

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



LETMINTHANG MATE (35 YEARS)

(L) HOLSEI MATE

ADDRESS: KENGJANG, CHANDEL

DATE OF INCIDENT: 22ND APRIL, 2024

PLACE OF INCIDENT: LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: SUCCUMBED TO INJURY ON 10TH JUNE 2024



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13. 12. 2024



223
DEATHS

1. Lunkhohao Haokip



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.

KUKI-ZO COUNCIL WARNS MANIPUR CM AGAINST TRAVELING THROUGH BUFFER ZONES AMID TENSIONS

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has issued a press release urging Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to reconsider his proposed travel through Kangpokpi district on December 18, 2024, to attend the “Robvena Ni” festival in Senapati. While the Council acknowledges and respects the celebration of Robvena Ni and does not oppose the CM’s participation as a guest, it raised concerns over the potential risks associated with his visit.

The Kuki-Zo Council strongly criticized the Chief Minister’s actions, citing his involvement in the ongoing violence against the minority Kuki-Zo people. It claimed that under N. Biren Singh’s leadership, the Meitei State Government, in alliance with Meitei extremist groups, has perpetrated a series of acts against the Kuki-Zo community. The Council highlighted that this has led to heightened tensions, and the presence of the CM in the region could potentially incite further unrest.

“Given the volatile situation, it would be unwise for N. Biren Singh to travel through the Kuki-Zo areas of Kangpokpi at this time, as sentiments among the indigenous Kuki-Zo people are running high,” the



release stated. The KZC further warned that any attempt by the CM to breach the buffer zones could spark public unrest, jeopardizing the safety of the CM and his entourage.

In the statement, the Kuki-Zo Council emphasized that any consequences arising from the Chief Minister’s visit would be the sole responsibility of the N. Biren Singh-led Meitei State Government. The KZC also called for the immediate cancellation of the proposed travel for the sake of community harmony, urging that the security and well-being of all involved should be prioritized.

LIVE MORTAR BOMB FOUND NEAR MANIPUR CM BIREN SINGH’S HOUSE, SECURITY BEEFED UP

An unexploded mortar bomb was found near Manipur’s Koirengai, which is a kilometre of distance from Luwangshangbam, close to the private residence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh, on Tuesday morning.

The locals claimed that a rocket-propelled bomb was fired last night but failed to detonate. The unexploded 51 mm mortar bomb was discovered early today, triggering panic in the area

Acting on the complaint, authorities intensified security

measures in the area and initiated an investigation to determine the source of the live bomb and the motive behind its placement near the Chief Minister’s residence.

In a separate incident, a hand grenade was found near the residence of a public works department (PWD) special contractor in Imphal East, under the jurisdiction of Heingang police station, on Sunday.

SECURITY FORCES SEIZE STARLINK DEVICE, EXPOSING MEITEI MILITANTS' TRANSNATIONAL CONSPIRACY

In a significant development, Indian security forces, including the Manipur Police, seized Starlink satellite internet devices used by the banned Meitei militant group People's Liberation Army (PLA/RPF) in Keirao Khunou, Imphal-East district, Manipur.

A joint team of the security forces found the Starlink dish and router along with an MA4 assault rifle, grenades and bullets from Imphal East district's Khunou on December 13.

This newest breakthrough clearly proves that the Meitei terrorists, based in Myanmar, are deeply involved in a transnational conspiracy to wage a war against the Indian government by exploiting the current state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom.

The notorious PLA is the armed rebel group of its political wing Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), one of the Meitei extremist outfits banned by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Formed in 1978, to "liberate" Manipur, the RPF runs a government-in-exile in Bangladesh. Reports stated that it has contacts with Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and also with China. The ISI's nexus with the PLA came to notice through a document recovered in January 1991 from Biren Singh alias German, the Finance Secretary of the RPF (the political wing of the PLA).

PLA/RPF set up a number of bases across international borders - two camps in Myanmar and five camps in Bangladesh, where about 1,000 recruits have received arms training.

The seizure of starlink devices brings to fore the increasing use of advanced satellite technology by



criminal and the Meitei militant groups to bypass conventional internet restrictions. Such devices are already in use inside war-torn Myanmar.

