

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Molkon RELIEF CENTRE

Molkon Community Hall,
Lhungtin Sub-Division, Sadar Hills

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 238



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.04.2024



170
DEATHS



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.

DOUBLE STANDARD GOVT EXTENDS IMPOSITION OF DRACONIAN LAW IN “PEACEFUL HILL AREAS” FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS

In a show of its double-standard governance, the Manipur BJP government led by the incompetent Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, once again, has extended the imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the “Peaceful Hill Districts” for another six months with effect from Monday (April 1, 2024).

Ironically, the most “Disturbed Area” of the Meiteis’ dominated Imphal valley and places that lie within the jurisdiction of the Meiteis’ dominated 19 police stations are still excluded from the imposition of this draconian law.

It must be noted that there is a complete breakdown of law and order in the Meiteis’ valley of Imphal where the infamous private militia group, Arambai Tenggol, imposed their rule over the Meitei populace as per their whims and fancies. Thousands of sophisticated weapons and lakhs of ammunition, looted from various State forces armouries still remain in the hands of the Meitei civilians and the extremist outfits Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and other VBIGs. Rampant extortion, all sorts of crimes, illegal and anti-social activities are reported every now and then in the Imphal valley while the state’s law enforcing agencies seem to remain mute spectators to such cases.

Contrary to the Meiteis’ Kangleipak, the tribal hill areas witnessed calm and peaceful atmosphere since the beginning of the ‘Political Dialogues’ with the hill-based insurgent groups- KNO, UPF, NSCN(IM), ZUF, etc. Extortion is almost absent and the insurgent cadres remain camped in their respective designated centres. The law and order situation in the hills is well maintained as compared to the Meiteis’ valley. In spite of this,



the communal Meitei government conveniently seemed to confuse the most “disturbed area” as “peaceful” and the “peaceful areas” as “disturbed”, which is truly unwarranted.

To be noted here is that it is high time for the Government of India to re-impose AFSPA in the Manipur valley to contain the separatists agenda of Meiteis and various VBIGs.

The decision to extend AFSPA has met with opposition from various quarters, including the Kuki community and other organizations, who have long called for the repeal of this controversial law.

Civil Society Organisations representing the Nagas and Kukis across the northeastern states have been demanding for the repeal of this draconian law which grants sweeping powers to the armed forces. Under AFSPA, the armed forces personnel are authorized to take actions against individuals, including killing, if suspected of contravening the law, conducting arrests and searches without warrants while enjoying immunity from prosecution for any such extreme steps taken.

DISPLACED PERSONS RELUCTANT TO VOTE IN UPCOMING LOK SABHA POLLS

The Central Government has made special arrangements for people who have been forced to leave their homes (IDPs) to ensure their voting in the upcoming 18th Lok Sabha Election. However, many of these affected persons are reluctant to participate in the election.

The strife-torn state of Manipur is gearing up for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. There are a total of 10 candidates vying for the two Member of Parliament (MP) seats in the Lok Sabha allocated to the state.

Some people have criticized such preparation for the Lok Sabha election before resolving the crisis, seeing it as a sign of the government's frivolous attitude towards the crisis in general and the IDPs in particular.

However, another section of the society has expressed optimism with the belief that this election will help create a new Manipur by electing the right candidates.

The conflict in Manipur has forced over 58,000 people to leave their homes and temporarily reside in more than 300 relief camps across the state.

While the situation in Manipur seems somewhat calm and under control, many displaced people are still living in these camps. The Election Commission has made special arrangements to ensure that such displaced individuals could exercise their fundamental Right to Universal Adult Franchise enshrined in the Indian Constitution.



According to a statement from the chief Electoral Officer, Pradeep Kumar Jha, internally displaced persons (IDPs) will be considered regular residents of the areas they were displaced from. They will be treated as voters of their original place, but to make it easier for them, they will be allowed to vote at the relief camps.

The commission will appoint an Assistant Returning Officer for each district. Additionally, around 94 Special Polling Stations will be set up to cater to clusters of polling stations for the displaced people.

Even though the government has announced special provisions for the displaced persons, it has been revealed that majority of the displaced persons are reluctant to cast their votes in the impending election as they have lost faith in the government that has allowed and prolonged the violence to its eleventh month and counting without any foreseeable solutions.



