

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell







## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13.03.2024



**167**  
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.



# KSO DELHI & NCR DENOUNCES MEITEIS' ATTACK ON KUKIS' EDUCATION IN MANIPUR

In light of the persistent unrest in Manipur, the educational aspirations of displaced Kuki students have been jeopardized. Expressing grave concern over this matter, the Kuki Students' Organization (KSO) Delhi & NCR convened a press conference in Delhi to condemn what they term as "Meiteis' Academicide."

During the press conference, the KSO Delhi & NCR issued a statement highlighting the calculated tactics employed by Meitei factions in the ethnic conflict plaguing Manipur. They underscored two distinct strategies employed by Meitei entities: one orchestrated by extremist youth leaders and another advocated by Meitei scholars and intellectuals.

Youth leaders like Korounganba and Pramot Singh, according to the KSO, have openly advocated for the complete annihilation of the Kuki community, a stance tantamount to genocide. Meanwhile, Meitei scholars and intellectuals have purportedly endorsed actions aimed at dismantling the educational systems supporting the Kuki population. Dr. Yumnam Premananda, Head and Associate Professor at the Law Faculty of Manipur University, was cited for his alleged remarks suggesting the dismantling of Kuki education as a means to eradicate the community from Manipur.

The KSO raised alarm regarding the burning of academic documents belonging to Kuki students at Manipur University, attributing these actions to extremist Meitei elements. The KSO labeled these acts as "Academicide" and accused Meitei academicians of abetting such assaults on Kuki education.

The organization further criticized the Manipur government's interference in matters of education,



particularly its involvement in the recent controversy surrounding the Staff Selection Committee (SSC) exam results. Allegations were levied against the government for favoring Meitei interests and neglecting the educational needs of the Kuki community.

The withdrawal of SSC exam results for Manipur, amidst claims of bias and political interference, has sparked outrage among Kuki aspirants and highlighted concerns regarding transparency and fairness in recruitment processes. Kuki student bodies have resorted to legal avenues, seeking justice and equitable treatment for their community.

Amidst these developments, the KSO emphasized the critical importance of upholding equal educational opportunities for all citizens of Manipur, irrespective of their ethnicity. They urged the Manipur government to prioritize fairness and transparency in recruitment processes, thereby fostering an environment conducive to the educational advancement of all communities within the state.

# BANNED UNLF(P) DELAYING SURRENDER OF CADRE, WEAPONS DESPITE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, SAY OFFICIALS

The United National Liberation Front (P), a banned terror group, has failed to surrender weapons or provide a list of its members despite signing a ceasefire agreement with the Centre four months ago, officials said on Sunday, amid concerns by security agencies that its cadre were still carrying out violence in Manipur.

Even after three rounds of talks with State authorities, the UNLF, the first Meitei terror outfit to agree to a ceasefire, has not complied with the agreed terms since the agreement was inked on November 29 last.

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Led by Kh Pambei, the UNLF(P) made history by becoming the first Meitei armed group in the Imphal Valley to engage in a ceasefire agreement with the government, pledging to renounce violence.

The UNLF(P)'s demand for camp establishment near Kuki-populated areas was resisted by security agencies, fearing a potential escalation in ethnic conflicts that have already resulted in over 200 casualties in the State.

Temporary camp arrangements have been approved



in Ingourok in Thoubal district, and the agriculture town of Kakching Khunou in Kakching district, the officials said.

Security agencies rejected the UNLF's objection to the presence of central paramilitary forces at the camps as also setting up camps on the foothills. Officials urged the UNLF to surrender weapons and provide a list of members for relocation.

Recent reports indicate that UNLF members are establishing camps near Kuki settlements to target tribal populations, fostering tensions.

Despite the ceasefire agreement's intent to halt hostilities, recent incidents show UNLF(P) members are carrying out violent activities with impunity, even looting arms from security forces, the officials said.

According to reports, the cadre of the banned terror group was allegedly involved in looting arms and ammunition from the 5th India Reserve Battalion (IRB) at Chingarel in Manipur East on February 13 and opening fire at Moirangpurel on vehicles heading towards Churachandpur last month.

The unrest escalated when reports claimed that a

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shooting incident in Maphou village, predominantly inhabited by the people of the Kuki ethnicity, was carried out by individuals allegedly associated with the Arambai Tenggol and UNLF(P) cadre.

These cadre of UNLF(P) were reportedly providing live updates on social media while claiming to target the Kuki community.