Signals intelligence has revealed that compounds in Myanmar are leveraging Starlink satellite systems to facilitate transnational crimes. Across Myanmar, rebel commanders, aid workers, and cybercriminals are increasingly relying on satellite internet to maintain communication amid severe internet restrictions. The Meitei terrorist groups based in Myanmar have now taken a leaf out of the activities of Myanmar based rebels and criminals.

Earlier, in November, smugglers used a Starlink device in the largest-ever seizure of methamphetamine in India, valued at \$4.2 billion, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

MANIPUR POLICE CRACKDOWN ON MEITEI MILITANTS AFTER FATAL ATTACK ON NON-LOCALS

In a significant development following the tragic killing of two non-locals in Keirak on December 14, 2024, Manipur Police have launched a large-scale operation targeting suspected militant hideouts in the region. The killings, carried out by unidentified armed assailants, prompted authorities to intensify their efforts to combat insurgency and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Acting on intelligence inputs, on December 16, police apprehended an active cadre of the Kangleipak Communist Party (Progressive War Group) [KCP (PWG)], Irengbam Rameshwar Singh (48), from the Kakching Lamkhai area in Kakching district. The arrest led to a breakthrough, as police uncovered crucial information that led them to a militant camp in the Kakching Mamang Ching Laipham Loknung area.

At the camp, police arrested seven more KCP (PWG) cadres. The arrested individuals include:

Elangbam Herojit Singh (40)
Heikrujam Prem (28)
Okram Arundatta (30)
Senjam Rebingson (27)
Okram Amarjit (31)
Aribam Ghanendrajit Sharma (25)
Chongtham Rajkumar (26)

A significant cache of arms, ammunition, and equipment was recovered from the hideout. Among the seized items were several firearms, including pistols, a sniper rifle, grenades, and a variety of ammunition. Additionally, authorities confiscated



mobile phones, handsets, and a two-wheeler vehicle, alongside other miscellaneous items.

In a separate operation on the same day, police arrested two more KCP (PWG) cadres, Lisham Premananda Meitei, alias Poirei (45), and James Ningthoujam (44), from the Kakching Ching Kakpham area. Authorities seized three mobile phones and a four-wheeler vehicle from their possession.

The arrests come as part of an intensified crackdown on militant groups operating in the region, particularly in the aftermath of the deadly attack in Keirak. The police have assured the public that stringent action will be taken against all those involved in these heinous acts.

As the investigation continues, Manipur Police have vowed to continue their operations against insurgent groups to ensure the safety and security of both locals and non-locals in the region.



We are all tourists in history, and irony is what we win in wars.

— *Anotale Broyard*

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS SUSPENDED IN MANIPUR YET NO BJP MP RAISED ISSUE: OPPOSITION IN RAJYA SABHA

Opposition members from TMC and CPI (M) on Tuesday alleged that constitutional rights in Manipur had been suspended, and BJP MPs were slammed for not raising the issue during the debate on the Constitution.

Participating in a discussion on the “Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India”, Trinamool Congress’ Sushmita Dev said MPs of the ruling party from the Northeast region should resign as all rights ensured to people under the Constitution have been curtailed in Manipur.

“Today, I say while we debate on the Constitution which Constitutional right have you not suspended in Manipur? Liberty, expression of speech, everything is being suspended in Manipur.

“I stand here as a member of Parliament representing the Northeast, demanding the resignation of every MP from Northeast and every minister who is thumping their desk behind the Leader of the House,” Dev said.

She alleged the BJP is creating different classes of citizens with different rights in Assam.

“There is no equality in the way NRC (National Register of Citizens) has been conducted,” Dev said and claimed this government “wants one election, one leader, one religion”.

This is not what Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar wanted for this country, she said, adding, “This is a fascist government that is at play.”

John Brittas CPI (M) said, “Let the prime minister go to Manipur, discharge his responsibilities as the prime minister of this country. Let his 11-mantra which he gave on the floor of the Lok Sabha, let him (PM) do that”.

He alleged that from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to the Election Commission to

Parliament and the media, the trust of the people has been dented considerably.

Brittas claimed that there was an “undeclared Emergency in this country”. He claimed that ‘One Nation One Election’ is an extension of “one leader, one country, one ideology”.

