

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**11 MONTHS OF  
STATE-SPONSORED  
ETHNIC CLEANSING**



## 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.

# MEITEI BODY REQUESTS ELECTION COMMISSION TO DEFER LOK SABHA ELECTION IN MANIPUR; FEARS LOOTED ARMS COULD BE USED DURING ELECTION

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The Delhi Meitei Coordinating Committee (DMCC) has requested the Chief Election Commissioner of India to defer the 18th Lok Sabha elections in Manipur while expressing concern that looted arms could be used during the polls.

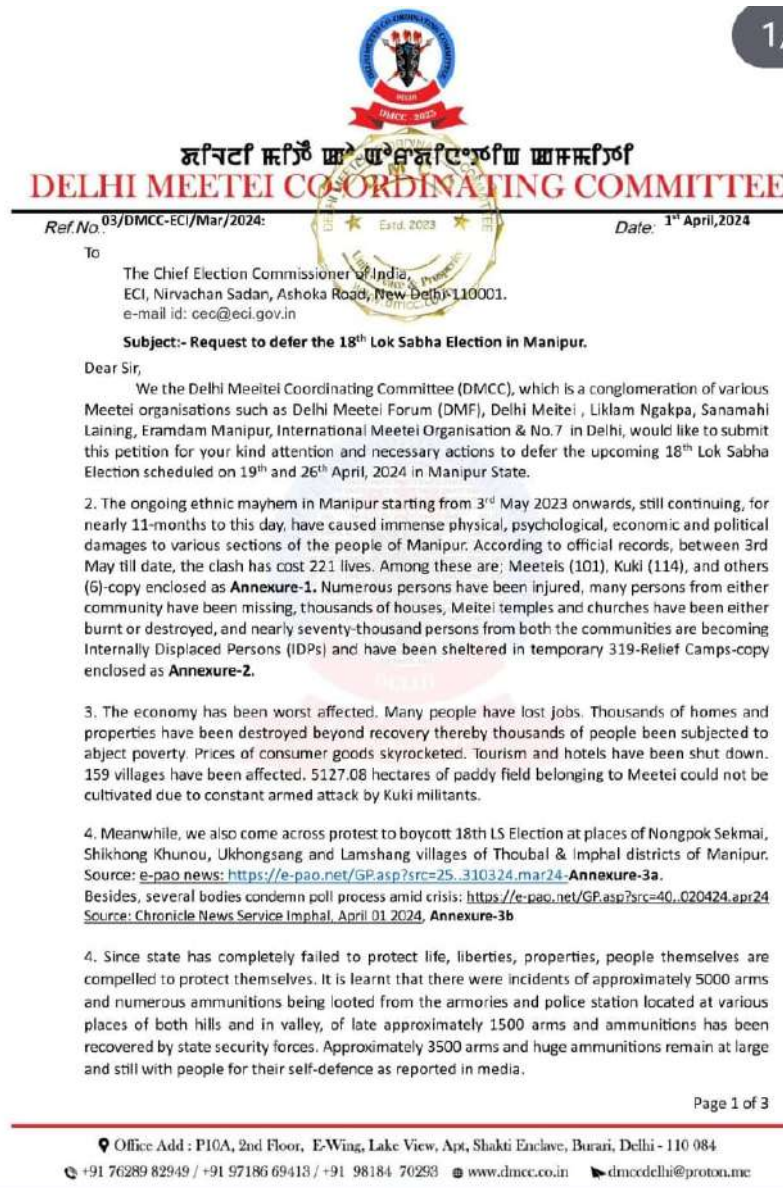
In a petition to the CEO, DMCC stated that it was not conducive to conduct the 18th Lok Sabha Elections at this juncture in Manipur State due to the prevailing ongoing ethnic unrest and problem of rule of law and abnormal situation in the State.

Citing various reasons, the Meitei body demanded that the LS election in Manipur must be deferred. One of the reasons placed before the Election Commission of India was that a huge number of sophisticated arms and ammunition looted by the radicalised groups from state armouries were still in the hands of the civilians. Approximately, 3500 arms and huge ammunition which were stolen by the mob from different police stations and state armouries still remain at large.

DMCC stated that the State is still not able to give guarantees that these arms and ammunition will not be used during the polls and the availability of arms in the public hand may affect free and fair conduct of Lok Shabha election.

