

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



11 MONTHS OF
INCESSANT PRAYERS



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.

BIREN'S TALL CLAIMS OF NRC IMPLEMENTATION IS NOTHING BUT JUST ELECTION GIMMICKS

Despite the tall claims made by the power-hungry chief minister N. Biren Singh on the issue of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Manipur, no official notification collaborating the implementation of NRC could be traced till date. It is just a political gimmick injudiciously created by the purported Meitei top leader just to regain power amidst his declining popularity.

On Wednesday, N Biren Singh erroneously said that NRC has been implemented in Manipur and accused the Congress party of opposing its implementation. His statement, however, has created confusion among the Meiteis. Most of the Meiteis have now realised that any claims made by N. Biren Singh, be it the illegal immigrant issue, poppy cultivation issue, etc., are just hollow claims without any substantial evidence but to brainwash the emotion of Meitei populace for his political gameplan.

Saying that the process of updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the context of Manipur has begun, the incompetent Chief Minister, N Biren Singh, has said that the result of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections would determine whether the popular and persistent demand of the people to roll out NRC in the State was raised sincerely in the interest of Manipur or not. "This election is a test for the Meitei people as they can either vote for BJP who advocates implementation of NRC in Manipur and Rahul Gandhi's Congress who opposes it", N. Biren said.

However, his statement lacks substance as he has been in power for about seven years but no insightful result found in reality. He is a liar and he will continue to lie on several issues, particularly during this election time, and playing with the emotion of Meitei people just to garner votes for power. Rather, it is necessary that he should be given a befitting punishment through electoral votes on the days of the polls.



The Chief Minister also said that a section of people criticising the policy and programme of the Government without understanding the underlying issues is unfortunate and hard to digest. Here, the Meitei people must realise that it is the wrong policy of N. Biren Singh which brings detrimental effect to the territorial and emotional integrity of the State.

His unwarranted policy has created a deep divide between communities, thus totally separating the State into two. Buffer zones have been created within the state and the partition has already been completed. Even though he vowed to protect the territorial integrity of Manipur, the land and its people have already been split.

HAC CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR DIALOGUE TO RESOLVE MANIPUR CRISIS

Chairman of Hill Areas Committee (HAC) of the Manipur Legislative Assembly and MLA, Diganglung Gangmei on Thursday called for a dialogue to resolve the crisis that has rocked Manipur for the last 11 months.

The MLA was speaking at a programme in Imphal today. The HAC chairman said that violence can bring no solution. It is well known to all and has been proven by history.

He emphasized the need for trust among the people of Manipur for the restoration of peace and normalcy in the state.

The HAC chairman said that Manipur is a state where many communities live together in harmony. The people of the state should be proud of it, he stated.

He also stressed on the need for a thorough study of history while dealing with the prevailing crisis in the state. "If we study history thoroughly, we can effectively deal with the present conflict", he said.

If the present crisis is allowed to continue, the loser will be the people of the state, its communities and society.



None of the communities will benefit from it, the HAC chairman further said.

The HAC chairman reiterated that dialogue is the only way to resolve a problem. Violence will never bring a solution. History is the evidence, he said, while reiterating that dialogue is the only way forward for a solution to the present crisis.



Men, it has been well said, think in herds; it will be seen that they go mad in herds, while they only recover their senses slowly, and one by one.

– Charles Mackay

VBIGS ARRESTED WITH HUGE CACHE OF ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS

Ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, central security forces have conducted separate search operations in various areas of valley districts leading to arrest of Valley Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) with huge cache of arms and ammunitions.

On Thursday, the Indian Army along with SSB and Manipur Police have seized a large cache of illegal arms and ammunition, arresting an active cadre of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP-Noyon) group.

The operation carried in the valley districts of Manipur, targeted hotspots based on specific intelligence about suspicious movement and hidden weapons.

According to a statement, the team seized one 9mm carbine machine gun, one sten gun Mk-2, one .303 rifle, one 9mm pistol, one anti-riot gun, 14 Grenades as well as a cache of ammunition.

The recovered items were found in the general area of Khujoi Rok Nala near Sadu Kabui Village of Bishnupur district.

The joint team also conducted a separate search operation in the Khurai Khongpal area of Imphal East District, leading to the apprehension of one active KCP (Noyon) cadre.

Both the apprehended individual and the seized items have been handed over to the concerned police stations for further investigation and legal proceedings.