**Every election is determined by the
people who show up.**

— Larry J. Sabato

BJP LOSING GROUND IN STRIFE-TORN MANIPUR LS ELECTION, SURVEY REVEALS

In a recent survey conducted in Manipur, alarming trends have emerged for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the impending Lok Sabha elections. The findings indicate a substantial decline in the BJP's electoral prospects in the strife-torn state, marking a significant shift in the political landscape.

Against the backdrop of escalating violence and ethnic tensions, the survey highlighted a dwindling support base for the BJP, once considered a formidable political entity in Manipur. Factors such as the persistent unrest, ethnic clashes, and perceived government inaction have contributed to the erosion of the party's popularity among the voters. The party's inability to quell ethnic grievances, restore peace and provide tangible solutions to the state's pressing issues has alienated segments of the electorate.

As in the past, various Imphal media houses conducted a ground survey at various places in and around Imphal to ascertain the position of various candidates and political parties in the Inner Parliamentary Constituency. Video surveys of various media houses have been doing rounds on social media platforms. Most respondents in the survey video are womenfolk who runs shop vendors in and around the Imphal city. As per the video, most respondents have discarded the ruling party BJP for their inability to quell the violence which began in May 2023. Many have blamed the BJP for the violence in Manipur and also for prolonging the violence for about 11 months without any sign of amelioration. Some voiced their opinion to refrain from voting the RPI (Athawale) candidate as the party is a partner in the NDA at central level which makes voting him akin to voting the BJP.

"At first we thought of giving our vote to Maheshwar, but after learning he is contesting in BJP partner ticket, we decided to give our vote to Bimol", said one of the woman who was running a shop at Khwairamband Bazar Ima Market. "The most qualified candidate is Bimol", said another woman while a man boldly claimed that his vote will go to the actor turned politician Maheshwar Thounaojam.



Most of the survey video conducted by the Media houses released on public domains put the BJP in the backseat, indicating that the ruling party has lost ground in their home turf. In the last parliamentary assembly election, the BJP managed to comfortably win the Inner seat with a huge margin while the Outer seat went to the NPF, an ally in the NDA.

On the other hand, the BJP Samvad Survey in Manipur has gone horribly wrong where a voice clip of BJP Samvad Survey in Manipur has been doing the rounds on Social Media. In the viral voice clip, a woman, probably from the BJP, talked to a man over the phone as part of the BJP Samvad Survey. A question, "What can the BJP government do for you?, kindly share your suggestion" was posed to the man, where he humorously replied "it will be such joy if the party can offer us Rs. 1 Crore". Here, the man did not seem to take the party seriously. The woman then went on to ask if he has any choice among the many schemes introduced by the BJP, to which the man replied "I like all of them but I don't know even one of them". Next, the woman went an extra mile saying "In Sir's opinion, do you think another political party or leader will be able to bring solution", to which the man sarcastically replied saying "I think the present dispensation is far better than any other; attack, retreat, engage,

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retreat, don't you think this is better? Because if other party comes to power, it will end the war. Now, many who did not have the opportunity to hold guns are now holding guns". He continued in his sarcastic tone saying "with the coming of BJP government, many places we hardly heard before such as Khamenlok, we are fortunate to hear about them and I am so happy for this". The man, with sarcasm continued to belittle the BJP by further saying "And since we are no longer able to drive down till Churachandpur, it saves a lot of fuel and abstain us from long drive or travelling". He also ridiculed the woman who was calling from the BJP party by saying "We can no longer visit Moreh too. Whenever we visit Moreh, my wife and kids demands a lot of things, and now the money spent on such things remain unspent. It saves a lot of fuel and everyting, thanks to BJP government".

This viral voice clip highlighted how the people of Kangleipak no longer took the BJP seriously, even engaging with them in a serious conversation for such surveys seems to be a waste of time for the people. This survey has indicated that the current dispensation is losing ground in what could be called their "home turf" after winning 32 out of the 60 seats in the last state assembly election. This was corroborated by the party's inability to find a willing candidate for the Inner Parliamentary seat, nominating a sitting MLA and Minister in the last minute saved their blushes.

