

## Govt urged to conduct classes at safer place: Churachandpur Medical College Students

IT News  
Imphal, May 31:

The Churachandpur Medical College students today urged the government to arrange a safer place to resume their classes during a press conference held today at Manipur Press Club stating that classes of both JNIMS and RIMS had already started from May 22, as the examination of these three colleges will be done at the same date, resumption of their classes is very needed. The student also stated that they wont return back to Churachandpur again as they feel unsafe there.

While briefing about the series of incidents that hap-



pen inside the college during the violence days, the student said that armed Kuki militants had snatched all

their belongings including 76 mobile phones and cash. They further said that those terrorists threaten them not

to tell to anyone about the place they were staying, if they do so they would kill them all.

## Fake Facebook Account

IT News  
Imphal, May 31:

It has been detected that a Facebook account in the name of M. Premjoy Meitei has uploaded comments intimidating the tribal brethren residing in Imphal city by inciting violence and creating panic and insecure feelings among the tribal communities.

The Imphal Police Station has already registered a case and after proper investigation, it is found that the said Facebook account is a fake one.

In this connection, it is hereby appealed to the tribal communities residing in Imphal area not to feel panic and intimidated by the fake comments generated in social media during the prevailing law and order situation. The Government of Manipur is fully committed towards protecting the lives and properties of all the tribal communities for restoration of normalcy, peace and harmony.

Appeal is also hereby made to the netizens of the State not to upload comments and pictures creating panic and sense of insecurity to any community.

## Restore peace soon, else future generations will be hugely impacted: Paban Kumar

IT News  
Imphal, May 31:

Acclaimed Film Maker Haobam Paban Kumar expressed that the present situation prevailing in the state with a communal touch is unfortunate. All should join hands together to restore peace and normalcy soon so that the upcoming generations do not have a sad future, he appealed.

Paban Kumar, talking to DIPR, said, "I never thought that the current issue would turn communal. Any issue with a communal touch always has lasting impacts, and this issue, if not solved in time, will give a lasting negative impact to the future generation."

He further stated, "Manipur is like a mini-India and we as a citizen of the state, irrespective of which ever community one belongs to, should try to bring an amicable solution. Even the

mainland Indians dwelling in Manipur should not remain a silent spectator during such critical times, and should join in to restore peace in the State."

He added that in the larger interest of the people of state, we all should work together. The news report of the present situation as shared in social media and the mainland media, somehow, seems to lack ground reality and tries to bring the narrative based on religion, he added.

He further said that in Manipur, there has never been any occurrence of such incidents based on religion as religion has never been a major concern or a barrier in our society. The present issue is quite different from those narratives and the comments made without knowing the ground reality needs to be checked. At this moment, all citizens of the country need to put effort to

solve the present situation to bring peace and tranquility in the state, he appealed.

It may be mentioned Haobam Paban Kumar is an Indian filmmaker from the state of Manipur. Kumar's films and documentaries have been screened in several places across the globe. Kumar's debut feature film *Loktak Lairembee* (Lady of the Lake) won the National Film Award for Best Film on Environment Conservation/ Preservation at the 64th National Film Awards 2017. He also won **German Star of India** at the 14th Indian Film Festival in Stuttgart, Germany for the film in 2017. Kumar's documentary *AFSPA 1958* in 2006 was one of the highly critical and widely appreciated films across the globe for his daredevil attempt to showcase the harsh reality of the ill effects of Armed Forces Special Power Act in Manipur state.

## Cross-border narco-terrorism root of Manipur violence: PIL

Courtesy: Times of India  
New Delhi, May 31:

Differing from Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Anil Chauhan's assertion that Manipur unrest is "an ethnic clash... nothing to do with insurgency", a PIL filed in the Supreme Court on Tuesday said the border state is witnessing cross-border narco-terrorism by armed Kuki militants infiltrating from Myanmar to promote and protect illegal poppy cultivation and illicit drug trade in the hill areas.

"The serious issues of narco-terrorism and external aggression posing threat to national security is prevalent in Manipur and the resultant fall out is the present human crisis wherein a large number of people have been displaced from their homes disturbing normal life in the state," said the petitioner - NGO 'People's Alliance for Peace and Progress, Manipur'.