A contingent of the Assam Rifles and Manipur police arrested two active cadres of different valley-based underground groups and recovered several arms and ammunition including a pistol, officials said on Wednesday.



Acting on specific intelligence of the presence of cadres in the general area Wangkhem, Yaripok, in Thoubal District, Manipur, a joint team of Assam Rifles and Manipur police launched a joint operation.

The operation resulted in the arrest of an active cadre of the proscribed Kanglei Yaol Kanna Lup (KYKL) with a 9 mm Pistol and ammunition.

The joint team, based on specific intelligence inputs regarding extortion activities carried out by cadres on trucks carrying timber near Komlaching in the Senapati district, launched an operation.

The search resulted in the apprehension of a banned KCP (T) cadre involved in the extortion activity.

The team recovered from him several items including one Bolero, one grenade, one 9mm Pistol, ammunition, and other war-like stores.

The apprehended individuals and recovered items have been handed over to the Police.

CONTRASTING VIEW OF DELHI BASED MEITEI CSOS OVER LOK SABHA

A contrasting view has emerged over the ensuing Lok Sabha election by Meitei Civil Service Organizations (CSOs), one group demanding deferment of 18th Lok Sabha election in Manipur while other group appealed from the crisis-hit state who are living across the country to return home, if they can, to participate in the electoral process.

Manipur has two Lok Sabha seats - Inner Manipur, and a reserved seat, Outer Manipur.

“We would like to appeal to everyone from Manipur, from all communities, who are living outside the state to go to Manipur and cast their vote in this Lok Sabha election,” the civil society group Delhi Meitei Forum (DMF) said in a statement.

“Travel to Manipur is expensive, so we understand that’s a roadblock. However, whoever can afford to go to Manipur should participate in the electoral process in the world’s largest democracy,” said the DMF.

“Choosing a good leader is the need of the hour more than ever, a leader who can solve the Manipur crisis and bring peace for all communities,” a key member of the DMF said.

Another group, the Delhi Meitei Coordinating Committee (DMCC), had in a statement said it has written to the Chief Justice of India, the Chief Election Commissioner, and other constitutional authorities to defer the Lok Sabha elections in Manipur. The DMCC had mentioned the DMF is part of the DMCC “conglomeration”, which DMF sources said is simply wrong.

The BJP has fielded Manipur Education Minister and former Indian Police Service officer Thounaojam



Basanta Kumar Singh, and the Congress has fielded Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, who is a professor in Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University. This would be Mr Akoijam’s first electoral contest. Maheshwar Thounaojam of the Republican Party of India (Athawale) is also giving a spirited fight.

The BJP is not contesting in Outer Manipur, but supporting Kachui Timothy Zimik, a candidate of the BJP’s ally Naga People’s Front (NPF). The Congress has fielded Alfred Kanngam S Arthur in this constituency.

The entire Inner Manipur constituency and some areas under Outer Manipur will vote on April 19. The remaining areas under Outer Manipur will vote on April 26. Votes will be counted on June 4.

ARAMBAI CADRE'S ILLICIT AFFAIRS LEAD TO DEATH OF YOUNG GIRL

The notorious activities of Arambai Tenggol who rule the streets of Imphal have been exacerbating with each passing day, ranging from thrashing of militant cadre, threatening election candidates to impregnating a young girl and abandoning her to death.

As per reports, an 18 year old Meitei lady consumed pesticide and committed suicide on Wednesday.

The family members took the lady to JNIMS hospital Imphal with a hope to save her life but the doctors could not save her and the lady passed away around 11.30 am. The deceased lady has been identified as S. Premila from Andro Sanapat Leikai in Imphal East district.

Suspecting that the incident could be related to a love affair, Andro Police went in search of a man who had a relationship with the deceased lady only to find that

the men had eloped with another lady.

In connection with the incident, police interrogated a 20 year old Dinesh Sarungbam from Singjamei Mayengbam Leikai, Imphal, who was alleged to have an affair with the deceased woman. It is said that Dinesh impregnated S. Premila and eloped with another lady. Feeling depressed and sad over the abject betrayal, S. Premila committed suicide by consuming pesticide.

Dinesh Sarungbam is an active member of armed radical group Arambai Tenggol. His social media posts also indicated that he is actively involved in carrying out attacks against Kukis at various locations. He continuously posts reels in full combat gear holding sophisticated weapons at the buffer zone areas.