The ceasefire deal was envisioned to end decades-long conflicts between UNLF(P) and security forces, paving the way for community concerns to be addressed.

Formed in 1964, the UNLF(P) has operated within and outside Indian borders.

The Centre has signed agreements with Northeastern armed groups since 2014 to quell unrest and foster growth.

Furthermore, a Suspension of Operations (SoO) with 21 Kuki-dominated groups has been in place since 2008 to maintain peace in Manipur's hilly regions. The unilateral withdrawal by the Manipur government from the SoO due to allegations of land encroachment by two Kuki insurgent groups in March has not received Central government endorsement.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## ESCALATING THREAT: THE RISE OF BOMB CULTURE IN MANIPUR

Amidst the political turbulence in Manipur, the proliferation of bomb threats raises concerns about public safety and stability. Since the outbreak of ethnic violence on May 3, 2023, Manipur has witnessed a disturbing surge in bomb threats, exacerbating tensions and threatening public safety.

In the latest case of bomb threats on innocent civilians, a few gunmen who came in a Gypsy opened firing bullets and lobbed two hand grenades at the residence of a 78 woman at Khagempalli in Imphal, Manipur on Saturday night.

They fired around 7-8 bullets that pierced through the walls and window panes of the house belonging to one Laishram Memcha, 78. They fled away from the scene on the Gypsy white colour after hurling two grenades. The bombs remained unexploded causing panic to the residents. The incident happened at around 8 pm on Saturday at the residence of one L Memcha, 78, of Khagempalli Huidrom Leikai, Imphal West.

On receiving the report, two teams of Manipur police from the Imphal West district police commando and Singjamei police station rushed to the spot. Immediately, the Manipur police bomb detection and disposal squad that arrived at the scene retrieved the explosives and



deposited the grenade, the police said. A case was also registered in this connection.

L Memcha, a bamboo products business person said that she is not getting any monetary demand from any outfit or groups. She said she wanted to ascertain the cause behind the attacks at her house.

She further asked the attackers to clarify why her house was targeted. She also wanted to have a dialogue with the attackers at the earliest for a peaceful life. Meanwhile, reports said that a sit-in-protest was also staged against the attacks at Huidromleikai, Imphal on Sunday afternoon.

# LAW AND DISORDER IN IMPHAL VALLEY: GANG MEMBERS INCLUDING A MINOR LINKED TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ARRESTED

In a complete breakdown of “law and order” situation in the Imphal valley of the Meiteis’ Kangleipak, even a minor individual has been involved in criminal activities. This latest revelation of a minor child involved in illegal activities indicates the failure of the present BJP government under the incompetent leadership of N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts.

On Sunday, the security forces arrested an 18-year-old boy and a minor, allegedly associated with serious crimes. The teenager, known as Moirangthem Lanchenba Meetei, was reportedly one among the gang members known as Salailen Mapari (Kangleipak Defence Force), who had been involved in various illegal activities in the area for quite a long time.

The Police said that the arrested individuals were the bona-fide members of the gangster group that has come under the spotlight with regards to the series of offences that have been involved in anti-social behaviours such as thefts, extortions, and all sorts of criminal activities. The police raided the suspects following intelligence inputs, deploying around ten teams in a coordinated operation to flush out the suspects. The intelligence police had received from the crime cell, the investigating agencies, and intelligence inputs from agencies like Immigration, coupled with intelligence obtained from a reliable source which led them to follow up this case, officials said.

The police also recovered arms and ammunition associated with the gang group during the operation, including a .32 pistol along with its magazine, a 9mm pistol along with four rounds, an SBBL gun, mounted with a telescope, and a Chinese hand grenade. There were also seals bearing the markings of Salailen Mapari (KDF), along with the official letterheads of leaders of the outfit.



Aside from the weapons, several personal clothing items and organizational materials were taken into custody during the raid. The items in question included apparel bearing the insignia of Salailen Mapari KDF along with letterheads signed by the group’s leaders. In addition, the police seized a silver EECO Van and a Himalayan Royal Enfield motorcycle used for such unlawful activities of the gang.

Further investigation is being conducted to thwart the gang’s mobility and operations.

The police also said that a case has been registered against the arrested individuals, and further investigation is undergoing to dismantle the criminal network and bring all perpetrators to justice.



# MLA SHEIKH NOORUL HASSAN ACCUSED OF LEADING FORCED TRANSPORT OF NFSA RICE IN IMPHAL

A police complaint has been filed against Sheikh Noorul Hassan, MLA of the Kshetrigao assembly constituency in Manipur, accusing him of leading the illegal transportation of nine truckloads of National Food Security Act (NFSA) rice on Saturday afternoon.