Warning of a major fall out if the Kuki militants were not reined in their nefarious activities curbed,

the NGO said, "If narco terrorism in the north-eastern border areas of India is not acknowledged by the Union government and contained in time, it will have larger implications posing a serious threat to the national security."

It alleged that the unabated influx of illegal migrants from Myanmar and they forming themselves as soldiers of 'Kukiland' and the suspension of operation (SoO) against these militants have allowed unhindered encroachment of reserve and protected forest land which are used for illegal activities like poppy cultivation, arms-running and drug trafficking. The NGO requested the SC to direct the Union government to investigate the real cause of the present unrest and take action against disturbing normal life in the state, it said.

It said the Manipur HC's order seeking state government's response to a Centre's 2013 letter on demand for grant of ST status to Meiteis was a mere ruse for the attack on

Meiteis and resultant spread of unrest in the state. On May 17, the SC had entrusted the adjudication of the issue relating to the ST status demand by Meiteis to Manipur HC. It had asked the state to provide security to vulnerable populations facing threats of violence.

Citing a January report of the United Nation of Office of Drugs & Crimes titled, "Major Opium Economy Expansion is Underway in Myanmar", the NGO said, "The Kuki militants and drug mafias are taking advantage of the shifting drug activities (poppy plantation and drug manufacturing) from the Golden Triangle especially the Shan State in Myanmar to the Indo-Myanmar border towards the Chin and Kachin States of Myanmar neighbouring India. The Kuki militants controlling these areas, as also the adjacent areas in Manipur and Mizoram, are emboldened by SoO to indulge in illegal poppy cultivation and drug trade to raise huge financial resources."

## Chief Minister appeals to stop roadblocks and surrender of snatched arms

IT News  
Imphal, May 31:

Acknowledging section of the public in violating curfew restrictions and blocking roads and causing immense obstacles to free movement of relief material for inmates in relief camps and also to transportation and movement of security personnel for meeting security threats from illegal armed groups in conflict areas in foothills and interior locations of the state, the

Chief Minister of Manipur appealed the people of Manipur not to cause roadblocks and hindrances on free movement of security personnel, relief materials, health personnel, medicine, food, milk and water meant for relief camps.

In order to save lives and property of innocent civilians, and to assuage the hardship faced in relief camps, the Chief Minister further appealed to all persons concerned to return and surrender the arms and ammunition

which have been snatched from armed police battalions, police stations, etc. in valley and hill districts to the nearest police station / MR / IRB, etc. at the earliest failing which proper legal action as per the Arms Act 1959 and Rules would be taken in case any person was found to be in unauthorized and illegal possession of arms and ammunition during combing operations being conducted by security personnel, or otherwise.

## Indian Constitution and polity are the root causes of enmity among us: PREPAK (Progressive)

IT News  
Imphal, May 31:

The proscribed outlawed organization, the PREPAK (Progressive) sends out its words in connection with its 13th Progressive Day of PREPAK (Progressive), the 1st of June 2023. Having showed due respect and gratitude to those brave sons of the soil who have sacrificed their lives in the liberation struggle for an independent Kangleipak, Longjam Palliba, M, chairman of the outfit shared the grief and sorrow of those families affected by this ongoing unfortunate conflict, in a release today.

The statement says the Indian Constitution does not provide provisions of self-governance based on their

socio-political cultures for those once independent nations like Manipur, whose fate is unpredictable as India happens to be an "indestructible union of destructible states", giving rise to the question whether to find solution for the present crises within this discriminatory constitution or finding out the truth by understanding our own history. Criticising that the poor knowledge of the British as well as the Indian State of the long history of Manipur eventually paved the way for the rupture of the historically integrated social fabrics, it maintained that there were no oppressive records rather the then Meitei Kings gave full autonomy to the various ethnic communities whilst the harmonious cultural bond-

age between inter-communities was slowly fractured with the introduction of administrative system of British and India. With the end of Khongjom War, British occupied Manipur and in a way of avenging the Meiteis, the British began formulating policies that were detrimental to the unity of Manipur as a nation. As far as the present Manipur is concerned, the Narco-Terrorist War Lords of some communities must know our geographical reality that the valley and the hills are inseparable as its history and culture are bonded topographically. Therefore, any attempt to challenge this reality will be ferociously resisted by the Meiteis as it is becoming the existential crisis for them.