With the election looming, the party faced the daunting task of regaining lost ground and restoring confidence amongst disillusioned voters amidst the backdrop of the ongoing unrest.

KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION EXTENDS EDUCATIONAL LIFELINE TO DISPLACED STUDENTS AMIDST MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Amidst the turmoil and uncertainty caused by the ongoing violence in Manipur, the Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) Churachandpur has taken proactive steps to support displaced students in their educational pursuits. In line with its "Zero Drop Out" education policy, the KSO Churachandpur has ushered in a significant initiative to assist affected students, exemplifying its commitment to ensuring continuity in education despite the challenging state of affairs in Manipur.

As part of this initiative, the KSO Churachandpur has facilitated the relocation of 50 high-school students to Kerala enabling them to continue their education in the state until they enter college. Departing on March 27, 2024, the students safely reached their destination, Sathyam Service Trust, Kerala on the 2nd of April 2024. This study program, generously sponsored by the Sathyam Service Trust, offers a glimmer of hope for these internally displaced students, providing them with a supportive environment to pursue their academic aspirations.

Accompanied by five dedicated women caretakers who will also be employed at the school and three executive



members of KSO Churachandpur serving as tour guides and facilitators, the students embarked on a journey towards a brighter future. The KSO Churachandpur extended its heartfelt wishes to the students while also expressing hope for success in all their future endeavors.

The KSO Churachandpur also expressed gratitude to the Sathyam Service Trust for their generosity and compassion, recognizing them as a 'Beacon of Hope' for many distressed individuals. Through their collective efforts, they strived to make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by the unrest in Manipur, embodying the spirit of resilience and solidarity.

MANIPUR CONGRESS DEMANDS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR VIOLATING MCC

The Manipur state Congress unit on Tuesday complained against the alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct which came into force after the announcement of polling dates.

