

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



**TONGKHOHAO LUPHO (24 YEARS)**

S/O NGAMJAPAO LUPHO

ADDRESS: YANGNGOUPOKPI VILLAGE, MOREH

DATE OF INCIDENT: 06<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024

PLACE OF INCIDENT: H. MONGJANG, TENGNOUPAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS





## 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.



# MEITEI MILITANTS DISRUPT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS WITH ATTACK ON KUKI-ZO VILLAGE

On Christmas Day, Meitei militants, including the private militia group Arambai Tenggol and state police commandos, launched an aggressive assault on the Kuki-Zo Christian community in Sinam Kom village, Kangpokpi district. The attack, which involved sophisticated weapons such as mortars, came during the height of the Kuki-Zo Christian celebrations marking the birth of Jesus Christ.

According to sources, the Meitei militants, well-prepared for confrontation, began their assault in the early morning hours. The Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers, who were guarding their ancestral land, initially resisted but were forced into a gun battle with the attackers. As of now, there have been no reports of casualties from either side, but the firing reportedly continued throughout the day.

The latest assault is viewed by many as part of a broader pattern of targeted violence against Kuki-Zo Christians since the outbreak of ethnic tensions in the region in



May 2023. The violence has left over 220 Kuki-Zo people dead and thousands displaced. More than 200 villages have been burned, over 7,000 homes destroyed, and 360 churches vandalized or set on fire. The assault on a Christian community during the sacred Christmas season underscores the ongoing persecution faced by the Kuki-Zo ethnic group.

## AJAY KUMAR BHALLA APPOINTED AS GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR

Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the former Home Secretary, has been appointed as the Governor of Manipur, while Vijay Kumar Singh, former Army General, has been named the Governor of Mizoram, according to an official notification released on Tuesday.

The outgoing Governor of Manipur, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, was sworn in on July 31, 2024, replacing Anusuiya Uikey, who had previously served as the Governor of Chhattisgarh. Anusuiya Uikey assumed office on February 22, 2023, succeeding La Ganesan.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, the Governor of Mizoram, has been appointed as the Governor of Odisha. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, the Governor of Bihar, has been named the Governor of Kerala, while



Arif Mohammed Khan, the Governor of Kerala, has been appointed as the Governor of Bihar, according to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

# MYANMARESE LIVING WITHIN 10KM OF MANIPUR BORDER CAN ENTER STATE WITH A PASS: MHA LETTER

The Union ministry of home affairs on Tuesday informed the Manipur government about a new scheme to allow Myanmar residents who live within 10km of the border into Manipur, but after getting a “border pass” from the Assam Rifles, officials familiar with the matter said, adding that the facility will also be applicable for Manipur’s border residents who wish to visit Myanmar border villages.

The development holds significance because the Manipur government has currently suspended the free movement regime at the India-Myanmar border across the check posts and locked the gates. The Centre has also proposed to build a fence along the border, which passes through different states. At least 30km of border fencing work has already begun in Manipur, said an official.

The MHA order, which HT has seen, said that eight pilot entry/exit points would be made functional immediately, while 35 other points would be set up under Phase I and II. The MHA’s deputy secretary wrote to the Manipur chief secretary on Tuesday about the new system, under which movement of border residents from Myanmar and India, but within 10km, would be allowed for “specific reasons such as visiting relatives, tourism, business, medical treatment and cultural exchange programmes would be allowed after following certain measures”.

The new system, according to the letter, was discussed during a meeting of border management held by the MHA on December 16.



A copy of the letter, titled “Deployment of police personnel and health officials at pilot sites of entry/exit points along Indo-Myanmar border”, directed the chief secretary to “appoint at least two police and two health officials at each of the identified entry/exit points of the Assam Rifles company operating bases where the people would be allowed to enter”.

The order further said that to travel to and from Myanmar within 10km, “one will require a passport and a proof of identity, issued by the station house officer of the local border police station (equivalent rank in Myanmar police) confirming the traveller’s residence proof”. “The border pass will not be issued to anyone staying beyond 10km from the border or a national from a third country,” it added.

According to the letter, the Cross Border Movement for people within 10 km would be regulated from 43 designated border crossing points where AR personnel will be issued border pass. “The pass will entail single entry for a stay of up to a week, and will have to be returned at the same point,”

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the letter said, adding that those who travel beyond 10km would be “liable for action”.

The Free Movement Regime at the India-Myanmar border, which allowed border residents from both India and Myanmar along the international border for up to 16km was scrapped by the Biren Singh-led Manipur government last year. The gates were closed by the state government after CM Biren Singh said that FMR was being exploited by smugglers and insurgent groups to smuggle drugs and weapons. To be sure, the MHA order does not name this scheme as the free

movement regime.