Narrating the formation of

Manipur as a nation of numerous ethnic groups through a long process of history and those who question this reality are blindfolded by the influences of Western religion and Colonial rule, it stated there was no concept of Tribal in the independent Manipur. The Manipur Constitution Act 1947, which was drafted and enacted by all the representatives of different ethnic communities, the word "Hill People" was mentioned and the concept of Tribal was not at all mentioned. However, the Indian Government with the continuation of British Policy began segregation of numerous ethnic communities as Scheduled areas/Tribal areas as its usual disguised development policy. Such biased political policies led to the division of lands in

various demands such as Autonomous Council and Separate Administration, Palliba said. India, though completed 73 years of independence, is now fifth as a developing nation. According to the Indian Constitution's ST criteria, only the tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are qualified to be in the Scheduled Tribes List. Will it not be better for us to find a new path for a common future for all the ethnic communities?

Leaving aside the pros and cons of Hinduism, the question of patriotism has nothing to do with religion as it was shown by Maharaja Gambhir Singh, a devout Hindu, who shouted "Glory to Lord Govindaji" at the banks of Chindwin River when he defeated and drove

the then Burmese invaders beyond the river. Most of the fighters in the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891 and those of Two Nupi Lal were all Meitei Hindus. The present enmity amongst us is due to the ripple effect of the politicized Constitutional Protection concept, the release continues.

Having said this, those who follow imported religions should remember the deceitful methods of Shantidas Gosai who began the infamous "Puya Meithaba" by entangling the then Meitei Rulers. Therefore, desecration of holy places associated with our history and indigenous religion should not be undertaken. We shall not denigrate the Sanamahi religion, as it is a Universal religion not only confined to a

particular community. It is a religion which does not have the concept of religious war, assimilation or prosecution. Just as in Hinduism, the idea of Universe as a wave particle in Quantum Physics and the famous "Big Bang Theory" are also found in Sanamahi and Meitei Puyas. We should not undervalue our tradition and religion, Palliba maintains. Continuing that King Kangba, and his lineage, who ruled at about 1500 BCE until Axial Ages started formulating Socio-Religious norms and the judicial system, his son Mariya Phambalcha introduced the Meitei Calendar known as "Maliya Kumsing" which was useful in calculating various seasons of agricultural activities, the chairman narrates.

contd. on page 2

# The Indian Military Policy In Manipur & The Kuki Mercenaries

By: Yoihenba Ningthouja

The Indian State has created a monster in its attempt to finish off insurgency in Manipur. And the monster is the Kuki militants fed, nurtured, groomed, sheltered and armed by the IGAR South, Mantripukhri. The present violence is closely connected with the way how the Indian military hardware has operated in Manipur to contain and finish-off valley based Manipuri insurgents. It all began by identifying a mercenary that the Indian military establishment including the para-military forces like the Assam Rifles could use to achieve its objective. And they found it in the Kukis who had served as mercenaries to different agencies since the early part of history.

The colonial British were the first to use the Kuki, a homeless migratory tribe with shifting loyalty, either as porter or mercenary, way back in the 18th century, to rein in rebellious tribes such as the Lushais and the Nagas. British together with the Manipur sovereigns used Kuki mercenaries in the Lushai and the Naga Hills expeditions. However, the British policy to establish a Kuki regiment just like the Gorkha Rifles was put to an

end once the Kukis rebelled against Labour Corps recruitment in Manipur during the World War I (Kuki intellectuals love to call it Anglo-Kuki War). While the Gorkhas were known for their loyalty, discipline and bravery, Kuki indiscipline and disloyalty vexed the British, and thus shelved the proposal to create a Kuki regiment.