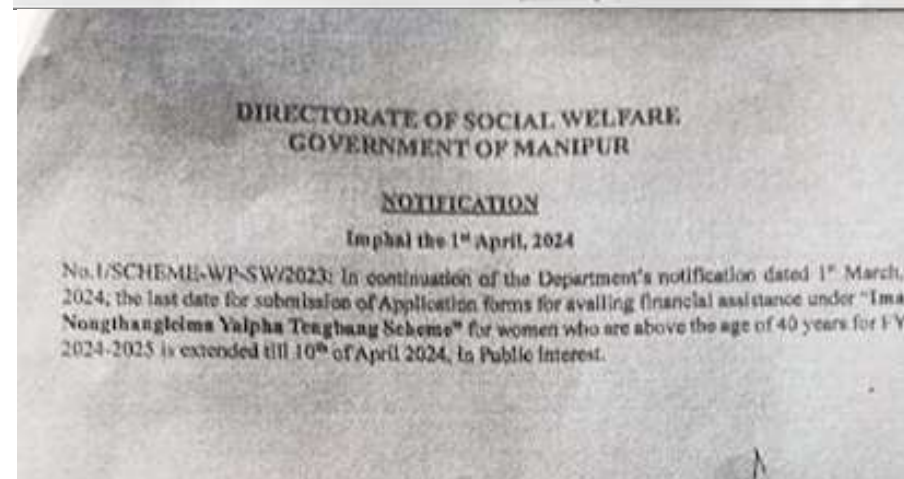
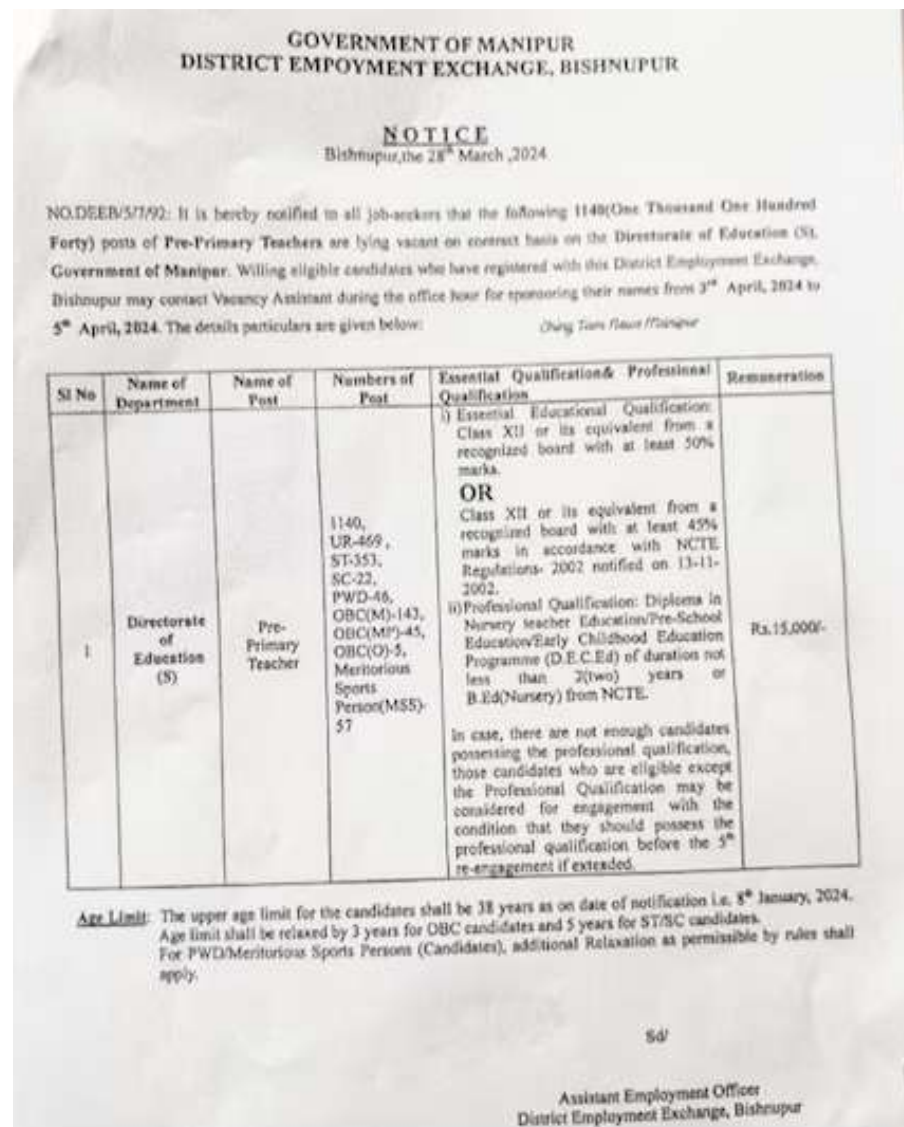
The Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) submitted an application to the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and also with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and urged for legal action against the violators.

The committee led by Malemkhomba Salam, the chairman of MPCC social media along with the vice chairman of the legal department of the state Congress unit, Advocate Rabi Khan highlighted incidents of purported violations in several government notifications and advertisements.

The application mentions a recruitment notification of 1,140 pre-primary teachers and the advertising of beneficiary schemes, including the “Ima Nongthangleima Yaipha Tengbang Scheme” for women and the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (G).

The notifications were issued despite the Model Code of Conduct coming into force ahead of the Lok Sabha general elections, according to the application. The MPCC alleged that the publication of such communication is a gross violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

These notifications were widely circulated on social media platforms as well, the application mentioned raising concerns about their impact on the electoral process.



The Manipur state Congress requested the authorities to take appropriate action against the individuals responsible for issuing the notifications.

REIGN OF ARAMBAI TENGGOL: AT GANGS INCLUDING CHIEF KOROUNGANBA, HIS FATHER THRASH UNLF CADRES

Members of the Meitei militia group Arambai Tenggol including its chief Korounganba Khuman and his father thrashed a cadre of UNLF, leading to injury of the cadre.

The date and time of the incident could not be ascertained. However, a video of the injured UNLF cadre being questioned by his own men in camouflage uniform was widely shared on social media platforms. In the video, the cadre also revealed the UNLF's involvement in attacking the Kuki villages.

As seen in the video, the UNLF cadre sustained injury on his head and received bruises on the left side of his cheek. The wounded part on the head was stitched multiple times with a suture.

