

# Thingkho Le Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Saijang RELIEF CENTRE

Saijang Community & Temp. Hall,  
Sadar Hills

Managed by  
District Administration &  
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

**Total Inmates Registered: 101**



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.03.2024



**166**  
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.

# KUKI INPI TENGNOUNPAL ADVISES MEITEI MLAs TO FOCUS ON LAW AND ORDER IN VALLEY RATHER THAN POKING THEIR NOSES AT SOO

The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal has advised the Meitei MLAs to focus more on the law and order improvement in Imphal valley rather than poke their noses at the KNO/UPF peace agreement with the Centre which could be too costly for the Meiteis if abrogated.

KIT reiterated that the Soo agreement between the Centre and KNO/UPF should not be challenged and misused as a mere appeasement policy for the sake of Meiteis.

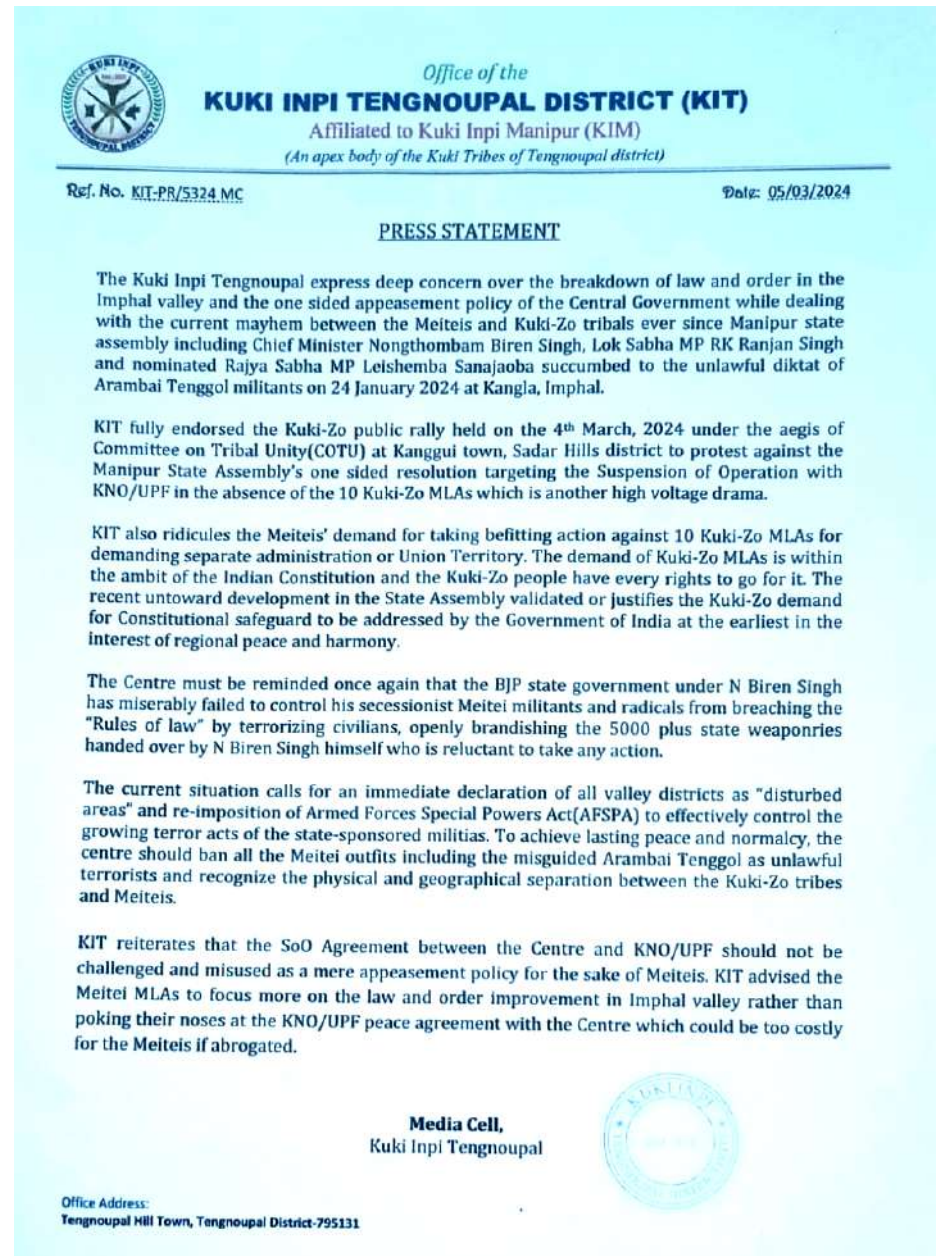
The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal issued a release on Tuesday and endorsed the Kuki-Zo public rally held on the March 4 under the aegis of Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU) at Kanggui town, Sadar Hills district to protest against the Manipur State Assembly's one sided resolution targeting the Suspension of Operation with KNO/UPF in the absence of the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs which is another high voltage drama.

In a release, KIT ridiculed the Meiteis' demand for taking action against 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs for demanding separate administration or Union Territory.

KIT stated that the demand of Kuki-Zo MLAs is within the ambit of the Indian Constitution and the Kuki-Zo people have every right to go for it.

The recent untoward development in the State Assembly validates or justifies the Kuki-Zo demand for Constitutional safeguard to be addressed by the Government of India at the earliest in the interest of regional peace and harmony, stated the release.