The complaint, filed by H Bupendra Singh, District Supply Officer in Imphal East district, alleges that MLA Hassan and nominees from his constituency forcefully took away the rice meant for March 2024 distribution from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) depot in Sawombung.

The report states that around 4:30 pm on Saturday, a large group led by the MLA stormed the depot, overpowered officials, and loaded approximately 1327.40 quintals of rice onto nine trucks.



The incident occurred amidst rising rice prices in Manipur, with prices reaching around Rs 50 per kg on Sunday.

As of now, there has been no response from MLA Hassan regarding the allegations.

Police have registered a case and are investigating the matter.

## MECHANIC SHOT DEAD BY CO-WORKER IN BISHNUPUR DISTRICT

A 43-year-old mechanical supervisor from Bihar was shot by his co-worker on Sunday night in Manipur's Bishnupur district, police said.

The victim, identified as Suresh Sahu, reportedly got into an argument with a 54-year-old co-worker, Shijagurumayum Biren Sharma, over wages.

Both men were reportedly drinking after work at the Loktak Project Awang bazaar.

According to police, Sharma demanded a raise from Rs 400 to Rs 700 per day. Sahu, who resided in Shantipur village with his wife Nongmaithem Naocha Devi,

allegedly refused the request. The argument continued after they returned home.

Police said Sharma retrieved a double-barreled gun from his residence and shot Sahu at the gate of his home in Shantipur village around 8:30 pm on Sunday. Biren fled the scene after the incident.

Sahu died from his injuries while being transported to the Bishnupur district hospital.

The weapon has been recovered, and police are searching for Sharma.

# BJP GOVERNMENT REMAINS SILENT AS ARAMBAI TENGGOL ENFORCES CAMPAIGNING RESTRICTIONS

The Manipur state government and the Union government – both ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party – have stayed silent as Meitei militia group Arambai Tenggol publicly issued restrictions on traditional campaign methods during the Lok Sabha elections in the state.

Arambai Tenggol's Laishram Robason, popularly known as the 'Control Room Operator', issued a press release prohibiting public gatherings, feasts, the use of loudspeakers, flag raising and spreading election messages through loudspeakers during the campaign.

Manipur has been engulfed by violence since May 2023 and the role of Arambai Tenggol, including its sudden rise and political domination, has particularly come under greater scrutiny.

Formed in September 2022, the militia was a little-known shadowy group but it now boasts of a cadre strength of over 60,000, with more than five dozen spread over Imphal. On social media, the Arambai Tenggol appears to be dressed like state and central forces and moves around with heavy weaponry, without any overt action by the BJP state government or the state police.

The militia was recently caught up in a major controversy when it organised a meeting with the Meitei legislators and MPs at the Kangla Fort. It was attended by two



MPs from the region along with many ministers in the state government. At the meeting, the militia reportedly beat up and abused three legislators, two from the BJP and one from the Congress, when they refused to agree to the demands. No first-information report appears to have been registered in the matter.

On the final day of nomination filing for the Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, six candidates entered the fray, taking the total number of candidates to seven. These include Maheshwar Thounaojam of RPI-A, Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh of the BJP, Dr. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam of the Congress, Moirangthem Totomshana Nongshaba of RJSP, Ngasepam Nilakanta Singh of UFP, Rajkumar Somendro Singh of MPP and Haorungbam Sarat Singh as an Independent.



**This is no time for ease and comfort.  
It is time to dare and endure.**

– Winston Churchill



# SUPREME COURT NOTICE TO ECI ON PLEA TO TALLY ALL EVM VOTES WITH VVPAT, DEPOSIT VVPAT SLIPS IN BALLOT BOX

The Supreme Court of India on Monday issued notice to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on a plea seeking a thorough count of Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips in elections.

As per the current practice, VVPAT verification is done only with respect to votes recorded in 5 randomly selected Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in each assembly segment.

The petitioner has prayed that each and every EVM vote should be tallied against VVPAT slips.

The petitioner has also sought a direction that voters should be allowed to physically drop the slips generated by the VVPAT in a ballot box to ensure that the voter's ballot has been 'counted as recorded'.

A bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta issued notice to ECI and tagged the plea along with other pending matters concerning EVM and VVPAT.