There was no response from the Manipur police or the Assam Rifles. A state government official, however, said, “We are also unclear about the details of the order. There will be more clarity tomorrow (Wednesday). It looks like a different form of FMR...”

The MHA order said that a police representative will physically visit the place where the Myanmar national is staying in Mizoram. (HT)

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## APPOINTMENT OF MANIPUR CS BECOMES TRICKY; AWAITS ORDER FROM RAISINA HILLS

Manipur is going through a tumults phase with state Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi (IAS: 1992: MN) being shifted to Delhi as Higher Education Secretary at the Centre, which has aggravated administrative uncertainty in the state. It may continue till the Centre announces the repatriation of a senior IAS officer serving in Government of India to take over as the new CS.

There are at least three senior IAS officers who are serving at the Centre being considered for the challenging assignment. This is where the government’s dilemma lies.

It may also be underlined two key developments took place simultaneously; one, former Union Home Secretary was appointed as Governor and second, the serving Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi got a sigh of relief after being moved to the Centre.

Indianmandarins has reliably learnt that in the order of priority, the government is considering the repatriation of any of the three senior IAS officers namely; Prashant Kumar Singh (IAS: 1993: MN), Rajesh Agarwal (IAS: 1994: MN) and Vivek Kumar Dewangan (IAS: 1993:



MN). Currently, Singh is working as Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Agarwal is the senior most Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce while Dewangan is CMD, REC Limited.

Agarwal and Dewangan are awaiting their empanelment for holding Secretary-level post in the Government of India.

Key sources informed that any of these three officers may be sent to Manipur as the new Chief Secretary to deliver results with seamless coordination with the new Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. (Indian Mandarins)

# DR MANMOHAN SINGH, EX-PRIME MINISTER, DIES AT 92

Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh died on Thursday. He was 92.

Singh was admitted to the emergency ward of Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at around 8 pm. The veteran Congress leader retired from the Rajya Sabha in April after 33-year-long stint in the Upper House.

Dr Manmohan Singh served as prime minister of India from 2004 to 2014.

"With profound grief, we inform the demise of the former Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, aged 92. He was being treated for age-related medical conditions and had a sudden loss of consciousness at home on 26 December 2024.

Resuscitative measures were started immediately at home. He was brought to the Medical Emergency at AIIMS, New Delhi at 8:06 PM. Despite all efforts, he could not be revived and was declared dead at 9:51 PM," the AIIMS said in a statement.

Singh is survived by his wife Gurcharan Singh and three daughters.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and her mother Sonia Gandhi reached the hospital as soon as the news of his hospitalisation became known.

Singh, who was finance minister under the then prime minister P V Narasimha Rao, was the architect and the



brainchild of economic reforms in 1991 that pulled India from the brink of bankruptcy and ushered in an era of economic liberalisation that is widely believed to have changed the course of India's economic trajectory.

Union health minister, JP Nadda, posted on the micro-blogging site X, "The passing of Former Prime Minister and Economist Shri Manmohan Singh ji is an immense loss for the nation. A visionary statesman and a stalwart of Indian politics, throughout his remarkable career in public service, he consistently voiced for the welfare of the downtrodden. His leadership earned admiration and respect across party lines. Shri Manmohan Singh ji's legacy will continue to inspire generations in their pursuit of nation-building. My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and admirers."



**Quarrelling is the weapon of the weak.**

— *American Proverb*





**FEATURED ARTICLE**

## Tens of Thousands Displaced by Ethnic Violence in Northeast India Suffer Squalid Conditions in Camps

**Rishi Lekhi**

Phalneivah Khonsai ran for her life when violence struck her neighborhood in India's restive northeast, carrying just the bare essentials in the hope that she and her family could return soon.

Khonsai, her husband and three children left behind their house, which was torched by a mob, and made for the hills, where thousands of people from their community headed for safety.

That was in May last year. Almost 19 months later, Khonsai, 35, is still away from home, living in a government building that was turned into a relief center with squalid conditions and little privacy.

The relief camp is in Kangpokpi, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Imphal, the capital of India's northeastern Manipur state, which has been wracked by ethnic violence since last year. In the building's damp and dark interior, fabric partitions separate at least 75 families like hers driven away from their homes.

"It is very difficult to live here," Khonsai said, as women went about their daily chores such as washing clothes and dishes.

The violent ethnic clashes erupted last year between the majority Meitei community and the minority Kuki-Zo tribes in Manipur. The conflict has claimed more than 250 lives and displaced at least 60,000 people.

The state remains divided into two ethnic zones, one controlled by the Meiteis and the other by the Kuki-Zo community. The factions have formed armed militias that patrol roads checking for signs of their rivals. Borders and buffer zones guarded by security forces separate the two regions. Youths spend nights guarding vulnerable villages.