As per revelation of the injured UNLF cadre in the video, members of Arambai including Korounganba and his father thrashed him which led to his injury. "While the other Arambai members kicked me, Korounganba's father pointed his loaded gun in my forehead, teeth and hit my head with the butt of his gun," the injured UNLF cadre said.

He alleged that even after revealing his identity of being a member of the UNLF to the Arambai Tenggol, Korounganba's father responded by questioning the strength of the UNLF as compared to that of Arambai Tenggol, which is around 60,000 in number.

The injured UNLF cadre also said that the members of Arambai Tenggol who thrashed him also blamed the UNLF for the death of Arambai members. Here, it is clear that the Arambai Tenggol gangs lost the lives of some of their fellow members while jointly attacking the Kukis along with UNLF under the guidance of the UNLF.

As per the UNLF cadres revelation, few other cadres of UNLF who were with him were also assaulted by the Arambai Tenggol.

Mention may be made that the Arambai Tenggol, on January 24, forced 36 Meitei MLAs and Union Minister



of State for External Affairs RK Ranjan and Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba to take an oath of allegiance to their dictat on the issues of safeguarding the integrity of Manipur and to urge the central government to act on six charter of demands put forth by them at Kangla.

Though other meitei MLAs, ministers, MPs did not dare to skip the call made by the Arambai Tenggol, the chief minister was absent which proves his close connection with the Arambai Tenggol and also proving that he (Biren) and Leishemba Sanajaoba are patrons of Arambai Tenggol.

The incident makes one ponder whether the Arambai Tenggol have become the supreme authority in the valley areas inhabited by the Meiteis or are they above the law, as they are left unattended to do anything as they wish and please.

After forcing the MLAs and MPs to take oath at Kangla, the Arambai Tenggol has again shown their authority over UNLF which is one of the oldest insurgent groups in the northeast.

Since the beginning of the present conflict in Manipur, the Meiteis claimed that there were no Meitei insurgent groups involved in the conflict and that every Meiteis who took up arms were 'Khun Ngakpa' or village volunteers. However, the revelation by the injured UNLF cadre proved that they are playing a vital role in the present conflict and are leading the attack on the Kuki villages.

I AM WILLING TO KILL N. BIREN TO SAVE MY PEOPLE, SAYS MP CANDIDATE N. TOTOMSHANA

In a scathing attack launched against the ruling dispensation headed by the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Independent Candidate for Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, Moirangthem Totomshana, has blamed the BJP government for the current violence in the state and asserted that until and unless the Chief Minister is removed from his position, the violence will persist on.

In a mega TV discussion hosted by SKTV, an online news channel based in Imphal, under the banner "The Candidates Lok Sabha Election 2024," one of the Independent Candidates, Totomshana could be seen lashing tongue against the Chief Minister N. Biren for failing to quell the violence even after a long odd 11-month.

In the discussion, Totomshana said, "If the idea of Manipur is discussed in future, there will no longer be Meitei anymore. We need to change Biren as soon as possible. He has to vacate his seat or he has to die. Until he is in the helm of affairs, we will be like this (without seeing normalcy); for that I am willing to sacrifice myself to exterminate him."

His fiery statement was abruptly interrupted by Raj Nongthombam, Editor of SKTV, who was also the host of that mega discussion programme. Raj informed Totomshana that such remarks should not be made on a public platform and his statement was inappropriate. Totomshana, however, tried to justify his statement by saying that he was willing to do so in order to save the Meitei community. The anchor, Raj Nongthombam, forced him to withdraw his statement to which Totomshana complied by just nodding his head without uttering any word.



The mega discussion programme intended for Lok Sabha candidates was attended by Congress candidate Prof. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, RPI (Athawale) Maheshwar Thounaojam and Independent Candidates from Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency. However, all four candidates from Outer Manipur did not participate in the event. The BJP's candidate, Th. Bashanta also skipped the open discussion programme for reasons known to him.

The above fiery statement, though seeming inappropriate for a public event, holds water as the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing against the Kukis also have a Waterloo effect on the Meiteis' too. The internal crisis within the Meitei society, rise of armed radical groups, threats, intimidation and monetary demands in the Imphal valley have made the living condition of common people miserable. This devastation has been a man-made disaster of the incumbent Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

KCP-T CADRE ARRESTED IN THOUBAL

Security forces arrested an active cadre of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP-Taibanganba) and recovered one pistol, ten live ammunition, Rs. 3000, one mobile phone and a Mahindra Bolero car.

