

UNLFW INSURGENCY GROUP CAN BE A BIG THREAT IN THE NORTH-EAST

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UNLFW insurgency group can be a big threat in the North-East



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New Delhi: Insurgents on Thursday armed with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) ambushed a military convoy in Manipur's Chandel district. The ambush killed 20 soldiers and injured 11. This was the first instance where RPGs were used by an insurgency group in the Northeastern part of the country.

The initial suspects for the attack were Manipur rebel outfit Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) and Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), a Meitei revolutionary organisation, who used landmines and rocket-propelled grenades.

But later United Liberation Front of Western South East Asia (UNLFW) claimed responsibility for the attack. It is an umbrella group of five other rebel groups — United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent), Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), Kamatapur Liberation Organization (KLO) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (Songbijit)—have coalesced to form.

UNLFW was the group which had carried out the 3 May attack in Nagaland killing 7 soldiers of the Assam Rifles. Here's all you need to know about the insurgent group:

UNLFW was formed on 17 April

UNLFW was formed on 17 April, but the inception of UNLFW started in a meeting which was held in 2011. The meeting was attended by four North-Eastern insurgency groups. The meeting decided on forming a confederation to "achieve united and total struggle," a report by The Times of India said. SS Khaplang was announced as the new chief of UNLFW.

"Immediately after the meeting, the Meitei outfits formed an umbrella organization called CorCom (Coordination Committee), which includes Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), PREPAK (Progressive), Revolutionary People's Front, and United National Liberation Front (UNLF)."

Unity among the camaraderie in North East:

The attack on Thursday which has been the worst in the past 2 decades has been termed as a turning point by the central government. The Nagaland and Manipur attack point at the newfound brotherhood among the Northeastern insurgent groups.

A report in the Telegraph said that the cadres of this organisation are sheltered in Myanmar's Sagaing and Kachin provinces. The western part of Myanmar which shares its border with Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur have as many 11 insurgent groups. "These attacks will embolden other groups," said Brigadier (ret'd) Ranjit Borthakur and also added that these groups get 90% of the weapons from China.

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Not the first umbrella group

This is not the first time that various groups have come together to form a group. The Indo-Burma Revolutionary Front (IBRF) was formed in 1989. In the year 1995, United Liberation Front of Seven Sisters, which comprised of Ulfa and NSCN-K, was formed. National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) one of the largest part of the UNLFW group repealed a 14-year-old ceasefire with the government in April.

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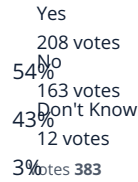
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