

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Weekly Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

# He is RISEN



## WEAPONS SURRENDER

What a BJP MP's Words on Arambai Tenggol Mean for Manipur's  
'Weapons Surrender' Programme

**SPECIAL STORY: TIMBER SMUGGLING IN MANIPUR:  
ASSAM RIFLES CRACKDOWN EXPOSES  
DEEP-ROOTED ILLICIT TRADE**



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## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 09. 03. 2025



**226**  
DEATHS

\* Lalgouthang Singsit



**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.



# “OUR LAND, OUR RIGHTS”: KUKI-ZO WOMEN RISE IN RESISTANCE AGAINST MEITEI’S ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE KUKI-ZO AREAS



Lamka, April 13: With unwavering courage and voices full of pain and power, thousands of Kuki-Zo women continue their sit-in protest across villages like N. Zalenphai, Gothol, and Khousabung—standing as a wall of resistance against what they call Meitei attempts to infiltrate their ancestral homeland.

Armed with nothing but their dignity and determination, women held signs reading “Go Back Meitei,” “Respect Buffer Zones,” and “Don’t Politicise Ching-Kaba.” These are not just protests—they are cries for justice, dignity, and survival.

“We were chased from the valley. Our people were killed, our daughters molested, our churches burned, and our women paraded naked,” said Ngaineikim, President of the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights (KWOHR). “How can we ever welcome the same people into our land? Enough is enough.”

She reaffirmed the community’s non-negotiable demand: a Separate Administration with full legislative

powers. “The world needs to know—we cannot live together anymore. The government must act. We will not back down.”

The buffer zone, enforced since May 3, 2023, was meant to keep the peace. But repeated trespasses disguised as religious rituals have reignited fear and fury among the Kuki-Zo. This protest follows a similar one on April 13, showing growing momentum in their call for justice.

Rebecca Haokip, KWOHR spokesperson, made it clear: “There will be no peace talks without political solutions. We have suffered enough. This is our land, and we will defend it.”

In the hills of Manipur, the women of Kuki-Zo are not just protesting—they’re leading a movement. A movement born out of loss, love for their land, and the dream of a free and safe future for their people. and ‘Rebuild Our Churches First, Don’t Politicise Religion,’ among others.



# KUKI CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION MANIPUR, TENGNOUNPAL CSOS REITERATE OPPOSITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF BORDER FENCING

**Tengnoupal, April 14:** In support of the strong opposition raised by the Kuki Chief Association, various Kuki-Zo civil society organisations (CSOs) based in Moreh and its surrounding areas under Tengnoupal district have voiced their opposition to the construction of border fencing.

The CSOs, including the Kuki Chief Association Moreh Block, Hill Tribal Council Moreh, Kuki Students' Organisation Moreh Block, Moreh Youth Club, Kuki Khanglai Lampi, and Kuki Women Union and Human Rights Moreh Block, issued a joint statement on Monday, expressing solidarity with the Kuki Chief Association's stance against the border fencing.

The CSOs stated that the imposition of such barriers by the government threatens the traditional way of life of the Kuki-Zo communities, disrupting social cohesion, cultural practices, and livelihoods.

Furthermore, they expressed concern over the implication that the ongoing ethnic clashes between communities are due to illegal immigrants—calling it a blatant and misleading narrative propagated by the Meiteis to discredit the Kuki-Zo people. The release emphasized that it would be wise for the government to take a balanced approach to such sensitive matters.

Earlier, on April 12, the Kuki Chiefs Association Manipur (KCA-M) issued a statement reaffirming its firm opposition to the construction of border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border.

The association stated that the proposed fencing is a direct affront to the rights and interests of the indigenous tribes settled in the region.



“The imposition of such barriers by the government threatens the traditional way of life of the tribal communities, disrupting social cohesion, and cultural and livelihood practices,” the release stated.

Echoing the sentiments of other tribal organisations, the Kuki Chiefs reaffirmed their decision to resist any efforts to use their lands for this controversial border fencing project.

The association added that the construction of such fencing would ultimately lead to the disintegration of their social fabric and traditions.

“For the Kuki people, maintaining our cultural identity and unity is paramount. Hence, our right to safeguard our land from developments that could harm our community should be strongly asserted,” KCA-M added.

