy named Laishram Lamnganba who had both eyeballs missing from the sockets and his body in a state of thawing with a chopping wound and dislocation of the head by terrorists in Manipur. But we have time to discuss only

12:27 · 29 Nov 24 · 150 Views



Sagarika Ghose ✨
@sagarikaghose

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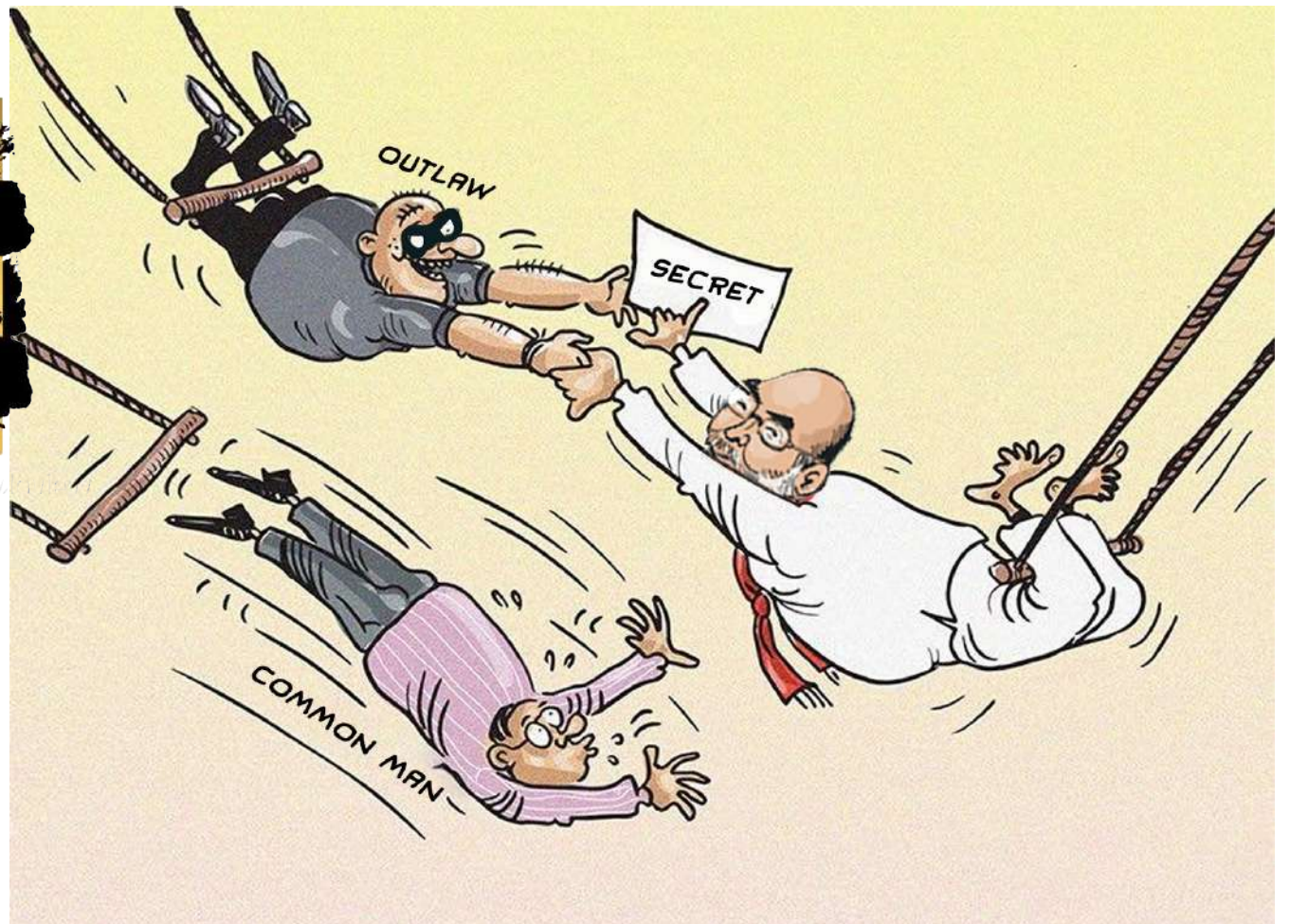
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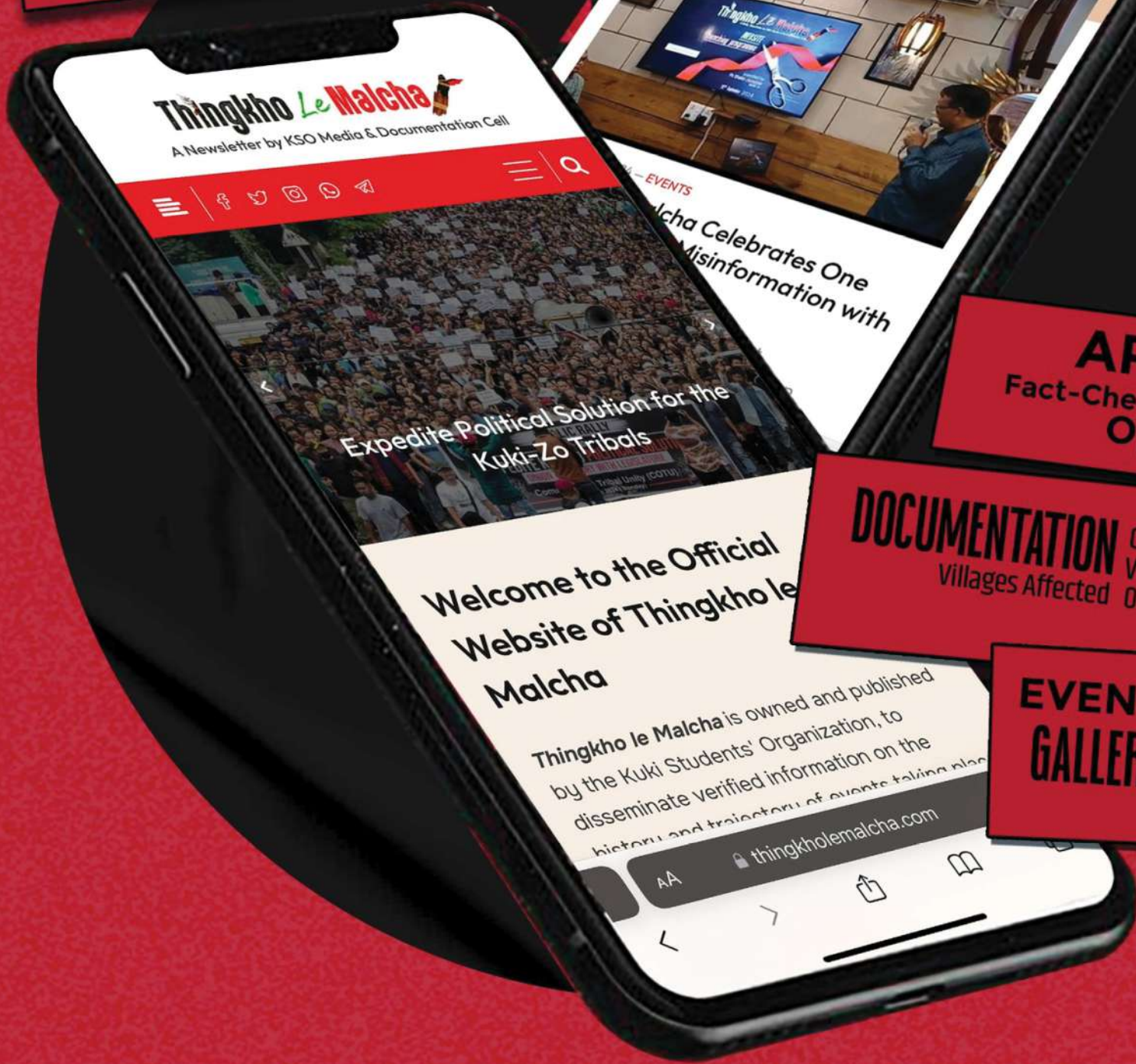
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THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD

In honored memory of Kuki martyrs true,
Who gave their lives, for me and for you.
Their youth, cut short, in sacrifice and pain,
Leaves us with memories, that will forever remain.

They shall not grow old, as we are left to grow,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn to show.
Their legacy lives on, in our hearts and minds,
A symbol of courage, that will forever shine.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning light,
We will remember them, and hold them tight.
Their memory will guide us, through life's joys and fears,
And inspire us to stand, for freedom and for tears.

So let us honor, these brave Kuki sons,
Who gave their all, for the freedom we've won.
May their sacrifice, never be in vain,
And may their memory, forever remain.

~ *Angie K.*