Townhall Lecture
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The Meira Paibis of Manipur: Gender Dynamics and Women's Agency

Ningombam Shreema Devi, PhD & Bidyalaxmi Salam, PhD

Lecture Description

The Meira Paibis is widely known for its all-women grassroots resistance movement in Manipur. It emerged in the 1980s against state atrocities committed under the ambit of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958 that led to widespread human rights violations. While the contentious politics of the Meira Paibis have received significant mainstream attention, little is known about the women themselves- lived experiences. Based on women's visibility in the public domain on one hand, and patriarchy and militarization on the other, mainstream discourse often portrayed Manipuri women in the binary of empowered beings – victimhood. However, a study on Meira Paibis (concluded in 2022) revealed a nuanced and complex nature of agency, providing insights on how these women resist and/or navigate their ways through and against oppressive structures embedded in the society. Meira Paibis' experiences and change agency are diverse and reflect the heterogeneity within the movement.

Lecturer's Profile

Ningombam Shreema Devi, a feminist poet and scholar-activist, is a faculty member at the Department of Political Science, Nambol L Sanoi College, Manipur.

Bidyalaxmi Salam is a scholar and researcher from Manipur. She currently serves as the Knowledge Production Lead for SHAPE-SEA, based at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University.

Lecture Information

📅**Date: 17 November 2026 (Tuesday)**

🕑**Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Myanmar Time/ GMT + 06:30)**

📍 **Online: Zoom**

👓**Language: English**

📩 **Contact us: researchinstitute.assistant@ycu-mm.org**

Register here or scan QR below.

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Research Institute

THE MEIRA PAIBIS OF MANIPUR: GENDER DYNAMICS AND WOMEN'S AGENCY



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