He also demanded that a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) be appointed to probe where Hungarian-American businessman and investor George Soros’ money was used.

Dev claimed corporate loans are being waived whereas farmers are reeling from debts.

She claimed that the country’s “middle class is the worst impacted by the tax burden” while taxation on the corporates keeps reducing because of the policies of this government.

She claimed that the “two most destructive policies” of the central government, namely the note ban and the lockdown in the aftermath of Covid, destroyed the informal economy.,

Ram Nath Thakur, JD(U) leader and Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare said the government strives to implement the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

He congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving Bharat Ratna to former prime ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh as well as former Bihar chief minister Karpooori Thakur, a champion of backward empowerment, among others, in 2023, asking who stopped the Congress-party from doing the same. (IndiaTodayNE)



FEATURED ARTICLE

In Manipur, Stepping Into the Territory of the 'Other' Could be Fatal

Kavita Chowdhury

Nineteen months after violent clashes erupted between the majority Meitei community and the Kuki-Zo tribes in the northeast Indian state of Manipur, the violence has shown no signs of abating. Indeed, the situation has spiraled dangerously. So serious is the breakdown in law and order in Manipur and so hardened are the ethnic boundaries that crossing into the territory of the “other” could be fatal.

This is “not just an ethnic conflict,” H.S. Benjamin Mate, a human rights activist and chairman of the Kuki Organization of Human Rights Trust, told The Diplomat. “The Meiteis,” he said, have “the solid support of the Manipur government against the Kukis.” Mate has authored a report titled, “A historical contextualization of State-sponsored ethnic cleansing” and has drawn attention to the role of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Manipur in fueling violence against the Kuki-Zo.

While the Meitei are Hindu, the Kuki-Zo are Christian. The latter allege that Chief Minister Biren Singh, a Meitei, has been systematically attempting to wipe them out. His government has been trying to evict them from their lands in the hills and brand them as “drug traffickers.”

The chief minister is believed to enjoy the tacit support of the BJP-led central government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has steadfastly refused to sack Singh, although calls for his removal have grown over the

months.

Violence broke out in Manipur in May 2023. A Tribal Solidarity March by the Kuki-Zo to protest against the Meitei community’s demand to be included in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list triggered clashes. That morphed into riots, looting, and killings. There were incidents of sexual assault as well in the weeks that followed. A video clip of Meitei men sexually assaulting and parading Kuki women they had stripped naked triggered widespread outrage.

However, nothing seems to have moved the Modi government to act to halt the violence or pull up the state government for its abysmal failure.

In July last year, the Supreme Court of India took suo motu cognizance of the situation in Manipur, terming the video of the stripped women as “deeply disturbing.” “It’s the grossest of constitutional abuse,” then-Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said. “If the government does not act, we will,” he warned.

However, in the months thereafter the apex court has refrained from even commenting on the deteriorating situation in Manipur. Last week, the Supreme Court said that the “Center and State government must act in Manipur. Not us.” The

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court is now focused on remedial measures including compensation for property loss, penalizing encroachers, and rehabilitation of the displaced from relief camps.

Manipur's Meitei comprise nearly 60 percent of the population, while the Kuki-Zo tribals live in the hills. One of the longstanding grievances of the Kuki is that there has been no development in the hills. Indeed, all hospitals, colleges, and other institutions in the state are situated in the Imphal valley, where the Meitei live.

Violence over the past year and the resulting hardening of the divide between the two communities has caused unspeakable hardships for people across ethnic and communal divides, especially for the tribals who have been cut off from hospitals and healthcare, higher educational institutions, the airport, and even government offices.

Curfews, strikes, internet shutdowns, and blasts are daily occurrences. Last week a hand grenade was found on the steps of a private bank in Imphal city. On Sunday, a grenade was found near the home of a government contractor. Relief camps are no longer safe zones with refugees, including women and children, being kidnapped from rival camps. There is little trust between communities. But the erosion of this trust has not taken place overnight.

With highways between the hill districts and the valley shut down, the prices of essential items have skyrocketed and daily survival has become a struggle. These hardships are going largely unreported by the mainstream media. Central security forces man the "buffer zone" between Meitei and Kuki territories, maintaining the fragile status quo.