The association also called upon all Kuki chiefs and the broader community to refuse permission for their lands to be used for any project that could divide their people and damage their heritage.

## 11 MILITANTS ARRESTED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARMY-GOVERNOR MEETING IN MANIPUR



**Imphal, April 20:** In a major counter-insurgency operation, security forces arrested 11 militants linked to various proscribed outfits and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition across Manipur in the past 24 hours, officials confirmed on Sunday.

The crackdown follows a high-level security meeting between top Army commanders and Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan on Friday. The discussions reportedly focused on the law and order situation in the state and the wider northeastern region.

The arrested insurgents, affiliated with five banned outfits — Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), United People's Party of Kangleipak (UPPK), and Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) — were nabbed from three districts - Imphal East (9), Bishnupur (1), and Kakching (1).

According to police officials, the militants were involved in a range of criminal activities including extortion from government officials, contractors, and civilians.

A substantial haul of pistols, high-powered grenades, mobile phones, two-wheelers, identity documents including Aadhaar cards, and other incriminating

materials were recovered during the operation.

Additionally, Manipur Police conducted a targeted drive to recover stolen and snatched vehicles, retrieving four cars from different locations across the valley districts on Saturday.

Security forces, comprising Army units, Central paramilitary troops, and state police, have since ramped up joint operations in both valley and hill regions of the violence-hit state.

Friday's meeting was attended by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (Eastern Command) Lt. Gen. Ram Chander Tiwari, GOC Spear Corps Lt. Gen. Abhijit S. Pendharkar, and Inspector General of Assam Rifles (South) Major General Ravroop Singh.

"The Army officers briefed the Governor on the prevailing security situation in Manipur and neighbouring northeastern states," said a Raj Bhavan official told a national newswire.

With the situation in Manipur remaining tense, authorities say more such coordinated operations are on the cards to dismantle insurgent networks and restore normalcy.



# MOCKERY OF MANIPUR'S PREZ RULE: TERROR OUTFIT BANS BIHAR TRADER OVER GUTKA



**Imphal, April 18:** The outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), a separatist and insurgent group based in Manipur, has imposed a permanent ban on the stay and entry of Ranjeet Kumar Gupta, a trader and restaurant owner from Bihar, into Kangleipak—the traditional name for the present-day state of Manipur.

In a statement issued by the outfit's Information and Public Relations Secretary, M. Punsiba Meitei, the KCP accused Gupta of acting against the interests of the people of Kangleipak by continuing to supply banned smokeless tobacco products such as Talab, Shikhar, and Bombay Pan Masala, despite a strict prohibition imposed by the group on March 25, 2025. The ban was widely publicized through print and electronic media.

The KCP further alleged that Gupta was involved in immoral activities, specifically pointing to his restaurant, Kadak Chai, located in Mantripukhri, Imphal. The restaurant had previously been raided by Meira Paibi (women's vigilante groups) in 2023 due to similar concerns.

As a result, the KCP has not only barred Gupta from entering Manipur but has also prohibited all his

business operations within the state, including the closure of Kadak Chai. They have urged the public to dissociate from him and warned of severe consequences for any violations of this directive.

Informed sources hinted that the trader would have to either shut shop and leave Imphal or pay heavy 'extortion' to the KCP to buy peace.

## **KCP: Extortionists in the Guise of "Moral Police"**

The Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) is a banned insurgent organization primarily operating in Manipur. Its origins trace back to the late 1980s, with the stated goal of restoring Manipur's sovereignty and independence. The group combines separatist ideology with Marxist-Leninist principles, aiming to challenge the political and cultural domination of Manipur by the Indian state.

Over the years, the KCP has fragmented into multiple factions, some pursuing political objectives while others have engaged in

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criminal activities such as extortion, arms smuggling, and targeted violence. The Indian government has designated the KCP as a terrorist organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Despite numerous security crackdowns, KCP factions remain active in Imphal and its surrounding districts, often working with other insurgent groups to enforce parallel "laws", issue public threats, and carry out bomb scares and extortion drives.

### State and Parallel Bans on Tobacco

The KCP's recent crackdown on smokeless tobacco aligns with a similar move by the Manipur Health Department, which on October 22, 2024, issued a one-year ban on the manufacture, sale, storage, and consumption of gutka, pan masala, and other chewable

tobacco products containing tobacco or nicotine. This action, enforced under the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011, aims to mitigate public health risks associated with tobacco use.