Khonsai, a Kuki, said the struggles of living in a relief center are taking a toll on the family's health but they can't go back home because they fear for their lives.

"If we go back, they will kill us. There is no hope for going back," she said.

The Meiteis, who are predominantly Hindus, live in the Imphal Valley and nearby districts, while

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the Kuki-Zos live in hilly areas. The violence began last year when Meiteis demanded that they be listed by the government as a Scheduled Tribe, which would bring them more benefits such as quotas in jobs and educational institutions. That categorization would also bar non-Meiteis from buying land in the Meiteis' strongholds in the Imphal Valley.

The Kukis opposed this, saying such benefits should be given only to tribal groups that are less developed economically and less educated.

Soon, protests by both sides turned violent. Each side rampaged through villages, torching houses, massacring civilians and driving tens of thousands from their homes. Violence had receded in recent months, except for occasional flareups, but returned in November when 10 people were killed by paramilitary soldiers.

The Kuki-Zo community has been particularly hit hard by the violence. They accuse state Chief Minister N. Biren Singh of siding with the Meiteis and have sought his removal. They now seek federal rule over the state and administrative autonomy for the community.

Singh, a Meitei, has denied the accusations. His administration says people from the hill tribes — who share ethnic lineage with Myanmar's Chin tribe — are using illegal drugs to finance a war against the Hindu community. Manipur's government is led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

The displacement crisis has, however, impacted both communities. While most of the displaced from the Kuki-Zo community have gone to the hills, the Meiteis have taken shelter in refugee camps in Imphal. The mistrust between the two communities is far from over,

with people from each side unable to venture into the other's zone.

Yengsom Junksom Memi, a Meitei, used to live in Kangpokpi until attackers rampaged her home and forced her family to run for their lives. Memi first took refuge in a police station before moving to a relief center in Imphal where she lives with 600 other displaced Meiteis. She said her house has been taken over by the attackers.

"We have no future left. It is difficult to even manage food in the morning and evening," Memi said.

Ngamminlun Kipgen, spokesperson for the Committee on Tribal Unity, which represents Kukis, blamed the federal government for failing to end the violence.

"I think the prime minister needs to intervene," Kipgen said.

India's opposition parties have been urging Modi to visit Manipur. Modi has not visited the state since the violence started but has instructed his home minister, Amit Shah, to find a solution.

Kipgen said a division of the state into two separately administered parts, one for the Kukis and the other for Meiteis, could calm the situation.

"The nation must understand that the Kukis and the Meiteis for the time being are not able to live together, so the state or the central government should not force both communities at this critical juncture to come together," Kipgen said.



# THE BUZZ

SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Aran Shimray** ✓  
@shimray2011

Ex Bureaucrat, Appointed Governor of Manipur

It appears, a two pronged approach has been taken by MHA in posting a former bureaucrat who had worked as secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs till recently as August 2024 and therefore highly familiar with Manipur situation and the various players in Manipur crisis. The strategy would be to first try a political solution through talks with various stakeholders. If dialogue does not work, depending much on the spirit of accommodation of the Meiteis, then the next option would be considered. The second approach is to impose PR to be taken only if the dominant Meitei community, who control the state government and Imphal valley, continue to oppose and obstruct the idea of a Sixth Scheduled for hill areas of Manipur thereby derailing measures for return of normalcy in the state. For both approaches the role of the governor is pivotal to crisis management. The choice of the person for Governor of Manipur is most appropriate.

5:20 PM · Dec 26, 2024 · 647 Views

 **Rasush**  
@RasushAnkita

Meitei atrocities continue unchecked  
Recent violence in Imphal saw Meitei gangs attacking non-locals, especially targeting Bazar community businessmen in areas like Alu Galli, M.G. Avenue, & Paona Bazar. When will this genocide against Christians will stop?

#INDvsAUS #Christmas 🇬🇧



5:30 PM · Dec 26, 2024 · 322 Views



**THE  
CHRISTMAS  
THAT WAS.....**





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# DARKNESS TO LIGHT

On lonely dark roads, i wander alone  
Concealing scars, hiding my pain  
Secrets kept, struggles unseen  
A solitary journey, no one to claim .

Embracing darkness, i searched for the light  
A glimpse of hope, amidst endless night  
Each step weighed heavy with thought  
Between life and health,my heart was caught

Pure intentions, tainted by outcomes unclear  
Unclear consequence, my soul did fear.

Therefore, my lonely dark roads Ends  
In the same way I was form  
Preview to the nature of Earth  
To be a atleast be a help for few creatures and plants.

~ Seineo KUKI