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



Revealing the list of [#churches](#) demolished in [#Manipur](#) during the violence and [#genocide](#) since 10 months against the minorities.

[#kuki](#) have been suffering the most. Other communities are also targeted but homes, properties, holyplaces and loss of lives are heightened due to [#Meiteis](#) dominance and unjust towards [#kuki](#) and government ignorance.

- [#Manipur](#)
- [#SaveDemocracy](#)
- [#secularism](#)
- [#WayanadAmethi](#) [#KejriwalKeLiyeUpwas7April](#) [#MotorolaEdge50Pro](#)
- [#Raju](#) [#OdishaParivartan](#) [#पहली_बाठी_मुझे_मार](#) [#VijenderSingh](#)
- [#Biggestfan](#)
- [#สี่นาถิ](#) [#จักรพรรดิ](#) [#Taiwan](#) [#ไต้หวัน](#) [#questpit](#) [#KKRvsDC](#) [#KAZUHA](#)

Sr	Church Name	Location	Demolished	Date	Sr	Church Name	Location	Demolished	Date
1	St. John's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	16	St. Peter's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
2	St. Mary's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	17	St. James' Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
3	St. George's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	18	St. Andrew's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
4	St. Paul's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	19	St. Basil's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
5	St. Luke's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	20	St. Mark's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
6	St. Matthew's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	21	St. John the Baptist Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
7	St. Philip's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	22	St. Timothy's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
8	St. James' Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	23	St. Peter's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
9	St. Andrew's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	24	St. Paul's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
10	St. Basil's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	25	St. Mark's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
11	St. John the Baptist Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	26	St. Timothy's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
12	St. Peter's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	27	St. Paul's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
13	St. Paul's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	28	St. Mark's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
14	St. Mark's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	29	St. Timothy's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023
15	St. John the Baptist Church	Imphal	Yes	2023	30	St. Peter's Church	Imphal	Yes	2023

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CLARIFICATION: "Since Manipur CM Biren is the root of all causes resulting from the present turmoil, he must be held accountable for all the agonies and he should be the first to disappear to end the conflict between the citizens of the state." - M Totomshana

[#LokSabha](#) [#Manipur](#)



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LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024: MANIPUR'S DISPLACED YEARN FOR PEACE BEFORE POLLS

Chingtham Ibomcha waited with a vacant expression to receive her daily meal at the Government Dance College auditorium in Imphal's Peace Compound, which serves as a shelter for the Meiteis who fled the Kuki-majority regions in conflict-hit Manipur. Hailing from Moreh, a town near the Indian-Myanmar border which is 120 km away, she escaped with her 15-year-old son on May 9, 2023, when Kuki miscreants reportedly set Meitei houses and shops on fire.

"We initially fled to Porampat, then to Akampat, seeking refuge near an Assam Rifles camp. Eventually, we found sanctuary here as tensions escalated," Chingtham, a widow, recounted to DH. "I couldn't salvage anything, everything was burnt down."

Chingtham hoped the government would allow them to go back home before the Lok Sabha elections scheduled on April 19 and 26.

Moreh comes under Outer Manipur, one of the two Lok Sabha seats in the northeastern state which still grapples with the ethnic clashes that broke out in May 2023.

The Election Commission's decision to open special polling booths near relief camps for displaced voters dashed Chingtham's hopes of returning home before the polls. The ongoing tensions in both the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley and the Kuki hills have prevented the displaced from returning, with no resolution to the conflict in sight even 11 months after the violence began.

Biren Chandam, another displaced Meitei, echoed Chingtham's concerns. "The political parties and the EC want us to vote amid the turmoil but no one is sure when peace will return," said Biren, who took shelter in the relief camp after his house at Cherow in Kakching district was set on fire. Even as Meiteis have fled the hills and the Kukis left the valley, Chandam, a driver, said, "I don't want to settle here in the valley."

No documents

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur, has asked all displaced persons to submit identification

documents 10 days before the polls. But several people taking shelter in the valley as well as Kuki hills told DH that they lost all papers in the violence that claimed over 200 lives and rendered nearly 70,000 displaced.