Mentioning the attacks of INC candidate for Outer parliamentary constituency, Alfred Kangam Arthur, on different occasions, the Meitei body stated that such incidents have raised a serious doubt of free and fair conduct of election.

The Meitei body, on the other hand, unreasonably claimed that Kuki militants have stopped attacking Meiteis during the ensuing elections, blatantly ignoring the fact. The fact is that the violence in Manipur has considerably declined or stopped as a result of their



ceasing attacks on the Kuki villages, instead engaging in election related activities.

As the opposition party's wave is felt strongly in the valley, the Arambai Tenggol and the militants are busy with their engagement in campaigning for their choice of candidate.

The chief of Arambai Tenggol Korounganba has recently declared in a public gathering that the BJP candidate will surely emerge victorious in the election. Such a declaration by the radical group,

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which claims to be a socio-cultural outfit, proves that the outfit is sponsored by the State BJP leaders including Biren and Leishemba Sanajaoba for use in their power struggle.

Lately, a cadre of UNLF was assaulted by the Arambai Tenggol members which could be possibly due to their difference in choosing and supporting candidates.

In Kuki-Zo areas, election-related matters have been completely absent with no public gathering or meeting till date. If the Kukis are the attackers as claimed by

DMCC, they would have done it so even in the current situation when the Meitei militants and the radical groups like Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and Meitei militants are busy in election campaigns and other related matters in the valley.

The prevailing peace which has been maintained for the past many days in the State is proof that the Kukis have been playing a defensive role while the Meiteis are on the offensive in the ongoing conflict in the State.

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## TWO DEAD BODIES FOUND IN THE PAST 24-HRS IN IMPHAL VALLEY

Abduction, killing and ransom have become the common news item for Imphal based media houses since the ethnic violence erupted in the state of Manipur.

In the past 24-hours, the Manipur Police recovered two dead bodies from different locations in the Imphal Valley. The Police department have surmised murder case in both instances.

The body of one Md Khurphal @ Abuza, 32, a resident of Khabeisoi Mamang Leikai in Imphal East district was found at an Ashilou paddy field in the same district at around 8 AM on Wednesday.

Police picked up the dead body of the youth and deposited it at the JNIMS hospital morgue for post-

mortem examination. The motive or motives behind the killing is under investigation, the police said.

In another incident, one Ritishkumar Magar, 36, was found dead with a piece of cloth wrapped tightly around his neck in a rented room at Namdailong under Lamphel police station in Imphal West district on Tuesday. There were scratch marks on the face, hands and chest on the body of Ritishkumar Magar. He was a resident of Kanglatongbi village in Kangpokpi district.

Police deposited the body of the deceased at the RIMS hospital morgue for post-mortem examination and the inquest for the cause of the killing is under progress.



**The key to successful leadership is influence, not authority.**

*– Kenneth H. Blanchard*

# STATE SPONSORED VIOLENCE ALLEGATION JUSTIFIED ONCE AGAIN AS ARAMBAI CHIEF KOROUNGANBA BLATANTLY DECLARED WINNER OF INNER LS SEAT

Since the beginning of the state sponsored ethnic violence against the Kukis of Manipur, the Meitei armed radical group, Arambai Tenggol, has been actively involved in a plethora of criminal activities ranging from extortion, reprimandation, ban on merry making during festivals to boycotting of election campaigns within the Imphal valley. The Arambai Tenggol, infamous for their act of causing physical harm to innocent civilians when failing to act in accordance to their diktats, have been recorded intimidating the intending candidates to ensure victory for the preferred candidates of their political masters in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Korounganba Khuman, a close aide of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and also Chief of the radical group Arambai Tenggol, which spearheaded the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Kuki tribes in Manipur could be seen publicly canvassing for BJP candidates. This indeed reiterated and justified the allegations that the Meitei-centric Manipur government has sponsored the current ethnic violence which crossed the eleventh month mark today on 3 April 2024. The Arambai Tenggol openly canvassed votes for the ruling dispensation exposing their close ties to the BJP led state government. The state government in any case has never denied this allegation.

In a recent viral video, Kourounganba could be seen addressing a crowd where he blatantly declared that BJP will win the inner LS seat, even without campaigns. Political observers expect that there will be no free and fair voting as more than 5k+ guns are still with them and still intact with Biren Government.