The plea filed by lawyer and activist Arun Kumar Agrawal has challenged the Election Commission's guideline that mandates VVPAT verification to be conducted sequentially, i.e., one after the other, causing undue delay.

The plea argued that conducting simultaneous verification and deploying additional officers for counting in each assembly constituency would enable complete VVPAT verification to be done within 5-6 hours.

"The petitioner is further seeking to quash and set aside of Guideline No. 14.7(h) of the Manual on Electronic Voting Machine and VVPAT dated August, 2023 as framed and issued by Election Commission of India in so far as it allows only sequential verification of VVPAT slips resulting in undue delay in counting of all VVPAT slips," the plea stated.

The petition further argued that despite the government spending nearly ₹5,000 crores on the purchase of nearly 24 lakh VVPATs, slips from only around 20,000 VVPATs are verified.

Amidst the numerous concerns raised by experts regarding VVPATs and EVMs coupled with the significant number of reported discrepancies between EVM and VVPAT vote counts in the past, it is essential that all VVPAT slips be meticulously counted, the petitioner argued.

Additionally, the plea contended voters should be afforded the opportunity to thoroughly verify that their votes on the EVM are accurately accounted for, by allowing them to physically deposit their VVPAT slips in a ballot box.

Tallying of VVPAT slips with EVMs has always been a subject of contention.

Before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, leaders of around 21 opposition political parties had moved the apex court seeking VVPAT verification of at least 50 percent of all EVMs.

Back then, ECI used to tally only one random EVM per assembly segment with VVPAT.

On April 8, 2019, the apex court raised this number from 1 to 5 and disposed of the plea.

In May 2019, the Court dismissed a plea filed by some technocrats seeking VVPAT verification of all EVMs.

In July last year, the Supreme Court had remarked that public interest litigation (PIL) regarding election processes in the country sometimes cast too much suspicion on the sanctity of the election process.

The Court was hearing a plea by the Association for Democratic Reforms to tally VVPAT slips with votes cast through EVMs.

That plea is pending before the Court.

Source: [Bar and Bench](#)



FEATURED ARTICLE

# Why Residents of Manipur's Hill Areas Deserve Better

Ngaranmi Shimray

Article 371-C of the Constitution of India is a special provision for the "hill areas" of Manipur given in 1972 when Manipur, as a Part C state, was elevated to a full-fledged state. Many states, including in the northeast, have provisions under Article 371 starting from 371-A to 371-J. Article 371-C has served to determine the "hill areas" under the "First Schedule" thereby protecting the lands in the "hill areas" of Manipur from alienation to non-tribals.

There are other provisions under the Presidential Order dated 20th June 1972 for the hill areas in which the hill area MLAs have not been able to exercise their mandated functions fully through the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) constituted under Article 371-C.

Till Manipur "hill areas" are included in the Sixth Schedule" of the Constitution under Article 244(2), the hill areas of Manipur will not have the type of empowered district council or territorial council powers as we see now in Bodoland Territorial Council. The District Council Act of Manipur, although enacted by parliament in 1971, is a state legislation and can be amended by the state assembly at any time. The Panchayati Raj system of local self-government has been empowered by the constitution and the valley districts in Manipur have

been enjoying the empowered functions and powers since the early 1990's.

On the other hand, the District Council Act of 1971 which is implemented casually in the hill areas has become outdated and is being constantly degraded and made dysfunctional by the state government. There is no doubt that the current District Council Act of Manipur has become redundant and the local governance system needs upgradation and replacement.

The students, hill CSOs and political thinkers have always demanded that the hill areas of Manipur deserve more empowered local self-government since the 1980s. Manipur is the only state in the northeastern region which has a district council created by an Act of the state and is susceptible to manipulation and discrimination by a state government dominated by Meiteis who do not want the tribals to prosper.

Any call for a UT with the legislature and a council of ministers or a state would be the desire of most

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right-thinking tribals of Manipur. But sadly, the Naga peace talks, which promise greater things, have stifled the desire of students, hill CSOs or political thinkers to articulate and demand something more realistic for Manipur hill areas. All the rhetorics of the peace talks have taken us nowhere.

Given the high degree of distrust that exists today among the three large communities namely, Meiteis, Kukis and Nagas and the fact that all three communities are heavily armed the likelihood of peaceful coexistence is remote unless all three give up or surrender their firearms simultaneously. Perhaps the time has come for the people living in the hill areas of Manipur to think practically and demand something more realistic and achievable.