Voters undecided in Moreh

Kaleb Baite, a Kuki villager uprooted by conflict, sat in silence on a wooden bench with his wife Kimnei Lian at Moreh Government Higher Secondary School, where 79 Kuki-Zo people took shelter after their villages were allegedly attacked by the Meiteis on May 9. With the school's reopening, nearly half of the displaced have been relocated. "We are waiting for the direction of our civil society organisations... If they ask us to vote, we will. If they ask us to abstain, we will stay away from polling," said Baite, a carpenter. It was Easter Sunday and the couple had just returned from church services. "We all prayed for the restoration of peace so that we can go back home and start our life afresh."

Several influential Kuki organisations recently decided not to field a Kuki candidate in the Outer Manipur seat where Nagas and Kukis are dominant. The Naga People's Front and the Congress have fielded Naga candidates in the seat. The BJP and its ally have extended support to the NPF candidate.

"So far, no leader has approached us seeking votes. If they come, we will urge them to convince the Centre to give the Kukis a separate administration to end the conflict," he said.

Meanwhile, nearly 1,000 people from Kuki-Zo communities who fled to neighbouring Mizoram might miss the chance to vote as the Manipur CEO's office asked them to come back to cast their votes. Mizoram CM Lalduhoma told DH that the displaced people would not be able to vote in Mizoram as they are not in the electoral rolls in his state.

Published by: [Deccan Herald](#)



OPINION

Analysing Kuki-Zo Organisations' 'Boycott' Call

The Kuki-Zo civil societies, including KIM and ITLF, have called upon the people to refrain from contesting in the upcoming Lok Sabha election while allowing people to cast their votes. Even as they themselves must have waited with a sense of nervousness on the last day of nomination, it emerged that no Kuki-Zo has filed their candidature. In a sense, there are certain positives that can be seen from this. For one, it shows that inspite of so much bickering that happens within, especially those that arises from preferences over nomenclature, the people still listen to the leaders. The fact that no one filed nomination shows that somewhere down the line, our people are still united; that organisations are still respected; and even the armed groups are 'willing' to go by people's choice. On the other hand, among the Nagas, it is an open secret that NSCN-IM supports Zimik, the NPF candidate. While Alfred commands substantial support among the learned, his own kinsmen seem to be baying for his blood looking at the way his meetings have been disrupted. There is also a Zeliangrong candidate and a Poumai candidate. So, the cosmetic bandage that covers the so called Naga family will be seen fighting out not so much for Naga future but their own tribe's honour, glory and self respect. It will surely hasten the increasing divide within

them. That even the NSCN-IM could not achieve enforcing one single candidature speaks of the level of control it now has on the Nagas of Manipur. The bonhomie of the Tangkhuls and Meiteis in recent years would also increasingly make other Naga tribes uncomfortable. So, in a sense Kuki-Zo CSOs achieved what NSCN-IM couldn't and the Nagas must be secretly wondering and admiring the unity of the Kuki-Zo.

However, looking from a critic's point of view, the question that emerge is: If we are not contesting, why bother to vote at all. There has been well known history of election boycotts in India, especially the Naga's boycott of elections in 1952 and 1956. The call of Kuki-Zo CSOs to boycott contesting while giving freedom to vote has had mixed reactions. There are those that feel that if we are not contesting, there should be a clear boycott of the elections and no voting should be allowed in Kuki-Zo areas. Perhaps the Inpis are also afraid that calling for a full boycott might invite unnecessary clash with the Government of India which would forcefully try

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to ensure that elections happen. There are others that questions the very idea of boycotting at a time when we desperately need a voice in the Indian parliament. Besides, they argue, delimitation is going to take place in 2026 and not having a Kuki-Zo MP to speak for us might put our future at great risk. Therefore, the attempt of Pu WL Hangsing to file his nomination, they believe, was the right step though Hangsing himself has not pushed it further out of respect for the civil societies.