With this blatant declaration, the self-styled C-in-C of Arambai Tenggol, Mr. Korounganba Khuman, the man who radicalised several youths in the name of safeguarding the territorial integrity of Manipur



and Meitei culture and tradition has opened the Pandora box. His words and actions revealed his tacit allegiance to the current dispensation out in the open. He is nothing but a political tool and scapegoat for N. Biren Singh and his cohorts.

Earlier, Arambai Tenggol has issued an advisory to not hold any public gatherings, feasts and road shows in relation with the ensuing Lok Sabha election. However, the restrictions seem to apply only to other political parties as their Boss (N. Biren) could now be seen openly engaged in election campaigns. The ruling party has also organized meetings at various places within the Inner Parliamentary constituency attended by their MLAs, Ministers and State office bearers. Ironically, the group who imposed stringent restrictions against such, is yet to say a word in this regard.

# LEGAL ACTION INITIATED AGAINST INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE TOTOMSANA FOR THREATENING CM BIREN

The Election Officer of Imphal East district has filed a written complaint to the Superintendent of Police Imphal West, asking for appropriate legal action against Independent candidate for Inner Manipur seat Moirangthem Totomsana Nongsaba. The candidate has been accused of threatening Manipur's Chief Minister N Biren Singh with his life.

The SP has been asked to furnish the action taken report to the District Election Officer (DEO) by April 5. The officer also been advised to take action under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Representation of the People Act for criminal intimidation, promotion of enmity among other reasons.

The DEO, Khumanthem Diana Devi, in the written complaint, pointed out that Totomsana has violated the Model Code of Conduct by using derogatory remarks against the Chief Minister during a live telecast of a 'Mega Discussion' hosted by local TV channel SK TV on April 2.

In the discussion, Totomsana 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 have to vacate his seat or unless he dies, we will be like this, he need to die, for that I am willing to sacrifice myself to exterminate him".

The DEO said, "He (candidate) even threatened the honourable CM with physical harm by saying that he will kill him whenever he gets a chance, which amounts to an attack on the personal life of a person or statement which is malicious or offending decency and morality".

Reiterating the ECI's advisory, the DEO asked all politicians to maintain standards while campaigning. Devi also asserted that the remarks by a contesting



candidate has the potential to promote feelings of enmity, hatred and creating disharmony between and among different political functionaries, thereby jeopardising the ECI's effort to conduct the polls peacefully.

Despite the stringent enforcement of the election Model Code of Conduct in Manipur, a concerning trend has emerged as several prominent Meitei figures, known for openly advocating for the annihilation of the Kuki community, continue to evade legal repercussions. Figures such as A Noutuneshwari Devi (retired judge), MLA Rameshwar, Yumnam Premananda (Department of Law, Manipur University), and Pramot Singh (Chief of Meitei Leepun), have faced numerous First Information Reports (FIRs) filed by Kuki Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for their derogatory and intimidating remarks. However, no concrete action has been taken against them by the authorities, sparking concerns over the partiality of the legal system and the protection of minority rights in the region.

# FCRA LICENCES OF NGOS THAT HELP VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE CANCELLED BY UNION MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

It is unfortunate to learn that the Government of India has cancelled Christian-based non-governmental organisations which have extended relief materials to the displaced minority Kuki Christians who face the brunt of communal riots from the majority Meitei radicals.

Since the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom against the minority Kuki Christians began in May last year, about 200 Christian lives have been lost, thousands of houses including about 300 Churches were burnt or vandalised. About 50000 Christians have been internally displaced. During such time of a crisis, the Christians NGOs came to their rescue by extending relief materials to the victims.

Despite such humanitarian aid, the Union Home Ministry has reportedly cancelled the Foreign Contribution Registration Act (FCRA) licence of five prominent non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for their alleged involvement in religious conversion, violations of foreign grants, among others. This cancellation proves rampant religious persecution under the present regime.

As per ET report, the latest round of cancellation came following a scrutiny by the Centre till March 31, 2024. Among the prominent NGOs were CNI Synodical Board of Social Service (CNI-SBSS), Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS), Church Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) and Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFOI), said officials familiar with the details. Many evangelical NGOs were facing charges of religious conversion and land grab.