The official ban applies to products like khaini, zarda, and flavored tobacco, regardless of packaging. Several enforcement drives have resulted in seizures across Imphal East and West, underscoring the government's commitment to tackling tobacco-related issues.

On a parallel front, the KCP also declared its non-negotiable and indefinite ban on smokeless tobacco products on March 25, 2025. The KCP has warned traders and consumers to comply or face severe consequences.

## 7 KCP (PWG) MILITANTS ARRESTED IN HEIROK; CACHE OF ARMS AND PROPAGANDA MATERIALS SEIZED

**Imphal, April 20:** In a high-risk joint operation conducted in the early hours of Sunday, seven suspected militants affiliated with the banned group Kangleipak Communist Party - People's War Group (KCP-PWG) were apprehended by a combined team of Thoubal Commando (CDO) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in Heirok Part III.

The operation, initiated around 2:20 AM following a credible tip-off, took place near the YBC Club adjacent to the SDC office. Several elite units were involved, including CRPF Sector QAT, Range Imphal QAT, and Quick Action Teams (QATs) from the 109, 69, 66, and 86 battalions, along with A/99 Rapid Action Force (RAF).

Arrested Individuals includes Waikhom Tinku (28) – s/o Waikhom Ranjit Singh; Md. Riwas @ Pat – s/o Md. Rafique, Porompat; One juvenile (15 years old); Angom Bobi @ Wataba (33) – s/o Angom Imo Singh, Nongada; Ningthoujam Choaba Singh @ Hingchaba (38) – s/o Ningthoujam Kulabidhu, Thongju; Laishangthem Tomba @ Thabal – s/o L. Dasu Singh, Thoubal Leishangthem and Md. Sirajuddin @ Kham (45) – s/o Md. Ito, Phoidel

Moirangpali.

During the Operation the following items were seized 1 INSAS Light Machine Gun (LMG), 2 INSAS rifles, 1 Carbine with 3 magazines, 1 MA3 MK-11 rifle, SLR and .303 ammunition and 76 rounds (5.56 mm), 69 rounds (9 mm), .303 and SLR rounds, Mobile phones, radio sets, charger units, Pistol holsters, uniform items and ID cards 1 Honda Activa 6G (blue) and 1 Chevrolet Beat (MN01S-6442) vehicles were also seized during the raid.

KCP-PWG badges and propaganda literature, Nepali and Indian currency, Debit card and a blank cheque were also seized from the spot. During the arrest, a group of locals reportedly attempted to disrupt the operation by pelting stones at the security personnel. Forces responded with non-lethal crowd control measures. Though some security vehicles sustained minor damages, the situation was brought under control without any reported injuries.



# NETIZENS ROAST BIREN SINGH OVER MANIPUR HILL ROAD BLAME GAME

**Imphal, April 20:** A social media post by former Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has reignited debate over the pitiable infrastructure in the state's hill districts. In his post, Singh pointed fingers at contractors who, he claimed, submitted abnormally low bids—some up to 36.48% below government estimates. “How can we expect quality roads in the hills at such low rates?” he asked, echoing the long-held frustrations of tribal communities who feel perpetually neglected.

## But Singh's question skirts a more fundamental issue: Who approved these bids?

While the former CM targets contractors, he omits the government's crucial role in approving these tenders. Public procurement rules are clear—authorities can reject unviable low bids. They can demand justifications, insist on safeguards like performance guarantees, or disqualify offers that threaten quality.

So, when contractors quoted ₹64–₹68 for work estimated at ₹100, why weren't these tenders rejected? If, as Biren now claims, such cost-cutting led to poor-quality roads, the obvious question is: Why did his government allow it?

Singh's post reads less like a technical concern and more like a political deflection. He even tags the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for oversight, subtly shifting accountability. But public works departments already have the discretion to reject risky bids. The failure wasn't just at the contractor level—it was in institutional decision-making.

## The Hills Pay the Price

In the hills, where poor roads mean delayed ambulances, school dropouts, and deepening isolation, these aren't abstract debates. The Kuki-Zo, Nagas, and other tribal

communities have long protested the valley-centric development model. They see these roads not just as symbols of neglect—but as daily proof of systemic apathy.