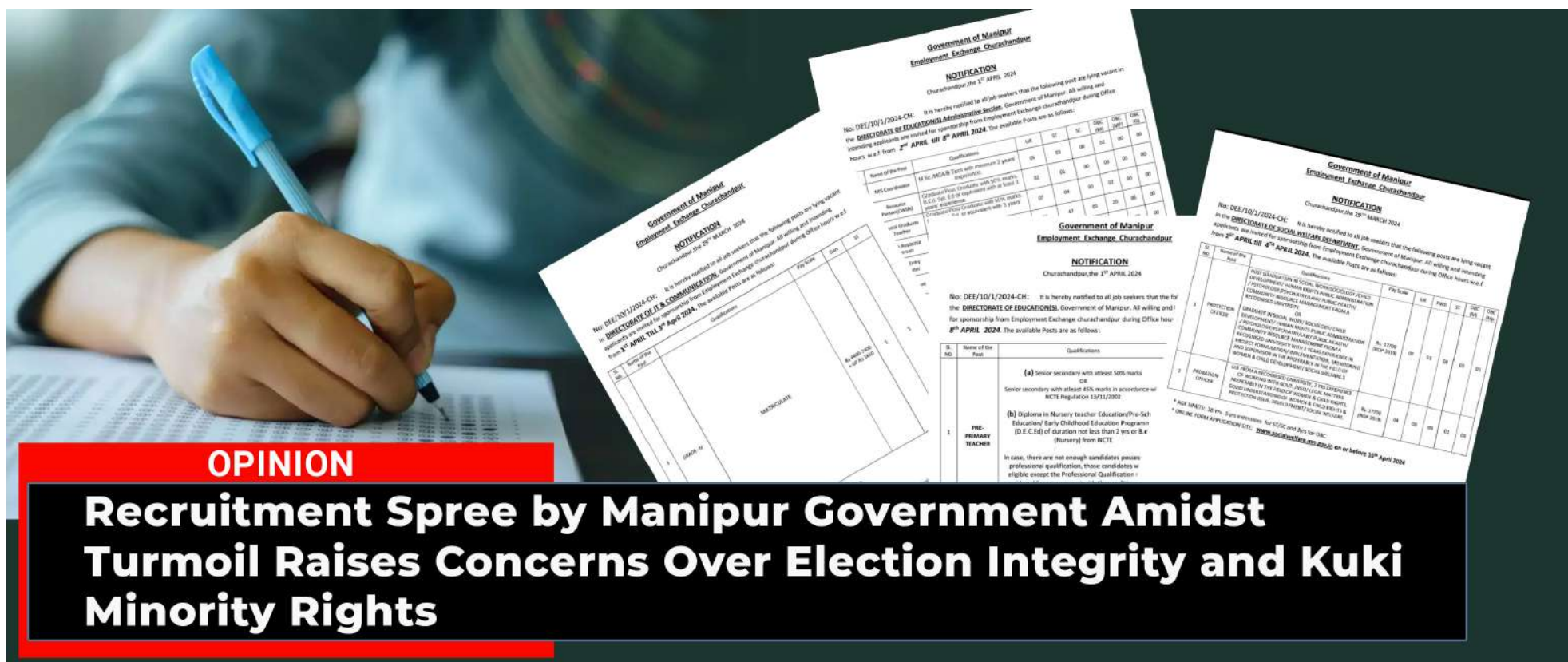
There can be various reasons why the CSOs gave a call to not file nomination. For one, we are in the middle of a war, an ethnic cleansing programme. All our energies, resources, hearts and minds, should be focused on strengthening our defenses to face any eventuality. Secondly, with so many Kuki-Zo displaced and scattered in different places of Manipur and in the country, the actual number of people who can actually vote would greatly decrease. Thirdly, elections bring out the basest instincts, and if doors of nominations were opened, no one knows how many people would have filed their nomination. This would result in contests and we Kuki-Zo haven't learned the art of friendly fights. We go all out and an all-out contest at such a time as this would greatly divert our focus from the greater threat that looms in our frontlines. Lastly, 'winability' might also be a question, and perhaps, choosing the lesser of the evils might be the game-plan.

The Kuki-Zo CSOs dictation has not been without its fair share of challenges as mentioned above. In Sadar Hills, the office of KSO and Kuki Inpi was locked by a group never heard of before. The so called Border Protection Force should have concerned themselves more with the frontline defence if it actually exist but they seem more like a front of some groups. Here, one must question the Kuki-Zo CSOs too. When they said all stake holders were consulted, was it only those

that are in Lamka? Or if the other districts were also consulted, was it a wide array of groups? While it might be difficult to consult every Tom, Dick and Harry, one short coming that is often seen is that we seem to be averse to dealing with the elephant in the room, i.e. the underground groups. Moreover, healthy debates, differences of opinions and democratic way of persuasions which are much more difficult but inclusive are often ignored for the short-cuts. Even the Inpis act like the Undergrounds and the attitude of the undergrounds are but an extension of the Village Chiefs. Much before we think of reforming the Chieftainship system, we have to seriously learn to dialogue, to consult and to encourage democratic practices.