The home ministry had granted a six-month extension to several NGOs listed above in September last year. The licences were cancelled on March 30 this year and they will neither receive nor utilise the foreign contribution until the certificate is renewed, officials added.

At the time of India's Independence, the National Council of Churches formed the 'NCC Relief Committee' (NCC). The NCC later went on to become the Church's

Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), claims its website. It has been receiving foreign donations from Germany, United States, Sweden and as per the FCRA contribution statement from April-June 2023, the NGO received a sum of ₹9,63,65,095. An email query sent to the NGOs remained unanswered.

The Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) came into existence in 1970 and has been working in close association with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Indian Council of Medical Research and has been receiving foreign grants from the USA, France, among others. The organisation has been active during disaster relief measures after Gujarat's Bhuj earthquake, Odisha's super cyclone and COVID -19 along with the National Disaster Management Authority.

In December last year, the home ministry revoked the licence of Delhi-based Churches of North India (CNI). The FCRA licence of its another affiliate, CNI-SBSS, was cancelled on March 30, 2024, said officials, adding that the CNI and its affiliates were facing charges from the Enforcement Directorate. The central agency carried out raids against CNI at various locations last year for alleged gross misappropriation of Church properties. The fourth NGO - Indo Global Social Service Society, working towards climate resilience has been receiving foreign funds from Germany, United Kingdom and Singapore.

The FCRA licence of the fifth NGO - Evangelical Fellowship of India - has been cancelled on charges of violation of FCRA rules, according to officials. None of the organisations replied to email queries sent to them. In the past one year, more than 100 NGOs, including Centre for Policy Research, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust that is headed by former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and Oxfam India, have lost their FCRA licences on charges of alleged misuse of foreign grants.

# MAMATA BANERJEE CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS AND CHURCHES IN MANIPUR DURING SPEECH AT DOOARS CHURCH

West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, speaking at a church in the Dooars on Tuesday, highlighted attacks on Christians and churches in Manipur and stressed she would not let such persecution happen in Bengal.

Mamata, who is staying at a private resort in Chalsa some 60km from here in Jalpaiguri district since early Monday, walked into the Mercy Fellowship Church in the vicinity on Tuesday.

The bishop and other members of the community welcomed her and handed her a memorandum of their demands, to which she said she would speak after the elections. Instead, she focused on the need to keep Bengal safe from violence.

“In Manipur, 200 churches were burnt down. Also, stones were thrown at mosques and even temples. We won’t let such incidents happen here in Bengal. We believe in amity and peace and would uphold it at any cost,” said the chief minister, addressing the gathering. Mamata’s reference to Manipur is significant ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. Ever since ethnic conflict started in Manipur last year in May, the Trinamul rank and file has time and again questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s stoic silence on the issue and his not making a single trip to the troubled state so far.

In recent months, this is the second time that Mamata has reached out to the Christian population of north Bengal. On January 29 this year, she held a meeting with representatives of the community at Uttarkanya, the branch secretariat of the state in southern Siliguri. Around six lakh Christians live in north Bengal.

In her speech, Mamata also appreciated the Christian community for their role in education.

“You have played an excellent role in imparting education in tea estates, in the hills and, in fact, across Bengal. Educating people and building generations is an important task which you have done,” she said,



emphasising that religious minorities were safe in Bengal.

Mamata spoke about the earlier violence in Jungle Mahal and the hills and said her government had managed to bring about a change in both places.

“In the hills, violence would break out and the tourism industry had to take a beating. Since 2011, we have managed to change the situation. There is peace everywhere. When violence erupted in the hills earlier, people of the Terai and the Dooars also had to face inconveniences. Let us make it clear that we don’t make any distinction between the people of the plains and the hills,” she said.

Mamata underscored that she would not allow any violence during festivals. On March 30 last year, during Ram Navami celebrations, Howrah, Hooghly, Dalkhola and some other smaller pockets of Bengal erupted in violence. This year, Ram Navami falls on April 17.

“All of us here stay together and are free to celebrate our festivals. But if any political party tries to perpetrate violence during any festival, we will not allow it. We want peace to prevail across the state,” said Mamata.

She met inmates of an old-age home and joined a tribal dance troupe that performed in her presence.