While funds have been allocated to hill districts, the question remains: What was done with them? And if the outcomes are subpar, the problem lies not just with who executed the work—but who greenlit it.

Yes, contractors must be held to account. But so must the government that endorsed their bids. Blaming the private sector while ignoring the public institutions that enabled the mess only deepens distrust.

Even the NSCN, an armed insurgent group, had cautioned the PWD against awarding tenders below the Schedule of Rates. If insurgents understand that low bids mean poor roads, surely the state does too.

The real issue here isn't just greedy contractors. It's a regulatory and political failure to uphold public interest. The state had both the tools and the discretion to prevent this. That it didn't reflects not helplessness—but neglect, convenience, or worse—wilful disregard.

Singh's viral post has struck a chord—but unless it's followed by introspection and reform, it risks becoming just another distraction. Transparency is not enough. What's needed is accountability—from contractors, yes, but from the state itself, most of all. (Power Corridors)

**Nations do not die from invasion,  
they die from internal rotteness.**

—Abraham Lincoln





**SPECIAL STORY**

## Timber Smuggling in Manipur: Assam Rifles Crackdown Exposes Deep-Rooted Illicit Trade

Navin Upadhyay

In a blow to cross-border timber smuggling, the Assam Rifles on Friday foiled a major smuggling attempt in Manipur's Tengenoupal District, intercepting 23 Indian trucks illegally transporting timber valued at approximately Rs 14.28 lakh.

Acting on intelligence inputs, the operation targeted Kampang Khullen, a known smuggling hotspot. The trucks, carrying timber without valid transit permits, were handed over to the Forest Department, along with the detained drivers, for legal action. The seizure underscores the Assam Rifles' critical role in securing Manipur's borders and disrupting insurgent funding networks.

The operation, conducted near the Indo-Myanmar border, underscored the persistent challenge of timber smuggling in the region. This illicit trade, fueled by lax enforcement, insurgent groups, and alleged political patronage, threatens Manipur's rich biodiversity and fuels conflict. This article explores the background, scale, groups involved, destinations, and political links of timber smuggling in Manipur, contextualizing the Assam Rifles' recent operation within a broader crisis.

### Background:

Manipur, which shares a 398-km porous border with

Myanmar, has long been a hotspot for illicit cross-border activities, including drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and timber smuggling. The state's dense forests, rugged terrain, and poorly monitored border crossings create an ideal environment for smugglers. Forest official this correspondent spoke with said Manipur's forests, rich in high-value species like Burmese teak (*Tectona grandis*), have become a prime target for illegal logging, driven by soaring global demand for premium hardwoods.

The state's complex socio-political landscape, marked by ethnic tensions and armed groups, has enabled the trade to thrive. Weak governance, corruption, and inadequate forest monitoring have further exacerbated the problem. The Indo-Myanmar border, particularly in districts like Tengenoupal and Chandel, serves as a conduit for smuggling timber into India, where it is either sold domestically or re-exported to international markets.

### The Scale of Timber Smuggling

The illegal timber trade in Manipur is a multi-crore

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industry, though precise figures are hard to pin down due to its clandestine nature. Forest officials estimate that thousands of cubic meters of timber, primarily teak and other hardwoods, are smuggled annually, with losses running into hundreds of crores of rupees. The latest seizure of timber in Tengnoupal is just a fraction of the trade's true scale.

Manipur's forests cover approximately 17,000 square kilometers, but rampant illegal logging has led to significant deforestation. According to a 2021 Forest Survey of India report, Manipur lost nearly 250 square kilometers of forest cover between 2019 and 2021, much of it attributed to illegal felling. The trade's profitability is driven by the high value of Burmese teak, which fetches premium prices in domestic and international markets. A single cubic meter of teak can sell for Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh, depending on quality and destination.

Timber smuggling in Manipur involves a nexus of actors, including local smugglers, insurgent groups, corrupt officials, and international syndicates. The Assam Rifles' operation in Tengnoupal targeted a smuggling ring allegedly linked to Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs), which rely on illegal timber trade as a major funding source. VBIGs, including groups like the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), operate in Manipur's valley areas and have been implicated in extortion, smuggling, and illegal logging.

