

Kuki-Zo Students Delhi writes to Amit Shah for Separate Administration, Protest held in Jantar Mantar



The Joint Unau Students' Forum, Delhi, comprising of Kuki, Zomi and Hmar tribals have again raised their voices for separate administration on Thursday at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi.

A peaceful protest was held under the theme- **"140 DAYS OF INJUSTICE: Separate Administration — The Call for a Political Solution."**

During the protest, the focus was on the authority's negligence in resolving the ethnic conflict in Manipur and its failure to address the grievances of Kuki-Zomi-Hmar community, who are demanding separate administration. The peaceful protest emphasized that a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo community is necessary as the Meitei people would not stop until their perceived "enemies" are eradicated.

Additionally, attention was drawn to the Special Parliamentary Session being held currently. The message conveyed was that human lives should hold greater importance than political considerations, even for the sake of maintaining power. In this regard, a letter was also submitted to the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah.

In the letter, the forum requested Amit Shah for an immediate political settlement with Kuki National Organisation and United People's Forum, insurgent groups, under Suspension of Operation (SoO).

The letter states, "Our volunteers have been defending our villages and territory from the continuous onslaughts of the Meitei militants, now coming in police uniforms, and backed by the Manipur state armed police forces. The recent attack on Kuki-Zo villages in the Pallel foothill area or the killing of Kuki-Zo volunteers in a waylaid ambush by armed militants clothed in Police uniforms are specs of ongoing attacks on Kuki-Zo villages by the state-backed militants."

The forum also claimed that the Meiteis had vowed not to give up arms and also took an oath to continue the war against the tribal Kuki-Zomi-Hmar people of the state until they are completely wiped out from the territory of Manipur. "We felt that the ongoing political dialogue with the KNO-UPF SoO groups with the Government of India is in the right direction. We appeal to the GoI for an early settlement so that the current crisis in Manipur is contained in time before it grows up to a difficult proportion," the letter added.

Meitei Women Walk the Extra Mile to Rescue Arrested Militants

In their bid to rescue the five arrested Meitei militants, the Meitei womenfolks – Meira Paibis on Thursday stormed Singjamei Police Station under Imphal West District.

The protest was allegedly against the arrest of five militants whom the womenfolk labelled as village volunteers.

Putting their hands up, a mob from four directions marched towards Singjamei Police Station with the slogan "Arrest us if you are going to arrest all those village defence volunteers".

However, Manipur Police and Rapid Action Force stopped them from entering the station from a distance of around 500 metres and resorted to teargas.

It may be mentioned that five militants were arrested on September 16. Condemning the action of Manipur Police, 48-hours bandh was imposed demanding to release them. But they were not released.

The Hindustan Times reported that the Manipur police have invoked stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Official Secrets Act against the five men whose arrest on Saturday led to violence outside a police station in Imphal valley.

All of them have been booked under UAPA and OSA, besides relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).



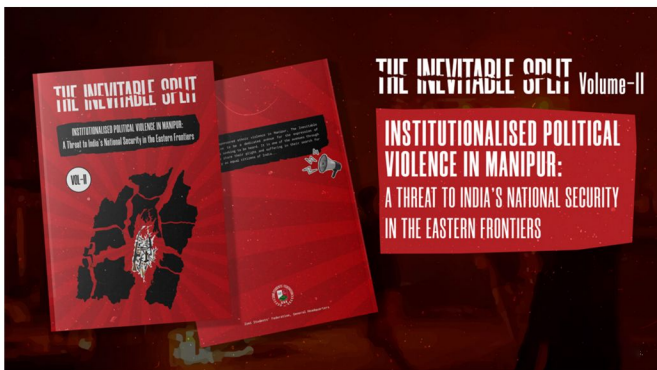
Meitei Mob Went Berserk Against Dutiful Cops

Two policemen in Imphal faced the ire of a Meitei mob for diligently performing their duties. In a viral video that surfaced on social media platforms this afternoon, the residential houses of Ingocha Singh, OC of Imphal PS and Sanathoi, OC of Singjamei PS, were seen attacked by the mob and their properties destroyed. The mob also tried to burn down their houses.

It may be recalled that a purported video of Inspector Ingocha and Sanathoi surfaced on social media platforms few days back, wherein they had an altercation with womenfolk during a protest against the arrest of five militants in camouflage uniforms with sophisticated weaponry by Manipur police in Imphal valley.

In the said video footage, SI Ingocha was engaged in a heated argument with the womenfolk who disrupted him while discharging his duties. The womenfolk allegedly hurled abusive words, taunting him if he could do the same in Churachandpur.

"The Inevitable Split" Vol. II Released



After disclosing the ground realities of Manipur violence and debunking the false narratives or propagandas spread by the majority Meiteis, the Zomi Students' Federation (ZSF) today released its second volume of the book entitled "The Inevitable Split." This time, the book delves on how the violence in Manipur was politically institutionalized.