“I will be here (in north Bengal) till April 6. I will come again later,” she said. (The Telegraph)



**OFFICE OF THE MANIPUR TRIBALS FORUM DELHI**

New Delhi, 3.4.2024

VERY URGENT - LOK SABHA ELECTION MATTER

**DATA COLLECTION OF DISPLACED TRIBAL ELECTORS OF MANIPUR, DUE TO VIOLENCE IN THE STATE AND NOW TAKING TEMPORARY SHELTER OUTSIDE MANIPUR**

The Constitution of India provides the right to vote to every citizens of the country who are enrolled in the electoral roll. This is our legal right. Unfortunately, due to the violence in Manipur since 3rd May 2023, many tribal voters enrolled in the electoral roll of various Assembly Constituencies of the state have been displaced from their homes where they are enrolled as electors and are now taking temporary shelter outside the state.

The Election Commission of India, in it's Press Note dated 16.3.2024, stated that polling stations will be set up at the Relief Camps in the State (Manipur) to enable the internally displaced persons (IDPs) to cast their votes.

While we thank the Commission for this step, we also express our deep concern that there are other thousands of other displaced tribal voters who are taking temporary shelter outside Manipur ( in various parts of the country) since their homes/villages have been burnt down or destroyed in the violence.

The ECI, till date, has not made any arrangements for such IDP voters outside the state of Manipur. In the absence of such voting facility to the IDPs, many tribal voters will not be able to exercise their franchise, not because they do not want to vote but because they have been DENIED of the opportunity to Vote.

Hence, MTFD is taking this initiative to approach the Commission/appropriate forum/authority to make all necessary arrangements for the IDP voters of Manipur, who are presently taking shelter in various parts of the country outside the state of Manipur, to facilitate them to exercise their right to vote in the ensuing General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 in which Poll for Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency is scheduled to be held on 19.4.2024.

Therefore, we urge all tribal IDPs, who are enrolled in the electoral roll of Manipur and are temporarily taking shelter outside Manipur, to furnish their details in the Google Sheet attached herewith so that the Commission can be approached for providing necessary facilities to all the displaced voters to exercise our franchise on the Day of Poll.

The requisite information is required URGENTLY, to be submitted by 5 PM today (3.4.2024).

Sd/-  
Secy./Convenor, MTFD

**Details/Information of IDP electors required:**

1. Name
2. Father/Mother's Name
3. D.O.B
4. Gender (M/F)
5. Address where enrolled in the Electoral Roll: Village/Locality, Block/Sub-Division, District, Assembly Constituency, Parliamentary Constituency.
6. Present Address/Relief Shelter (outside Manipur)
7. Mob. No.
8. Voter Card details (if known): Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) No., Part No., Serial No., AC Name

To search your name in the electoral roll, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit <https://electoralsearch.eci.gov.in/>

Please fill in the Google Form: [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the link.



**OPINION**

## 11 Months of Atrocities: Will PM Modi Finally Visit Manipur?

The state-sponsored ethnic cleansing campaign against the minority Kuki-Zo communities by the dominant community Meitei completes 11(eleven) months today. The ethnic pogrom which began on May 3 last year have led to the deaths of 170 precious lives including a one month old Baby Issac and many elderly persons. There are also about a hundred deaths due to lack of medical facilities in the relief camps and many more awaiting a desperate end.

Moreover, more than 200+ villages and (7000+ houses) 360+ churches have been destroyed and 41,425+ persons have been rendered homeless.

Among the victims of the current ethnic violence, many had suffered the most horrendous atrocities. The 7-year old Tonsing Hangsing, who sustained serious bullet injury in his head, was burnt alive in an ambulance along with his mother and aunt by Arambai Tenggols and Meira Paibis. Similarly, David Thiek was brutally beheaded and his head was displayed on a fencing pole. Two young ladies working in a car wash were handed over by the proprietor to Meitei boys, who gang-raped and murdered them. In a more gruesome manner, two women were paraded naked by hundreds of Meitei

mobs, predominantly men, who groped and gang-raped them in an open field. Lucy Maring, a Naga woman, was shot multiple times in the head until it turned into pulp. These instances represent just a few examples of the most inhuman atrocities suffered by the minority Kukis at the hands of the majority Meiteis since the onset of the ethnic violence.