In contemporary times, the Indian State found a mercenary in the Kukis, first of all to combat the Naga insurgents and then, the valley based insurgents. During the bloody, Kuki-Naga ethnic clash (1991-1997), Indian State forces supplied arms and ammunitions to the Kukis with its keen eyes of using them as weapons in its counter insurgency operations. Once the Government of India entered into a ceasefire agreement with NSCN-IM and other Naga outfits, the Indian military, especially the Assam Rifles, could buy the loyalty of the Kuki and used them in subsequent operations against the valley based insurgent groups. And undeniably, it has been successful.

Since, the signing of the SoO pact since 2008, the phenomenon has increased all the more for every ob-

server to see bare-through. The combined forces of the Indian military and Kuki militants were able to sanitise the valley based insurgent groups literally from the soil of Manipur starting from South and South-west regions of the state. Beyond the military turf, the Assam Rifles has allowed the Kukis takeover business in Moreh, Churachandpur and other areas leading to ethnicisation of trade and commerce. For example, SoO signatories such as Kuki National Army (KNA) and United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF) are at Moreh town instead of staying at designated camps such as at Chiplep, Tengnoupal District Headquarter (for KNA) and at Chandel District (for UKLF) with full knowledge of the Assam Rifles. While KNA set up its camp at Moreh Ward No.1, the camp of UKLF is at Moreh in S. Moljol Village, opposite to Chavangphai Assam Rifles Camp, Moreh. Both the SoO bound outfits are freely moving in and around the Moreh with arms, extorting money from businessman and public as well as indulging in kidnapping and demanding ransom very frequently. At Haulenphai Village, around 3

Km from Moreh town, around 70 armed cadres of the People's Democratic Front (PDF), Myanmar, a foreign non-SoO signatory militant 2 outfit is stationed with the full knowledge of Assam Rifles. KNA is training the PDF cadres at Sahei Village and B. Bongjang Village with full knowledge of the Assam Rifles. Furthermore, the Assam Rifles has created the conducive environment to seep in Kuki migrants from Myanmar and allow illegal poppy cultivation in encroached areas. While Kuki frontal organisation like the Kuki Students' Organisation physically transports the illegal Kuki migrants from Myanmar, their Aadhar and other related identity documents are prepared by Autonomous District Council at the Behest of Hills Tribal Council, Moreh. It is more or less the same phenomena in other Kuki dominated districts of Manipur where different Kuki frontal organisations undertake the task. Furthermore, through narco-trade, Kuki militants are able to buy sophisticated weapons and arm the Kuki civilians and illegal migrants. Assam Rifles play a key role even in this arms-trade.

**We Manipuris must not fall into the rickety trap. What is happening is not a Kuki versus Meitei clash. It is deeper design of the Indian military establishment and its oiled monster hardware matrix fulfilling the task**

Since, May 3rd 2023, reports have been pouring in that the Assam Rifles are mute spectators when Kuki militants torched Meitei houses, prevent Manipuri volunteers to ward off Kuki militants. For example, the burning down of the houses in Serou and is done by the armed cadres of UKLF stationed at the non-designated camp of Nazareth Village established by the Assam Rifles at Khambathel around 1/2 km from Signu Bazar. The burning down of the whole village of Tangjeng Wangma Ahallup under Kumbi AC was also carried out by the Armed Kuki militants coming in two Boleros that passed through various Assam Rifle posts. This is the same story in Gwalatabi, Sanasabi, Awang Sekmai, Dolaithabi,

Sabungkhok Khnonou. Torching of the Meitei houses by Kuki militants occurred right under the nose of the Assam Rifles. There has not been a single instance in which the Assam Rifles stopped the drug-boostered armed Kuki civilians, migrants and militants in their rampaging acts of torching Meitei houses and assaulting the helpless Meitei civilians right in front of their eyes. Once again, the Assam Rifles has the full knowledge.

Now the question is: Why do the Assam Rifles allow this method madness to continue? In other words, why is India in its attempt to finish off valley-based insurgents allowing Kuki militants to target the Meitei civilians? The answer is simple. As stated above it is to finish

insurgency in Manipur. Nevertheless, this is an unethical Indian military policy once its mercenary starts targeting the civil population. This military hardware can be corrupted anytime and malfunction harming India's national security in the long run. For the moment, India must be responsible for its attempt of turning this narco-terrorism into a communal or people-people clash. And we Manipuris must not fall into the rickety trap. To conclude, what is happening is not a Kuki versus Meitei clash. It is deeper design of the Indian military establishment and its oiled monster hardware matrix fulfilling the task.