The book also discusses the possible threat to India's National Security threat in the Eastern Frontiers. The releasing function was held at Mini Auditorium, Centenary Building, New Lamka.

It may be mentioned here that the Zomi Students' Federation were charged with an FIR by the Manipur Police on July for its publication. The book was also 'banned' by the Meitei government. The banning of book was taken up following a complaint lodged by Thokchom Punshiba Singh, Advocate, BA, LLB from Thangmeiband Lourung Pural Leikai, Imphal West. An FIR against the accused author and organization was registered u/s 154, of IPC at Imphal West Police Station.

Leaders of Zo United Express Gratitude to CM Zoramthanga for Support



Leaders of Zo United, a recently formed organization representing Manipur's Zo-ethnic groupings, paid a courtesy call to Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga in his chamber on September 21. The meeting was a significant step in strengthening ties between the two states and promoting unity among Zo-ethnic communities.

During the visit, the leaders of Zo United expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Zoramthanga and the people of Mizoram for their support and concern for the Integrated Development for the Scheduled Tribes (IDSP).

Furthermore, the leaders extended their appreciation to Chief Minister Zoramthanga for his guidance and continuous support to the Manipur Zo ethnic community. His role in facilitating various initiatives aimed at the welfare of the community has been instrumental in fostering goodwill and cooperation between Mizoram and Manipur.

The formation of Zo United stemmed from a unanimous decision made during a meeting of the NGO Coordination Committee, Mizoram. The meeting, chaired by the President of the Central YMA, was convened on September 6, 2023.

Ex-MLA Thangzalam Haokip, 2 Others Denied Bail

Manipur High Court on Thursday refused bail to ex-MLA Thangzalam Haokip and two others for their alleged involvement in instigating fresh violence in a locality of Imphal consisting of mixed communities during the volatile situation of communal clash in the state.

The former Deputy Sepaker of Manipur Assembly, Thangzalam Haokip alongwith two others were arrested on May 22.

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.



Extra-Constitutional or Judiciary System at its Play in Imphal, Challenge for CBI teams too

Extra-constitutional or judiciary power centre, in fact, has been the signature pattern of governance in the Meitei capital city, Imphal, since the outbreak of ethnic violence in Manipur on May 3, 2023.

It has become a matter of concern for rule of law to prevail in Imphal valley that even after stringent UAPA law and Official Secret Act were invoked against the five arrested Meitei terrorists who were caught roaming around in police uniform with sophisticated weaponry on September 16, fervent protests against the arrest continues unabated.

Post 48-hour total bandh called by local clubs and Meira Pibis against the arrest of dreaded terrorists by Police, the protesters on Thursday continued to storm various police station for unconditional release of the arrested individuals.

According to police sources, even the CBI teams currently stationed in the Imphal Valley to investigate the 27 cases handed over to them, are facing significant challenges in moving around, owing to sporadic protests and blockades by locals.

As per report by the Scroll, amid such large-scale violence and registration of over 6,500 cases, only 280 arrests have been made. Investigations in most cases have made no headway, hampered by the resistance and aggressive local opposition from the locals, exacerbating the already precarious situation.

In an instance, when the CBI team went to the Manipur Police Training Centre in Pangei, Imphal East last month, from where mobs looted weapons, including SLRs, INSAS,

LMGs, .303 rifles, carbines, as well as grenades, tear gas shells and thousands of rounds of ammunition on 27 May, they were surrounded by people and forced to return, sources revealed.

In another instance, the Meiteis did a sit-in in protest at a site where the team had gone for investigation near Bishnupur, obstructing their work.

A team of 53 officers, including 29 women, from various CBI units are stationed in Imphal and SP-ranked officers are supervising and monitoring the investigation, the source said.

The CBI teams have started visiting crime scenes, along with the experts from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory and the questioning of suspects has begun. However, no arrests have been made till now.

“The situation is not conducive for arrest. Teams are working to collect evidence, record statements, and question suspects. Work is in full swing,” a CBI source said.

Over four months have passed since more than 200 AK-47s, 406 carbines, 551 INSAS rifles, 250 machine guns, and over 6.5 lakh rounds of ammunition were looted from police armouries and stations, primarily in the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley. However, there have been no substantial recoveries, leaving a significant arsenal in the hands of locals and exacerbating the cycle of violence. According to police data, of the 5,668 stolen sophisticated automatic weapons, only around 1,331 were recovered so far.

Violence in Manipur is a Silent Attack on Christians in India: British MP

The issue of violence in Manipur was raised during a backbench business debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday, with one British MP describing it as a “silent attack on Christians”.

As per report published in Times of India, the Democratic Unionist Party MP Jim Shannon repeatedly asked UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, during the debate on freedom of religion and belief in Westminster Hall, whether UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had raised the violence in Manipur in any formal discussions with the Indian government during his trip to New Delhi for the G20 summit.