Despite such inhumane treatment, it is extremely unfortunate that the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, chose to turn a blind eye during these 11 months. While it is highly appreciative of Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, for visiting the state toward the end of May 2023, including the Kuki-dominated towns of Moreh in Tengnoupal district, Lamka in Churachandpur district, and Kangpokpi district headquarters, which resulted in the creation of a buffer zone between Meitei-dominated valley areas and Kuki-inhabited hill areas, it failed to yield the much-needed result of ending the conflict. It may be noted that on the day Amit Shah visited Kangpokpi DHQ, at least three

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Kuki villages were burnt down by the Meiteis within the district itself. The Meitei armed miscreants also attacked the Phaileng village along Gamgiphai (Buffer zone between Kangpokpi and Imphal West districts) less than an hour from the time Shri Amit Shah took off from Kangpokpi.

Now that Narendra Modi is included as one of the star campaigners for the Inner Manipur PC for the upcoming Lok Sabha election, it is expected that the Prime Minister will finally visit the state, albeit for election campaign. However, there is no more excitement among the people in both the hills and the valley.

Even if the Prime Minister finally lands on the soil of Manipur, he is unlikely to visit Kuki areas as the BJP did not put up a candidate for Outer Manipur. It is also unlikely that his visit would yield tangible outcome in the valley, even if he were to campaign for the BJP candidate for the Inner Manipur PC. Moreover, public opinion among the Meiteis is now heavily tilted towards the Congress, as its candidate, Dr. A. Bimol Angomcha, is seen as the ideal person to represent them in the Parliament.

[Un]fortunately, whether it is the BJP or the Congress, it carries no meaning for the Kukis. Firstly, as the BJP government in the state is responsible for all the atrocities and loss of lives and properties, its candidate, though highly respected by the Kukis, cannot be a choice. Similarly, the Congress candidate, Dr. Bimol, is such a communal academic that even the Meiteis should be ashamed if they elect him.

Regarding Maheshwor Thounaojam, he is young and energetic yet intellectually bankrupt despite being a popular actor in the recent past. Similarly, the quality of Mr. RK Somendro@Kaiku, another popular Manipuri

actor, was exposed by his poor performance in the last Assembly (2022) and Lok Sabha (2019) elections. Recently, a video went viral showing Mr. Kaiku wearing a police uniform with Arambai Tenggol's insignia, which indicates his lack of basic legal awareness or common sense, as this constitutes a grievous offense under Section 171 and other sections of the Indian Penal Code.

As for the Outer Manipur, all four candidates being from the Naga communities, the Kuki voters have to simply choose the right candidate. In fact, it is the first time that the Kukis are likely support a Naga without putting up their own candidate. It may be mentioned that a similar situation was experimented in Chandel AC in the 2022 assembly election, where the sitting MLA, Mr. Letpao Haokip, who was also a Cabinet Minister, vacated the seat for SS Olish, a Lamkang Naga, who eventually won by a huge margin.

Supporting a Naga candidate for holistic development of the hills, instead of voting along ethnic lines, will go a long way not only in fostering ethnic unity and harmony but also in defending the rights of the tribals against the onslaught of the majority community and the state. Here lies the hope of the Kuki Christian tribals, as their faith in the Union government is fading with each passing day. Anyway, the visit of PM Modi for an election campaign in the valley will have little impact in the hills, as winning the Lok Sabha election, and not the atrocities the minority Kuki-Zo faced in the hands of the dominant community for 11-long months, will be his priority.



**Espinoza KuKi**  
@robert60531



#ManipurViolence

11 months have passed since the fascist Biren govt's ethnic cleansing against the Kuki minority. We'll always remember the innocent lives lost to Arambai and state govt violence. Justice is our mission as we unite against Biren govt's atrocities.