Local smugglers, often from border communities, play a key role in felling trees and transporting timber across the border. These groups exploit the region's poverty and lack of alternative livelihoods, recruiting locals to cut trees or act as couriers. The Indo-Myanmar border's Free Movement Regime (FMR), which allows visa-free travel up to 16 km across the border, is frequently misused to facilitate smuggling.

International syndicates, primarily based in Myanmar, China, and Southeast Asia, are also involved. Myanmar's

ongoing political instability and lax forest governance have made it a hub for illegal logging, with much of the timber smuggled into India through Manipur. Chinese demand for teak and rosewood drives much of the trade, with timber often re-exported from India to China via ports in Kolkata or Chennai.

### **Destinations: Where the Timber Goes**

The timber smuggled through Manipur follows two primary routes. Domestically, it is transported to cities like Guwahati, Kolkata, and Delhi, where it is used in furniture manufacturing, construction, and luxury goods. The absence of valid transit permits, as seen in the Tengnoupal seizure, is a common tactic to evade detection. Smugglers often use forged documents or bribe officials to move timber through checkpoints.

Internationally, much of the timber is destined for China, the world's largest consumer of tropical hardwoods. Timber is smuggled across the Indo-Myanmar border into Manipur, then transported to Indian ports for export. Some is also routed through Bangladesh or Southeast Asian countries like Thailand and Vietnam, where it is processed and re-exported. The global demand for teak, coupled with weak international regulations, ensures a steady market for Manipur's smuggled timber.

### **Political Links: A Murky Nexus**

The persistence of timber smuggling in Manipur points to deep-rooted political complicity. Several media expose in the past have revealed that local politicians and bureaucrats often protect smugglers in exchange for kickbacks. The trade's profitability makes it a lucrative source of campaign funding, particularly during elections. In some cases, kins of politicians are directly

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involved in timber businesses, using their influence to shield illegal operations.

Insurgent groups with political ties further complicate the picture. VBIGs, for instance, are known to extort “taxes” from smugglers and loggers, blurring the line between criminal and insurgent activity. The Assam Rifles’ operation in Tengnoupal, while successful, is unlikely to dismantle the trade without addressing these political linkages. Calls for stricter oversight and independent investigations have been met with resistance, raising questions about the state’s commitment to curbing the menace.

**A multi-pronged approach needed:**

Tackling the timber smuggling crisis requires strengthening border security, including increased deployment of Assam Rifles and better coordination with Myanmar authorities. Reforming the Free Movement Regime to prevent misuse, while respecting local communities, could also help. Domestically, stricter enforcement of forest laws, coupled with anti-corruption

measures, is critical to breaking the nexus between smugglers, insurgents, and politicians.

Community-based conservation programs, offering alternative livelihoods to border residents, could reduce local involvement in smuggling. Internationally, India must work with China and ASEAN nations to curb the demand for illegal timber and strengthen global supply chain regulations.

The Assam Rifles’ operation in Tengnoupal is a reminder of the ongoing battle against timber smuggling in Manipur. While the seizure of Rs 14.28 lakh worth of timber is a victory, it is but a small dent in a sprawling, lucrative trade. Until the root causes—poverty, corruption, and insurgent influence—are addressed, Manipur’s forests will remain under siege, with ripple effects for the region’s ecology, economy, and security.

Published by [Power Corridors](#)



Analytical Kuki  
@Analytical\_Kuki

These powerful scenes from our second mass protest say it all: “Our land, our blood, our boundaries.” No Meitei movement into Kukiland without a political settlement. We call on the GOI and policymakers to enforce our buffer zone and deliver justice now.

[#UnionTerritory4KukiZo](#)



PMO India and 9 others  
13:57 · 19 Apr 25 · 775 Views



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KSO Chandel  
@KSO\_Chandel

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Today , Kuki women led a powerful, peaceful protest to defend our land and dignity. Their call is clear: respect our buffer zone and secure an urgent political settlement. Acknowledge and finalise our total separation from Manipur.

[#UnionTerritory4KukiZo](#)

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FEATURED ARTICLE

## What a BJP MP's Words on Arambai Tenggol Mean for Manipur's 'Weapons Surrender' Programme

The Wire Analysis

A remark by Bharatiya Janata Party Rajya Sabha MP Leishamba Sanajaoba, who is also the titular Meitei king, is being considered a veiled threat to the Kuki community.