One group that would have greatly missed an opportunity this time was Kuki People's Alliance (KPA). It might have been their best shot to gain national limelight whether they win or not. They might have sacrificed the opportunity for the greater good.

Lastly, when the war began, Kuki-Zo civil societies found it difficult to cope with the enormity and severity of the war that was unleashed upon us. They have been found wanting at times inspite of their best efforts. Perhaps, this election is a good time to redeem their lost ground, to earn back the respect, and also guide the people wisely at the crucial moments so that our generations doesn't have to pay for our folly today. Our people have listened to their call for boycott. We are waiting their further directions, and they better make wise ones.



OPINION

Recruitment Spree by Manipur Government Amidst Turmoil Raises Concerns Over Election Integrity and Kuki Minority Rights

The health of any functioning democracy is indicated by how well a government protects Minority rights and its role in promoting inclusive and harmonious co-existence.

Free and fair election is the soul of a functioning democracy and a level playing field for all, is its litmus test.

The Manipur government has been on a rampant recruitment spree for the past few months. With the current turmoil in the state and the ongoing electoral process, the intention of Manipur government to go ahead with such recruitment notifications raised questions like; What message does it intend to convey when the government's failure in the state, not only divided people on communal lines but also deprived the victims of their Fundamental Rights as a result of these recruitments? What necessitates the recruitment processes to be set to motion at this juncture? Can the government not withhold recruitments for when peace and normalcy returns in the state? Are these recruitment notifications an electoral gimmick to influence voters and also finance the election expenditures of candidates from the ruling party? Does it then, not violate the Model Code of Conduct?

The existence of Quid Pro Quo arrangements in Manipur for Government jobs is an open secret, why else would

Manipur be known for the extortionate “Cha thaknaba” affairs in various recruitment processes? In this arrangement, job aspirants grease the palm of various Ministers or MLAs of the state either directly or through their aides for Cha-Thaknaba (tea). In return for such tea-money, the Minister or MLA ensures that their names are accounted for in the recruited List. It is so widely practised that such illicit arrangements have lost their immoral and illegal character even among the majority public, and have become the tradition and norm everyone must follow to secure any and every state government job under the government of Manipur.

The craze for State Government jobs in Manipur knows no bounds. A peon post is worth Rs 7-10 lakhs of Cha-Thaknaba for ministers and MLAs. The commencement of any recruitment process for any Manipur government job could be noticed by the selling spree for tangible properties by aspirants, apparently a common phenomenon in the state. The higher the grade of the post, the costlier the Cha-Thaknaba is. The mushrooming and success of coaching institutes for SSC, Banking and other central government jobs in the small towns of

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Churachandpur (Lamka) and Kangpokpi(Kanggui) are glaring evidence that many poor and helpless students and aspirants are against the illegal and immoral practices of Cha-Thaknaba and their determination to find a path of their own to secure jobs from the central government since they are incapable of practicing the norm of Cha-Thaknaba culture that is ingrained to state services of Manipur.

The influence of money today in India's electoral politics in general and Manipur in particular is immense. The role of insurgent groups and Meitei terrorist outfits as kingmakers in the state is another open secret. What controls the Kingmaker? Money. The money of the candidate or political party is the bridge that connects the Candidate's demands for their support and the outfit's support. The extortionate demand by Arambai Tenggol chief Kourounganba Khuman in return for his support in the election did not come out of the thin air, it is rather a declaration that another contender for the role of kingmaker in the state has arrived, like many others of the past.

The recruitment notification of any Government job is perceived by netizens of Manipur as more of a business affair to nourish and enrich the monetary net worth of MLAs, ministers or the Party in power rather than a Government recruitment process. Election is a costly affair, even a big name national political party welcomes every penny to their account. As the money earned by these authorities through the recruitment process is not accounted for under the Receipt of Government Revenue, this money can be misappropriated by Ministers and MLAs who are loyal to their political parties to fund their election expenditure such as buying the blessings of kingmakers for the party candidates and other campaign activities. Government jobs can also act as a mechanism to garner strong local influence and support by striking deals to provide a certain numbers of job vacancies for their kin and close ones in return for their support in the election processes. Thus the recruitment notification against the backdrop of a Lok Sabha election is a serious threat to the level playing field for all and to the conduct of a free and fair election.