*(The author is the Convenor of Indigenous People's Front, Manipur)*

## Not a single bullet be fired from the Kuki militants: MIYC Memorandum to Union Home Minister

The Manipur International Youth Centre (MIYC) submitted today a Memorandum to the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah through the CM Secretariat today asking assurance for not firing a single bullet from the side of the SoO Kuki militants before he leaves Manipur over since his complete silence and clear cut decision on the abrogation of the Suspension of Operation Pact with the Kuki militants described as terrorists by the chief minister of Manipur for raining bullets on unarmed civilians.

The Imphal Times reproduces the contents of the memorandum submitted to the home minister for reasons of clarity:

### 1. ONSET AND GROUND REALITY:

a) It is a reality; can you believe that in this generation of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there happened a mass collection/snatching of arms and ammunitions from the state machinery which itself is unique and had happened first time in the history of India. What does it imply? It means the Meitei community are being discriminated, unsupported and are left alone without providing adequate security and protection in the villages neighbouring the hills.

b) It was earlier taken as an ethnic violence between Meitei community and Kuki community. However, as the issue aggravated despite induction of additional Army and para-military forces with a chosen Military ad-

viser being stationed in Imphal, this vividly indicates that the clash is between the Kuki militants under SoO (Suspension of operation) supported by narco-terror gangs and the Meitei civilians targeting the poor helpless Meitei villagers near the foothills.

### 2. EXPECTATIONS:

a) Collective voice of Manipur, specially Meiteis, has demanded for SoO (Suspension of Operation) abrogation, unfortunately, no statement/decision has been made on this subject by the Union Home Minister. The Meitei community seek for clarity about the SoO with Kuki militants. If the SoO cannot be abrogated then, can we expect from the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah a written commitment for the following:-

- i) Not a single bullet be fired to the humble Meitei villagers.
- ii) Kuki militants will strictly maintain and follow the ground rules and will confine in their camps.
- iii) Arms and ammunitions of the SoO Kuki militants be kept in the custody of a military camp in a Kote guarded by their representatives.
- iv) The Chairman of SoO monitoring group must be a serving senior military officer or a serving senior police officer of the same rank from different community.
- v) The Kuki militants should not be allowed for any kind of military tasking specially intelligence gathering and restrict them to

mingle with Myanmar's Chin insurgents and PDF forces.

vi) Kuki SoO designated camps be cordoned by a military unit with a strength 10 times of the strength of Kuki militants residing in their designated camp.

vii) No sharing of ration and ideas with the Kuki militants and the cordoning military unit. Every movement of the Kuki SoO members be recorded and documented by the authority [SoO monitoring Group].

b) The Government of India and the Government of Manipur should encourage talks and dialogues with the major Manipur based militant outfits to come forward and extend trust to set up another Suspension of Operation SoO with them having their designated camps in the places of their desire.

### 3. CHOKING LIFELINES:

a) Asian Highway/National Highway is a property of national importance; how can a section of the society block them completely for about a month at Kangpokpi and Tengnoupal, almost the entire population are being fed by this highway, the citizens fed by this highway are cut out of essential supplies including emergency life-saving drugs which is tantamount to harassment, discrimination and torture. Is the order shoot at sight not qualified for the above crimes being carried out by the Kuki militants? If some party/community blocked the airport, will the authority will keep watching? Will they not take any action? Here the authority will wake up. Therefore, concern authority must take airport and Asian Highways of same

national importance and value.

### 4. SUGGESTED ACTION PLANS:

a) 24/7 recorded live images be played by using stealth Surveillance drones with IR with Inmarsat (Satellite data transmitter) fitted to the drone so as to transfer data by using (BLOS) beyond-line-of-sight drones. These drones can be placed in COBs (Company Operating Base) of Army/Assam Rifles/Police located near the borders and designated camps wherein the live data can be displayed and analysed at the CCC (Command Control Station) at the CM office, Police HQtrs, Army HQtrs, etc and take immediate and adequate measures. This will enable checks and controls of influx by illegal immigrants, movement of armed cadres, identification and localization of forest fire and prevent onset of poppy cultivation and reserved forest encroachment.

c) A Rapid Action Force be stationed at the valley adequately equipped to fight miscreants indulging the above crimes with Air Power like Attack Helicopters.