Jim Shannon also wanted to know whether Trevelyan would raise with her Indian counterparts the issue of access to Manipur for journalists and human rights monitors. “There are big issues in India, and if our prime minister does not ask those questions when he is in India, there is something seriously wrong,” Shannon said.

“The events in Manipur might be classed as originating in tribal or ethnic tensions, but the Manipur violence has silently been an attack on Christians in India. It is striking that local police and State government sat by as arson destroyed the properties, homes and lives of minority and religious groups.”

Shannon said the perpetrators of the violence are understood to be from Hindu extremist backgrounds, whereas the victims are predominantly Christians. Some 230 churches were destroyed over a four-day period.

Many perpetrators of the violence did not act in a random manner; their violence was deliberately targeted at Christians, and they wanted them to flee their lands,” Shannon, chair of the all-party parliamentary group for international freedom of religion or belief, claimed.

Shannon claimed the situation in Manipur has “escalated even further, with 60,000 people now displaced and 360 churches damaged”. “We give India and Pakistan substantial aid. If we make that conditional, we can effect some change,” he suggested.

Trevelyan said she was not privy to the conversations Sunak had in India, but that she always “raises issues of concern”. “We have very clear and direct private conversations at every level where we feel that is appropriate, and India is no different from any other country. But I am happy to ask the prime minister’s office to get back to the Hon. member,” she said.

Downing Street pointed to the UK readout of the PM’s bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi which does not mention Manipur.





Re-reading British MP Jim Shannon’s Statement



During a backbench business debate in the House of Commons, British MP Jim Shannon labelled the violence in Manipur, India, as a "silent attack on Christians." He queried whether UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak discussed Manipur's violence with the Indian government during his G20 trip. Shannon, who chairs a parliamentary group on religious freedom, highlighted that the violence targeted Christians and Hindu extremist groups were likely behind it, resulting in over 230 church destructions and 60,000 displaced people.

He suggested that UK aid to India should be conditional. UK Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan acknowledged the concerns but wasn't privy to Sunak's discussions. Downing Street's readout of Sunak's meeting made no mention of Manipur.

Even though the British MP's raising of the issue is commendable, the current conflict is not a religious one. It has been iterated time and again that Meiteis destroyed the churches belonging to the Kukis in Imphal to garner support from Hindu Extremist groups. If the attacks were on Christians, Churches belonging to non-Kuki groups would not have been spared either. There would have been a mass exodus of all Christians from the capital city on the month of May. Four and half months have passed, churches and houses of non-Kuki tribal groups stands strong. In the month of July, U.K Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's special envoy raised Manipur violence in the House of Commons. British MP Fiona Bruce aptly portrayed the violence in Manipur when she said it was 'premeditated and systematic'.

(Insightful facts: A Backbench Business Debate is a type of debate that allows Members of Parliaments who are not part of the government or the official opposition to raise and discuss topics of their choice)

POST MORTEM



MANIPUR 'DOUBLE ENGINE' SARKAAR



140

Abigail Misao



May came and time stopped,
Time stood still; hours turned to days and
days to months,
And in between the emotions,
Tears turned into rage,
Fear into courage,
And fire into ashes.

90 days turned into a 100
And a 100 into 140.
Numbers are like inked memories,
We walk alongside the numbers,
Clenching onto them.
Like a cold breeze at the break of winter,
Like a ray of sunshine through a creak,
Numbers remind us of each and every
passing sunset since May,
Not a single one passed by without a
tear shed or a prayer uttered,
Not a single one passed by without us
crumbling.

Yet We're still here!
A Hundred and Forty Days later,
We're still here.
Surviving, hand in hand with our miseries,
hand in hand with each other;
Through the wilderness, beneath the
shadow of the yearning hills,
We're still here.

A dark fall day in late September,
A cold Thursday afternoon,
A long and haunting mark of a Hundred and
Forty days,
I go dim for a moment then turn to the skies
above with a treacherous thought;
"We're still here and we aren't going anywhere.
We will string together our instruments of grief
and play them as we venture through the rocks"
Our spirits will continue to rise up in this
darkness,
In the darkness of the number 140,
Light will lead us ahead,
"For we are afflicted in every way,
but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted,
but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed."
(2 Corinthians 4:7-9)

For we know;
"It's more than bones.
It's more than the delicate wrist with its
personal pulse.
It's more than the beating of the single heart."
(Witchery of Living, Mary Oliver)

A 140 days;
Of every attribute of strength, resilience and
courage.
A 140 days of shelling,
A 140 days of deceit,
A 140 days and yet We're still here.



Today marks the 140th day since the Ethnic Violence began on the 3rd of May. Today we look back on the months that have passed by in such oblivion, today we look back and count our tears, mark our strength out on paper and look ahead.

140 days have passed by, Close to 5 months, yet our shivering voices are still led out the backdoor, 140 days of wailing cries have passed by yet the government seems hellbent on rendering us unheard. 140 days of denial of humanity, 140 days of brave resilience.