In an event organised by Arambai Tenggol, an armed outfit of which he is said to be the founder, Sanajaoba stated that though the groups has surrendered some of its weapons publicly, it would “be ready to defend [Meitei] land” at any time.

### Arms

The BJP MP’s statement made at a public event organised by the radical group in Imphal on April 16 is significant, considering that the Arambai Tenggol is accused of attacking Kuki-Zos in the valley districts of the state and capturing their properties in Imphal. The group had hit headlines in February for surrendering 246 looted weapons on a single day at the call of the Manipur governor. Media reports have highlighted that only 106 of those weapons were sophisticated while “most were single- or double-barrel weapons and country-made ones.”

In a March 7 report, The Wire had noted that an additional 67 weapons were handed over to state police by Arambai Tenggol in some other areas, taking the total number of surrendered weapons by the group to 307.

The report had underlined that the surrendered cache represented only a fraction of the arms looted since the violence began. Notably, not a single bulletproof jacket was returned by it.

The Wire had then learned that Arambai Tenggol and another Meitei radical group, Meitei Leepun, together had looted from state armoury a far larger number, much of which remains in circulation. Notably, despite the fact that the Manipur Police routinely lists surrendered arms on X, it has omitted any reference to those turned in by Arambai Tenggol, which remains under investigation by the National Investigation Agency for its alleged role in looting a Manipur Rifles complex. The Wire had tried contacting the state director general of police Rajiv Shah to enquire about the situation, but has not received a response yet.

A total of 6,000 arms were looted in Manipur over different periods since May 3, 2023 by “the Meitei militia”, as reported by The New Indian Express. By the evening of March 6, 1,044 arms and 14,779 rounds of ammunition were surrendered to security forces, according to Indian Express.

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## 'Should not be mistaken for a passive or inactive group'

In a video clip of the April 13 event in Imphal West – the closing ceremony of a football tournament of various Arambai Tenggol units – the Rajya Sabha MP is heard saying:

"Arambai Tenggol was established to defend our land, culture and identity. We are not anti-national or against anyone. Our real intention is to defend and protect Manipur and India. However, we were compelled to take a role that we never intended to. Some may say that Arambai Tenggol have surrendered their weapons and are living as civilians. But, at any given time, we will be ready for the call to defend our land."

Speaking in presence of the armed outfit's leader K. Khuman and its unit commanders and advisors, the BJP MP "lauded Arambai Tenggol, stating that its actions today stand as a testament to that belief and are a matter of pride," reported E-Pao Net. The news report quoted the Meitei leader as saying, "While the group had assumed a different form during a critical period to protect the Meitei (Meitei) community and Manipur, it has now reverted to its foundational identity, engaging

in religious practices, farming and sports."

"Nevertheless, he said that Arambai Tenggol should not be mistaken for a passive or inactive group."

The report said that he warned, "If any threat arises against Manipur and its people, the organisation will not hesitate to return to its former role."

The ethnic tensions between the two communities once again came to a head this past week as it is that time of the year when Meiteis climb the Thangjing Hills it considers sacred. This time, the community had to abort it due to threats of retaliation by the Kuki-Zo community. Thangjing Hills is located in the Kuki-Zo dominated Churachandpur district. On April 13 which was a full moon night, many Meitei pilgrims from across the Imphal Valley had offered prayers in Bishnupur which is contiguous to the Churachandpur district, and had camped overnight hoping to do the pilgrimage to the sacred site on the Hills but had to return home without completing the age-old tradition.

Published by [The Wire](#)



## The Thangting Melodrama







# TEARS OF HOPE

Tears fall like rain, a deluge of pain,  
Yet in each drop, a glimmer remains.  
A spark of hope, a light in the night,  
Guiding us forward, shining bright.

Tears of sorrow, tears of strife,  
But also tears of hope, of new life.  
For in the darkness, seeds take root,  
And from the ashes, beauty blooms anew.

May our tears not be in vain,  
But water the soil, where hope can reign.  
May our hearts not be broken,  
But strengthened by hope, made whole once more.

~ Obed Paogoulien Singson  
Songpi, Kukiland