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states. This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) of the Constitution. The government of Manipur tricked the unwitting tribals by sending a non-serious recommendation to the Government of India (GoI) for the extension of the Sixth Schedule to hill areas of Manipur and mentioning that it would be subject to local adjustments.

When GoI wrote back asking for clarification as to what exactly local adjustments meant, the government of Manipur has not responded and has kept the matter in cold storage. The naivety of the tribal people has been fully exploited and exposed by the government of Manipur dominated by the Meitei community. The current ongoing ethnic conflict could be viewed as yet another attempt to subjugate and suppress the tribals systematically.

Article 239A of the Indian Constitution deals with the creation of local legislatures or Council of Ministers or both for certain Union territories (UT). The Kukis have demanded the type of UT which has a legislature and

a council of ministers. This amounts to breaking up the state of Manipur. Manipur integrity being a very sensitive matter for the Meiteis, the Nagas have restrained themselves from even asking for a separate state or UT for Manipur hill areas.

In the aftermath of the Meitei and Kuki-Zomi clashes that followed the 3rd May 2023 conflict, there are signs that the geo-political equations are changing fast and entailing upon the people of the hill areas of Manipur, especially the Nagas, to consider recalibrating their strategy and demand to the GoI.

Look at the Tipra Motha in Tripura and see what they have done. The pressure was applied rightly on the GoI in the state and intensified at the right time just before the ensuing parliamentary elections. What they have achieved is debatable but it is clear that their strategy has worked and they are on the path to a settlement.

Another example is the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO). Did they apply pressure at the right time or is it rather too late as parliamentary electioneering has already started and no one has any time to pay attention to the demand? Clarity of demand and timing of pressuring the GoI is key to success.

Are the people in the hill areas of Manipur united to work out their demand clearly and have they resolved to push their demand unitedly and unwaveringly under sustained opposition? Everyone is urged to ruminate on this matter.

(The views expressed in the article are those of the authors and do not reflect in any way his affiliation to any organization or institution)

First published by [East Mojo](#)





**Ashok Swain**  
@ProfAshokSwain

## THE BUZZ

SOCIAL MEDIA

After killing, sexual assaults, public parade, and burning down their churches and schools, majoritarian Meitei militia ArambaiTenggol in Manipur, India has warned minority Kuki Christians against doing election campaign. Modi & his henchman Biren are silent.



1:21 pm · 01 Apr 24 · 3,424 Views



**SiamPhaipi**  
@SiamPhaipi

The is similar with Meitei Propagandists in #Manipur trying to claim they're the victims, especially at the start of the #ManipurViolence. I'm Not in anyway denying that they don't have victims, but both are not equal in anyway as the Kuki-Zo has suffered the majority especially at the start of the violence.



**Mohammed Zubair** @zoo\_bear · 17h

AN IMPORTANT THREAD DEBUNKING FALSE NARRATIVE BY THE RIGHT WING ON DELHI RIOTS 2020.

The RW is trying to establish that the Delhi riots in 2020 were Anti-Hindu riots and not Anti-Muslim riots. They even wrote books claiming the same. Sharing videos/images. Do watch & decide. 🇮🇳

was a Muslim.

The despicable conspiracy went as far as Washington Post misquoting Ankit Sharma's brother to claim that Hindus killed the IB officer.

The courts have repeatedly affirmed that Hussain was one of the people who For months, there has been silence on Delhi Riots from the usual jihadis, except for propaganda to free Umar Khalid. But now, the cacophony is picking pace. The lies are resurfacing. Wonder why.

1:18 · 01 Apr 24 · 8,062 Views

of the greatest conspiracies against Hindus that contemporary Bharat witnessed, and I say this with full responsibility.