The Manipur Police Control Room in its morning report states that the person has been identified as Loitongbam Boyai Singh (43 years) from Thoubal and he was involved in extortion activities in the general area of Yairipok Nongpok Sekmai in Thoubal district.

It is further said that one pistol, ten live ammunition, Rs. 3000, one mobile phone, and a Mahindra Bolero were seized from his possession. The police registered a case in this regard.

The arrest and seizures have come closed on the heels of the Special Court of NIA, Imphal West has sent 13 persons suspected members of the KCP (People's War Group) to police custody for five more days till April 5 on Monday.



The police arrested them from two houses located at Loitang Sandam in Imphal West district on March 23, 2024. The KCP has different factions in the state.

The Investing Officer of the case stated that cadres of KCP (PWG) were engaging in prejudicial activities such as extortion, kidnapping, and training of the recruits on March 23.

Source: [NE Now](#)



Kimmi Khongsai
@KimmiKhs

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

#MeiteiWarCrimes

Despite the ceasefire agreement's intent to halt hostilities, a banned terror group UNLF(P) has failed to surrender weapons & are carrying out violent activities with impunity including looting arms from security forces.

No security agency has been tracking their movement; an ugly reminder of what lawlessness can do in an undisturbed valley of Manipur & they do it because they know they can get away with it.

[thehindu.com/news/national/...](https://thehindu.com/news/national/)



11:53 am · 02 Apr 24 · 1,092 Views

Sushma Sharma
@SushmaSh22

#Christians Under attack again in #Manipur. Religious places are a very important issue.

400+ #KukiZo Tribal Churches & Synagogues are destroyed. #KhopibungChurch destroyed.

The biggest Church was also destroyed in #Manipur. Atleast resoext holy places, Respect #secularism

Check this
t.co/MDyKnwoE3P

#AlJazeera #VVPAT #RRvsMI #MivsRR #DhruvRathee #AishwaryaRaiBachchan #poupettekenza #HardikPandya #AprilFoolsDay #พฤษภาคม #24againstpredators #pafc #Emile #งานบอลจุฬารธรรมศาสตร์ #viral #HappyBirthdayAjayDevgn #MivsRR #HardikPandya



Last edited 5:55 AM · Apr 2, 2024 · 5,174 Views

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NON LOCAL KILLED BY MEITEI MAN IN BISHNUPUR DISTRICT

One Meitei man allegedly shot and killed a non-local resident using a single-barrel gun at Ningthoukhong ward No. 2 under Loktak police station in Bishnupur district on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Suresh Sahu (42) son of Ram Sahu of Shantipur and the perpetrator as Shijagurumayum Biren Sharma (54) s/o late Bihari Sharma of the same locality.

As per reports, a Police team has apprehended the culprit Mr. Biren Sharma on Monday along with the gun used in committing the act.

According to the police report, Suresh Sahu, a mechanical supervisor and his co-worker Biren had a heated argument over wages at around 7 pm on Sunday at the gate of Suresh Sahu's residence, where Sharma was reportedly demanding a raise in his wage from Rs 400 to Rs 700 per day which was allegedly denied by Suresh Sahu.

The argument was seemingly settled following the intervention of Sahu's wife, Moirangthem Sangita, after which both the men reportedly went to their respective houses.

However, Biren returned at around 8.30 pm, called out Suresh and shot him at the abdomen with a single barrel gun near his house gate, the report stated.

While Biren fled from the scene, profusely bleeding Suresh Sahu was rushed to Bishnupur district hospital but succumbed to his injuries.

Bishnupur police commandos along with a team of Loktak police station conducted a search operation to track and trace Biren Sharma and finally arrested him somewhere under Sagolmang police station and also recovered the single barrel gun used in killing Suresh.

It is also reported that a case has been registered at Loktak Police station and the lifeless body of the deceased was later deposited at RIMS mortuary for post-mortem examination.

The report further stated that the two co-workers were intoxicated after drinking post work at Loktak Project Awang bazaar on the day of the incident.