11:34 am · 03 Apr 24 · 248 Views



**unclemeo reborn** @singsidebunks · 1h

330+ Days of Injustice and no sign of Political Solution for the Kuki-Zo

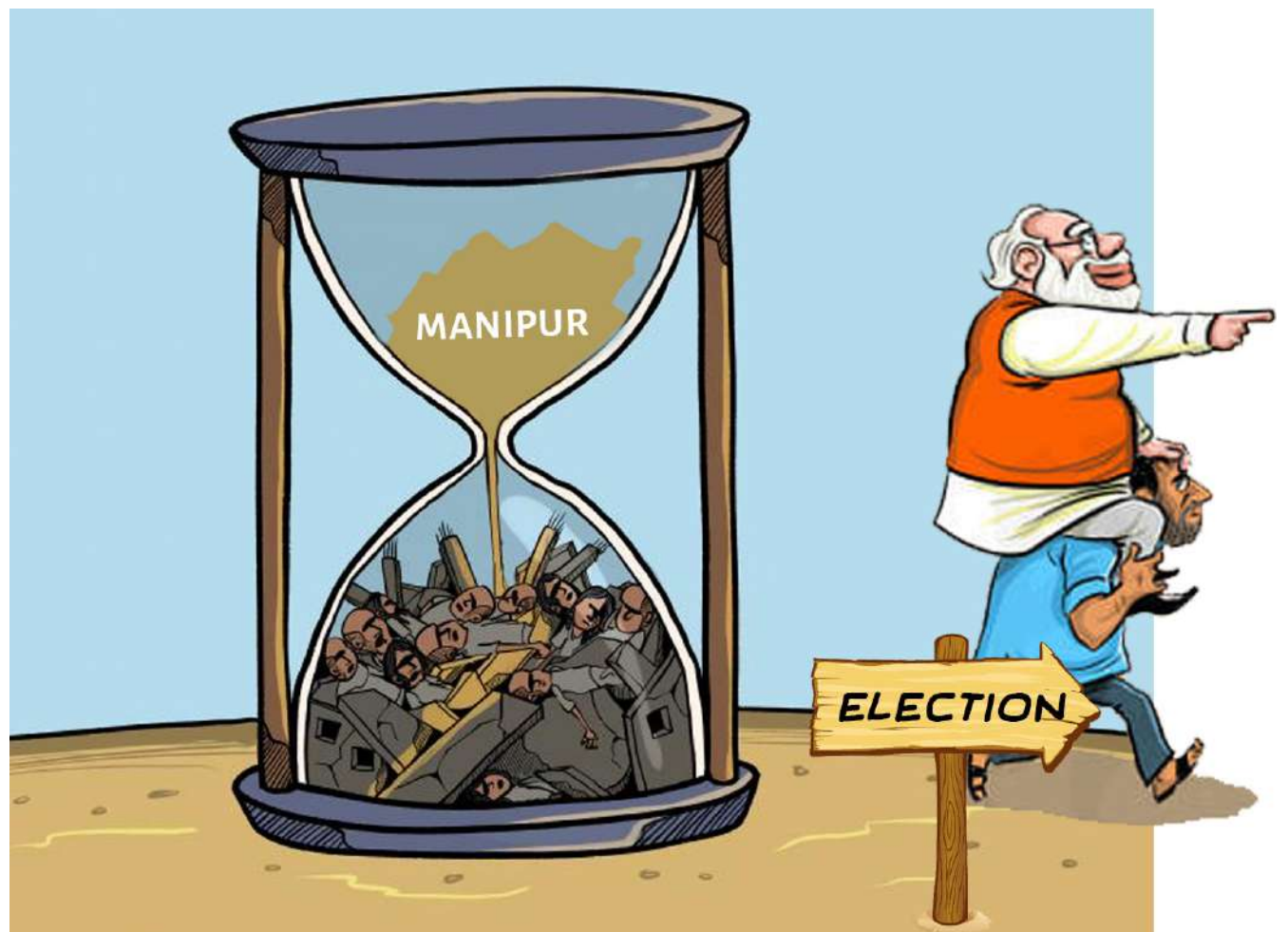
11 months of #MeiteiAtrocities & yet majority Meiteis remain the favourite kid in the house for electoral victory

Will India stand for tribal minorities?

#UnionTerritory4Kuki\_Zo  
#ManipurViolence



**11 MONTHS  
OF NEGLECT  
& STILL  
COUNTING**





# We shall Overcome

The day has come to face fear,  
No time to cry, hold the tears.  
Standing tall, we shall overcome,  
What's holding us back will be undone.

Do not be afraid of what may come,  
Loosen up and stand on your feet.  
Nothing can stop you and your courage,  
A united raised arms never fails its promise.

Be confident, lift heads high up,  
Thousands rely on your arms.  
No time to lose, a mile more to go,  
The storm never lasts forever.

Every little effort counts,  
Marching towards the dream and acting wise,  
We shall overcome a divisive force,  
And make our country richer and bear fruits.

- Lalgunsang Kipgen