**Nupur J Sharma** @UnSubtleDesi · 9h

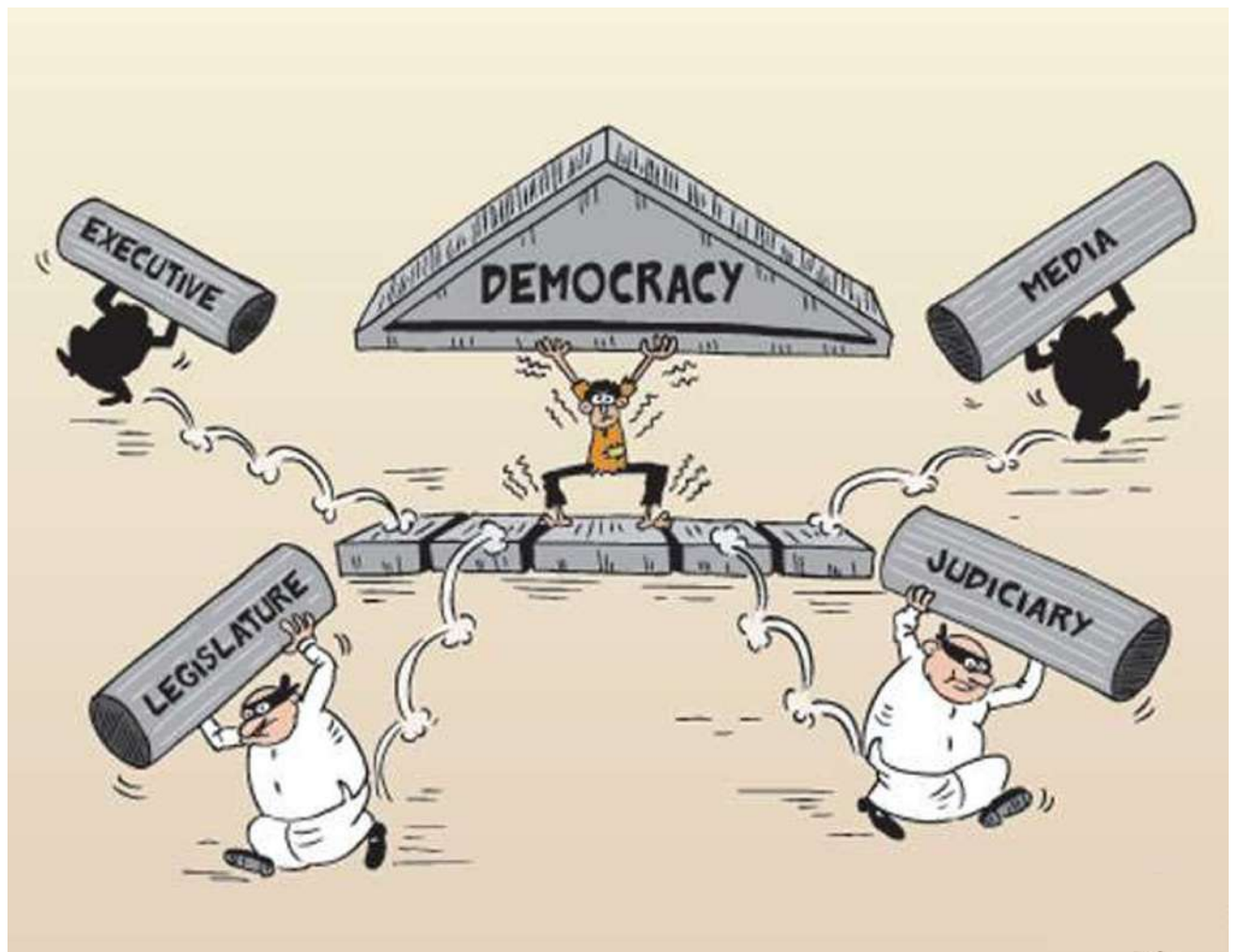
In the political cacophony, let's not forget that the entire ecosystem was activated in an attempt to prove that then AAP councillor

No force can suppress the truth of the 2020 Delhi riots for a very long time and some people think that they can invert reality. There is enough video evidence to show who are the real perpetrators of that planned conspiracy. There is video of a woman leading the mob and inciting people to kill and eliminate Muslims. She can be seen pelting stones before the mob goes crazy. Guess what, she's still not in jail. There is a video of a cleric giving a call to eliminate Muslims a day before the riots, those who participated in his genocidal rallies actually committed violence in

10:29 AM · Apr 1, 2024 · 890 Views



## THE FAILED DEMOCRACY







# Evermore

**-Angie DOUNGEL**

*The passing of time, now spring it is  
T'was unkind of it to not slow,  
A reverie as the hours go,  
Everything that happened a hiraeth,  
But not the storms we bore since,  
The memory sleeps beneath the gray  
Of any well remembered day.*

*Anywise almost hilarious it is,  
Of how it took a single day,  
To get stripped from all that you've known,  
A home that's been your lifelong comfort,  
Your life and everyday existence,  
Snuffed out and reduced to mere subsistence,  
All in just one day.*

*Coping with the rubbles and traumas  
Making our way through the ruins,  
In two months time will make a year,  
Yet our lives are still far from okay.  
For Fateful May still haunt us long,  
With wounds, losses, griefs of yesterday,  
Which is scarred for evermore.*