Significantly, the 10 Kuki members of the Manipur state assembly, including those from the BJP, have stayed away from attending the last two sessions of the state assembly located in the Imphal valley due to security concerns.

The Kuki-Zo are listed in the ST list and they fear that the inclusion of Meitei in that list will eat into their share of reserved seats in government jobs. More worrying

is the impact it could have on their hold over their land in the hills. The Kukis believe that once the Meitei demand for ST status is conceded it would enable them to buy tribal land – something they are restricted from doing as non-tribals. They see the Singh government's attempts to de-notify tribal land as a means to grab their land.

The Kuki-Zo have lost faith in Biren Singh and his government, which they see as biased. They have intensified their demand for a separate administration for the Kukis with legislative powers, which will not be under the majority Meitei ambit. Last week, the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs took their demands to Delhi's Jantar Mantar, where they organized a sit-in protest to demand expediting the dialogue for a separate administration.

"Without a separate administration that is not under the authority of the Meitei, there is no way that we can go back to our homes," a professor at Nagaland University, who did not wish to be named for security reasons, told The Diplomat. Meitei militants have been hunting down Kuki tribals. "We had to flee Imphal overnight with our families to save our lives," he said

The professor was initially working at Manipur University in Imphal, when his life like hundreds of others was turned upside down on the night of May 3 last year. Armed Meitei mobs entered the university campus at around 7 p.m. and searched for Kuki students and teachers. He and his family managed to take shelter for the night in the Assam Rifles camp and fled the next day to neighboring Nagaland.

With highways blockaded and the valley being out of bounds, the professor has not been able to visit his aging parents in Churachandpur for over a year. "Normally it would take four to five hours to reach from Kohima to my home in Churachandpur, by road. Now it takes me 2 to 3 days. From Kohima, I have to go to Shillong, then Aizwal to reach Churachandpur," says the anguished professor.

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“No Kuki is safe in the valley,” he adds.

Several Manipuris I spoke to have quit government jobs or left their academic courses mid-way. The dire security situation in Manipur has forced them to take their families out of the state. There is a deep-seated terror on both sides, more so with dreaded armed groups like the Aramabai Tengol, a Meitei militia, and Kuki militant groups active and the government acting as a mute spectator.

Kukis feel they are caught between the devil and the deep sea. They feel “betrayed” by Modi and his government. Yet they have no option but to appeal to him to facilitate their demand for a separate administration. Besides, parties across the board, including the Congress, which won both of Manipur’s seats in Parliament in the recent general elections, have been reluctant to do justice to them as it would be perceived as “against the interests” of the Meitei majority.

Meanwhile, in the ongoing winter session of Parliament, opposition leaders have demanded that the Manipur situation be discussed threadbare. The government has refused.

It is strange that President’s Rule has not been imposed in such a precarious situation. There continues to be no accountability despite BJP governments ruling at the center and the state.

Unwilling to concede failure in controlling the situation, Modi continues to resist visiting the state. In contrast, he visits opposition-ruled states with much less provocation. Meanwhile, unable to tackle the deteriorating security situation, the government has reimposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in several districts. Instead of moving forward, the clock is going back in the state of Manipur.

Published by [The Diplomat](#)

 H S Benjamin Mate
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Presenting a copy of a book "Report On The Manipur Violence" published by [kohur.org](#) to Senior Adv & prominent social activist of India, respected Shri [@pbhushant](#) yesterday.



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THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Ravinder Kapur. ✓
@RavinderKapur2

Manipur —

Meitei women protest the deplorable road conditions while Biren shamelessly boasts about economic growth. Ironically, many Meiteis still hail him as their leader. Reality speaks louder than propaganda!

Ample proof that Biren Singh diverts funds for his Private Militias

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the proud sons OF THE SOIL

**If only they could read my poetry,
If they could hear our songs.
Our mothers cry, the respect and regard we have,
For the valor they showed, the spirit they had,
To not leave any stones unturned.**

**They fight like a real man and die as a real man,
They don't take pride in disrobing women.
Neither do they try to lay hands on the weaker ones,
They are just the proud sons of the soil.**

~ H. K Milan