NSCN (I-M) LEADERS REVOLT AGAINST 'MILITARY' CHIEF

Fourteen top 'officers' of the military wing of the extremist National Socialist Council of Nagalim, also referred to as NSCN (Isak-Muivah), have revolted against their commander-in-chief, "Lt. Gen." Anthony Ningkhan Shimray.

The 14 include A. Raman, the deputy commander-in-chief, and 'Brigadiers' Y. Raleng and T. Vongdochu.

In a statement issued by the Eastern Flank of the NSCN (I-M)'s Naga Army on March 30, the officers said the 'longvibu' (army chief) had publicly proclaimed after his release from prison in 2016 that he was freed conditionally to bring the other armed groups in the northeast to the "so-called" mainstream.

Wondering if Shimray was an agent of New Delhi, the officers said that he tried to serve the interest of the Government of India by neutralising all the revolutionary groups in the region.

The officers listed several instances where Shimray allegedly worked against the Naga cause. These include withdrawing the NSCN (I-M)'s command in Bangladesh in 2018, "weakening the strength" of the Eastern Flank (Manipur) in league with R.N. Ravi, the former interlocutor for the Naga peace process, and "unjustifiably" shutting down the office of the deputy longvibu in Manipur.

"...as an individual released on bail by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) yet conferred the position of Longvibu, and having considered his actions, we are certain that he is working diligently for the selfish interest of the Government of India," the officers said, justifying their decision not to obey Shimray's command.

A reaction from the office of the Naga army chief is awaited. (Source: The Hindu)



FEATURED ARTICLE

Manipur Crisis: Can Elections Bring Some Respite to a Broken State?

Ninglun Hanghal

The Manipur crisis is about to complete a year, yet, there is no visible improvement in the situation; rather, the divide among communities is even deeper and the situation is becoming more sensitive and precarious.

Though the violence is subsiding, one cannot be sure that normalcy will bounce back in the near future as uncertainty continues to prevail. There are frequent reports of sporadic violence, with bandhs, curfews, and internet shutdowns at the drop of a hat. The violent conflict between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zo communities has led to more than two hundred lives lost, more than sixty thousand people displaced, and hundreds of houses and villages burned down.

The conflict has severely impacted the lives of lakhs of people in Manipur, who are directly and indirectly affected by the crisis. Thousands lost their homes, thousands were uprooted from their livelihood means, and lakhs of students's education was disrupted. Healthcare and medical services became casualties.

After over ten months, people remain in relief camps on both sides of the divide. Camps were set up on an emergency basis in schools, community halls, and other

places like churches. As per reports, there are 351 relief camps across the state. Several displaced families live with their relatives or are scattered in rented accommodations.

The relief camps are in dilapidated conditions and lack basic amenities. All of the relief camps in the tribal hill areas of the Kuki-Zo communities are reported to be in such condition.

According to reports from September last year, a total of 37 people, including minors, have died in relief camps in Lamka, Churachandpur district. The underlying cause is various ailments and the unavailability of medical care facilities, besides the absence of basic amenities.

All through the months, these camps are managed voluntarily by philanthropic organisations with donations from individuals, churches, and civil societies. There is no proactive support or help coming from the government, especially in the tribal hill areas impacted by the violence.

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The state administration has been severely impaired. Law and order take a back seat as radical groups take things into their own hands. Community volunteers are armed to the teeth on both sides. Over three thousand weapons were looted by mobs—more than once—from the state forces in various police stations in the valley districts of Imphal. Not even a quarter of these looted arms and ammunition were recovered.

Mobile internet, including broadband, was immediately cut off when the violence began in May until December 2023, also recorded as India's longest-ever internet shutdown.

A week into the mayhem, a massive exodus took place. All Kuki-Zos settled or working in Imphal and adjoining areas were transported to Kuki-Zo tribal hill areas, while all Meiteis in Kuki-Zo districts were shifted to Meitei valley districts.

As it stands, besides the ethnic divide between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo, there is sharp polarisation. Each community is in its own (dominated) district. Kuki-Zos do not go to the Meitei areas, while the Meiteis do not venture into the Kuki-Zo areas. Buffer zones that serve as a line of control were constructed to indicate the geographical demarcation. These buffer zones are popularly called “duty posts,” protected with bunkers and manned by armed volunteers.