### 5. POLITICAL CONCERN:

a) If BJP government fail to understand the sentiments of the people living in the valley and the hills except the Kuki militants; it is imperative that the BJP government in Manipur will be at its last stage and once gone, it is indispensable that BJP Government will ever be able to revive in this part of the country.

b) With the recent fall of BJP in Karnataka, it's a RED FLAG alerted for BJP, The whole nation talks about

Manipur turmoil and if the BJP government loses its power in Manipur may be because of President's rule or Resignation of Meitei MLAs due to pressures from the people, it will imply a big negative impact/signal to all states of India that BJP is unable to control the turmoil in Manipur which will be a political shame for BJP.

### 6. ACT EAST POLICY:

a) If the Central Government plays its card right with a balance sharing of resources and rights among all originally inhabited com-

munities of Manipur, the Look East or Act East Policy will be successful Project, if not it will be a futile effort.

b) Therefore, it is imperative to have a clear road map drawn and handle/tackle with a strong political will and iron fists.

### 7. HISTORY REPEATS:

a) Valley people are coming back to the days of the 1980s where sentiments of all valley people were hurt to the core and took up arms for their rights which caused wide spread insurgency in the valley.

b) At this cross road, the

Government must understand the situation and handle tactfully and swiftly to curb and avoid the possible emergence of armed insurrection in the valley.

The memorandum winded up saying that at this crucial juncture, the MEITEIS now are not demanding for any Quotas or any increase in the budget, not fighting for any special rights and for any central sponsored schemes but fighting for their existence, their survival and the survival in their own home, in their own state.

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## Indian Constitution and polity are the...

Discarding the need for the reference of Hindu Vedas, Bible or other Holy Books to verify the validity of Wakhoklon Puya, Leithak Leikharal and other numerous Puyas, it says that the Cheitharol Kumbaba, Chada Laihui and other Yek Salai Puyas were all written before the Unification of India as a Nation. Nongada Lairen Pakhangba's (33 AD) political thoughts and practices were not copied from Plato of Greece. Eight hundred years before "Wealth of Nations: Division of Labour" of Adam Smith, King Loyumba wrote "Loyumba Sinyen", a book of constitutionally allocation of occupation in the line of family names which is defined as "Division of Labour". This book of constitution was not like the Hindu social stratification of caste system. Socialist's idea of "Cooperative Economic Society" was put into some form of practices 850 years before Karl Marx, Palliba keep on saying about the

richness of the then Manipuri rulers. There was no scarcity of food, the customary apparel worn by Pakhangba and Queen Laisana during the coronation ceremony showed affluence of the time. 1000 years before some our fashion designers claimed to have introduced our designs to the World, King Keifaba's Queen Mungbisu introduced the now famous PhaneK Mapan Naiba design. King Kyamba did not learn his diplomatic skills with the Kingdom of Pong (Shan) from any Hindu Kings.

Meidingu Khagemba's policy of immigrant and Prisoners of War (PoW) settlement and citizenship were neither taken from Machiavelli's Prince nor from Chanakya's Arthashastra. King Pamheiba's successful military expeditions were not to colonize other territories but to show the might of Meitei Kingdom instead. If the then Pro-Hindu Meiteis were pau-

pers, the popular India's cultural elements like Ras Lila and Nat Sanskritan had not come about. Not like hard cultural dance of India, Manipuri style of dance is soft and spectacular which enhances not only Manipuri Culture but India's culture as well, the release continues.

Palliba says these historical facts are not taught in the schools highlighting that once the present generation knows the history, the people of Manipur will be more harmoniously living together amidst India's quite successful in instilling the mind-set that Manipur cannot survive without India to the present generation. He lastly send out the message that the people of Manipur, especially the Meiteis, are in a precarious situation as we are imprisoned politically and physically in the tiny valley and everyone should strive to save Manipur as saving Meiteis can only save a united Manipur.

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