Recruitment notification influenced voters too. Aspirants who pay money for their jobs, give their allegiance to the party that the Minister or MLA belongs to. Ground reality suggests more than 70 per cent of the aspirants in the job recruitment pay money to the Minister or MLA either directly or indirectly via their aide. Paying money for the job itself is a risky investment whose success rate is minimal. Thus conformity to the Minister or MLA's happiness is the route they often seek. Thus until the Recruitment process ends, loyalty to the Minister or MLA is definite. As this influence the voters mindset and behavior, it violates the Model Code of Conduct.

The ground reality in Manipur for Kukis today is grim. The situation deprives them of their constitutional Fundamental Rights to Movement and Residence even within the state as provided under Article 19 (1)(d) and Article 19(1)(e). The deprivation of the above two rights has a spillover effect on their Right to practice the profession of their choice provided under Article 19(1)(g) of the constitution, as the final destination of the final recruitment process necessarily ends at Imphal which for the Kukis is the gateway to Hell. By depriving Article 19(1)(g), the Kukis are further reprieved of their Right to Livelihood under Article 21. The failure to ensure the Right to Movement and Residence under Article 19 implies any recruitment by the government that necessarily needs for their presence in the capital city of Imphal is a discrimination against the Kukis based on their race and residence. With a 99.99 per cent guarantee of their death, will Kuki dare take the risk of travelling to Meitei dominated areas? Any fool will give in. Thus equality of opportunity for all in matters of public employment is violated, on the grounds of discrimination based on race; that they belong to Kuki, and based on residence; that they can't have access to the capital city of Imphal.

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The Government of Manipur may justify, citing its conformity to procedures established by law. But what of Due Process of Law the Supreme Court in the Meneka Gandhi vs Union of India case(1978) held that the government must subscribe to it along with the Procedure Established by Law. The Right to Livelihood under Article 21 should satisfy the requirement of the Right to Movement, Residence and practice of the profession of their choice under Article 19. As the Kuki are deprived of these rights under Article 19 (1), it implies that the procedure followed itself is unfair, unreasonable and arbitrary.

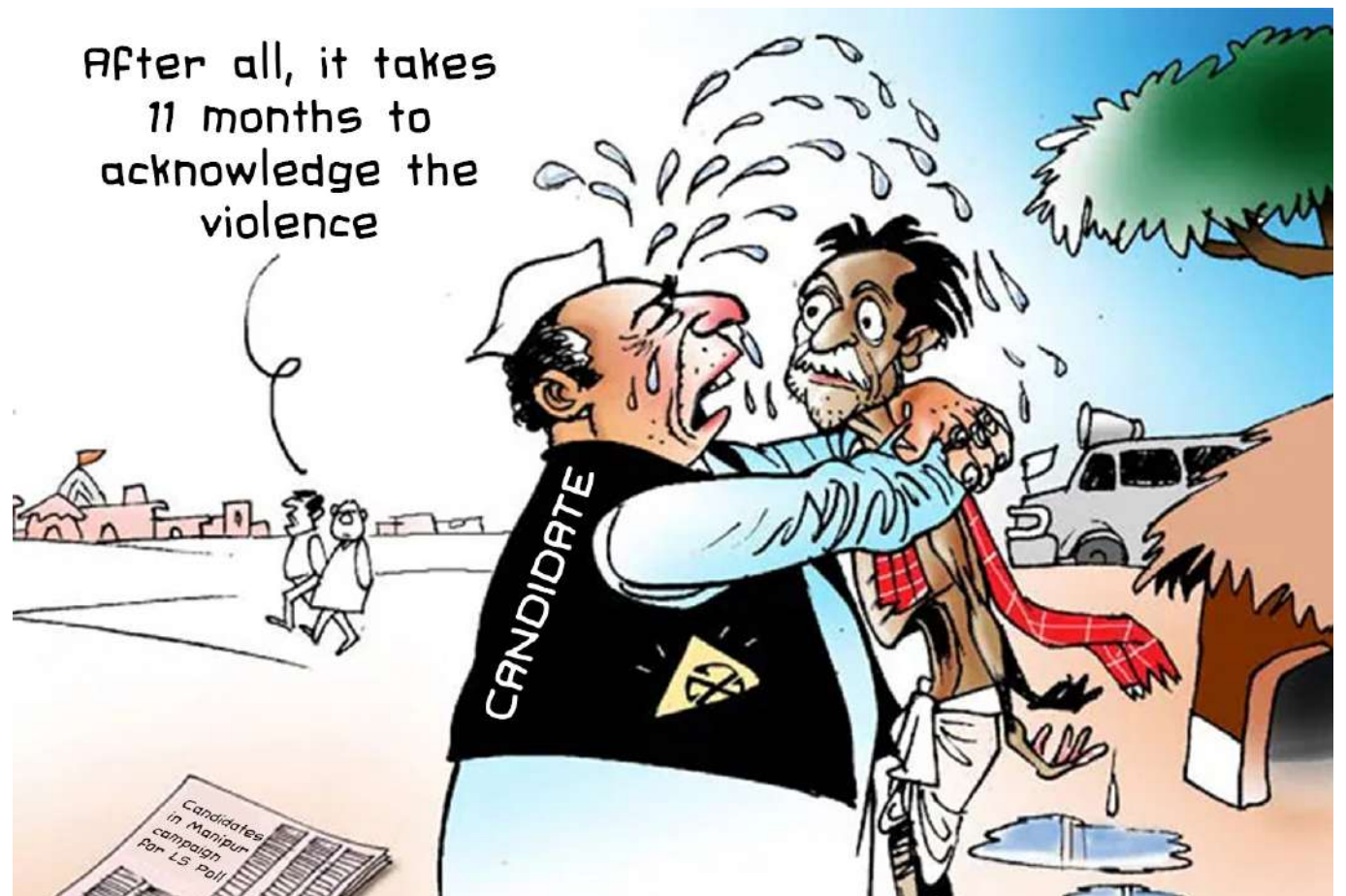
The deprivation of Kukis from these Fundamental Rights and Manipur government jobs could be another electoral gimmick the government sought to influence and garner the support of the Meitei public in the impending LS election. As the saying goes 'Actions speak louder than words', the activities, programs and functioning of the Biren-led government over the past months stand tall as evidence of his Government's