Given the situation, the Kuki-Zo communities are entirely cut off from the state capital, the centre of administration and economy. Already inhabiting the less developed parts of the state, Kuki-Zo people are facing extreme hardships in terms of economy, education, and health emergencies.

Meanwhile, a demand for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo-inhabited areas gains momentum. While on the Meiteis front, the past months saw a list

of demands coming from civil society, the Meira Paibis (women torch bearers), and other Meitei organisations.

These demands include, among others, conducting the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Manipur and scrapping the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups. Most significantly, these demands came from Arambai Tenggol, a Meitei radical group.

The Arambai Tenggol, in a sensational event on January 24 this year, literally forced 37 Manipur Meitei MLAs and the sitting two Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs from the Inner Manipur parliamentary constituency to take an oath to fulfil their demands.

Suspension of Operations (popularly known as SoO) has been going on with the Kuki-Zo rebel groups—the KNO (Kuki National Organization) and the UPF (United Peoples Front)—since 2008, and a tripartite political dialogue with the state, centre, and group started in 2016. A demand to fast-track and expedite at the earliest possible time is also growing louder.

The SoO agreement between the Kuki-Zo rebel groups is extended periodically. In the latest development, the extension or renewal has been put on hold. This comes in the aftermath of the state government's last assembly in February, which took a resolution to break away from being a party to the tripartite dialogue.

Under pressure to give in to the demands of the Meitei civil societies and radical groups, the Biren Singh-led government sought the union

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government to abrogate the SoO agreement. The centre's response to this is yet to be made known.

State Chief Minister Biren Singh and Meiteis accused the Kuki-Zo rebels of creating the mayhem. Singh and the Meiteis alleged the Kuki-Zos as "illegal migrants" coming from across the border and are the root cause of the present ongoing crisis. These "illegal migrants" are also categorically called "narco-terrorists" and were accused of indulging in the "illegal business" of drugs and sponsoring the Manipur violent crisis.

In view of this, the Manipur state CM had appealed to the central government for the suspension of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the India-Myanmar border. The central government has considered this demand and fencing of the border is said to have begun, causing uneasiness among the tribal communities in Manipur in the remote border areas.

Meanwhile, the NRC demand has come strongly from the Manipur valley. The NRC is believed to clear the state of "illegal migrants." Whether all of these could possibly bring normalcy and peace remains to be seen.

At the moment, the Manipur crisis is taking a turn in terms of silence as the election draws closer. The two warring groups' attention is being diverted to the election. Things seem to be calm on the frontlines.

With the general election around the corner, could there be some hope and respite for Manipur? But then, Manipur sends only two members to the Lok Sabha and only one to the Rajya Sabha. Perhaps just two parliamentary seats is insignificant and unimportant.

First published by [East Mojo](#)

**Post
MORTEM**

MANIPUR VIOLENCE



DURING ELECTION



MODI'S DOUBLE-ENGINE



WE MUST FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER!

- Hillsman J. Tearsworth



People of Kuki-Chin-Mizo, we are all brethren,
We are the same people, in blood and identity
Though many attempts to split us within and without,
We can't be separated as we are intertwined by God!
For we have the same root, culture, and history!

We may have stored up high-degree anger in our minds,
Justified it as a fair-enough-reason within ourselves,
Be it our past mistreats upon each other,
Or severe misdeeds that can't be altered,
But, we must seek to forgive one another!

Let's confront our problems face-to-face with each other,
Not by swords and spears, or through the barrel of guns,
But through love and dialogues, songs, and dances,
For enough blood has already been shed and spilled,
Let's give 'forgiveness' and 'peace' the chance they deserve!

How many songs and poems will we need?!
To reconcile and forgive one another, number it!
Now, we need peace more than anyone else,
To heal us and our land from curse and hatred!
To forgive is divine - let the Almighty intervene.

May I humbly propose to my beloved people,
That a day be observed as a 'DAY OF BROTHERHOOD',
That day, we will toast our drinks, share bread, and dine together.
We will all sing and dance, all day and night,
And our children will observe it, even after we are all gone.