hatred, prejudices and discriminatory practices against the Kuki, to soothe their hatred and ego of the Meitei public. Will the Meitei public favour the redressal of injustices inflicted upon them in the recruitment process? The answer is no and so is the inaction by the government in power. Rather, to make them happy and soothe their ego for votes, the dormant recruitment process which is deprived of sunlight even in times of peace has to see the light in this turbulent time.

The above points are reasons why the recruitment process notified by the Manipur government needs the intervention of the Election Commission of India's as the process pose threats to a level playing field for all and free and fair elections which are a necessity for the conduct of a healthy democratic election, besides the Model Code of Conduct it violates.



LS POLL & THE CROCODILE TEARS






ECHOES OF SOLACE: THE PAIN WE FEEL TODAY, THE STRENGTH AND JOY FOR TOMORROW

Amidst the tumult of ethnic conflict in Manipur,
we, the Kuki-Zo's marched and proceeded,
Our hearts, weary, yet unswayed.
Through the turmoil, we sought the path to restore
peace,

A journey fierce, in darkness and dismay.
After the ethnic conflict, when the dust settles low,
Leaders will shake hands, as peace begins to grow.

But amidst the whispers of treaties and plans,
A mother waits, clutching memories of her martyred
son's hands.

She sits by the window, with tear-streaked face,
Her heart heavy with longing, for his warm embrace.
Across the land, other women stand in sorrow,
Waiting for husbands who won't return tomorrow.
Children, with eyes filled with innocence and grief,
Long for fathers who fought bravely, but had to go.



The pain we feel today, heavy burdens we bear,
Yet through the darkness, a glimmer of hope we dare to share.
For in the midst of grief, there lies strength untold,
In the hearts of the brave, in the stories yet untold.
Though the scars may remain, and the wounds run deep,
We find solace in the promises we keep.
For beyond the grief, beyond the strife,
Lies the promise of a brighter, more hopeful life.
With each passing day, our resolve grows strong,
As we rise above the pain, and sing our victory song.

For the pain we feel today, even though it remains,
Will prepare the way for joy to fill our hearts.
In the strength of our unity, in the bonds we share,
Lies the promise of a tomorrow, beyond compare.
Oh, Kuki-Zo's, seekers of joy and happiness,
Amidst the shadows, you rise and soar.
In the dawn of Independent Governance,
"the Separate Administration,"
Our journey towards peace, forevermore.
"The Pain We Feel Today, The Strength and Joy For Tomorrow"

~Thongminthang Lhungdim