KIT reminded once again that the BJP state government under N Biren Singh has miserably failed to control his secessionist Meitei militants and radicals from breaching the "Rule of Law" by terrorizing civilians, openly brandishing the 5000 plus state weaponries handed over by N Biren Singh himself who is reluctant to take any action.



KIT stated that the current situation calls for an immediate declaration of all valley districts as "disturbed areas" and re-imposition of Armed Forces Special Powers Act(AFSPA) to effectively control the growing terror acts of the state-sponsored militias.

To achieve lasting peace and normalcy, the centre should ban all the Meitei outfits including the misguided Arambai Tenggol as unlawful terrorists and recognize the physical and geographical separation between the Kuki-Zo tribes and Meitei, stated the release.

# BJP MLA PAOLIENLAL HAOKIP EXPOSES ETHNIC RIFTS IN MANIPUR, CRITICIZES BIREN SINGH'S POLICIES

In a revealing interview with Karan Thapar, Paolienlal Haokip, a BJP MLA representing the Kuki community in Manipur, voiced his concerns about the state's current political and ethnic turmoil. Haokip accused Chief Minister Biren Singh of creating the Arambai Tenggol to consolidate his power and leverage against the central government, a move that has intensified the ethnic divide within the state.

## Deepening Ethnic Divides

Haokip's interview shed light on the deep-rooted ethnic tensions between the Kuki and Meitei communities in Manipur. He argued that the BJP-led state government, under Biren Singh's leadership, has favored the Meitei community, further alienating the Kuki population. This bias, according to Haokip, is evident in the government's support for Arambai Tenggol, a group accused of numerous anti-social activities.

## Government Actions and Inactions

The MLA also criticized the Manipur Assembly's decision to pass a bill criminalizing the renaming of places, a move seen as directly targeting the Kuki community. Moreover, Haokip pointed out the government's failure to address the activities of armed groups like the United National Liberation Front, which continue to operate with impunity. His attempts to raise these issues with national BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, have reportedly been ignored.

## Haokip's Stand and Future Prospects

Despite his grievances, Haokip reaffirmed his commitment to the BJP, expressing his determination to



'Arambai Tenggol is Biren Singh's Creation to Threaten Centre; Today It's More Important Than Govt'

[Click here to watch full interview](#)

fight for the party's future and ensure it represents all ethnic groups in Manipur fairly. He emphasized the need for the party to address the concerns of the Kuki community and work towards genuine peace and security in the region.

The interview with Karan Thapar highlights not only the ongoing ethnic strife in Manipur but also the complexities of politics within the BJP. Haokip's candid revelations call for a reevaluation of the party's strategies in northeastern India, particularly in states with diverse ethnic compositions like Manipur.

First published by [BNN](#)

“ The problem is not the problem. The problem is your attitude about the problem. ”  
– Anonymous

## 3 INSURGENTS NABBED WITH EXTORTED MONEY, STOLEN VEHICLE

Security forces in Manipur have arrested three individuals allegedly affiliated with insurgent groups in separate operations conducted over the past 48 hours.

In the first instance, police apprehended an active cadre of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (Lamyamba Khuman) from Imphal West.

Identified as Thokchom Iboyaima Singh, the individual was allegedly involved in extorting money from local businessmen and residents.

Police recovered three mobile phones, over Rs. 8,200 in cash, an identity card, and a four-wheeled vehicle from his possession. A case has been registered for further investigation.

Secondly, security forces operating in the Kamjong district bordering Myanmar arrested two members of



the outlawed Kanglei Yaol Kanna Lup.

One of the apprehended individuals, identified as Angom Thoiba Meitei alias Pari, hails from the Kakching district. The third individual is reportedly minor. The police have registered cases against both individuals and are conducting further inquiries.

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## MANIPUR OPPOSITION URGES THIRD PARTY INTERVENTION TO END VIOLENCE

Former Manipur chief minister and opposition leader O Ibobi Singh suggested the Manipur government to seek the intervention of the central government as a neutral mediator to initiate dialogue and resolve the ongoing ten-month-long violence in the Northeast state.

Ibobi suggested an immediate announcement to cease firing from both sides and to disarm them, accompanied by a warning of stern action against violators.

This, he believes, would halt the violence and pave the way for dialogue.

He presented these recommendations during a brief discussion on the final day of the fifth session of the



12th Manipur legislative assembly, emphasizing the toll the violence has taken on lives and property since its outbreak on May 3 last year.

Source; [NE Now](#)

# FREE MOVEMENT REGIME HASN'T BEEN SCRAPPED YET, SAYS MANIPUR CM BIREN SINGH

Nearly a month after Union home minister Amit Shah's announcement on the government scrapping the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar, Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh told the state assembly that "it has not been scrapped yet."

On February 8, Shah said that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had written to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to end the bilateral understanding with the neighbouring country.

However, the MEA has thus far not issued any formal statement on the MHA's request.

On March 4, the last day of the Winter Session of the Manipur assembly, Biren Singh said the FMR has not been scrapped yet. "Nonetheless, the state government has been suspending the FMR for every six months with due consent of the Government of India," he said.

In reply to a question by MLA and state Congress chief Meghachandra, the chief minister said that the Manipur state administration had suspended the FMR with Myanmar since 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the arrangement has continued.

"The latest notification for suspension of FMR was issued on February 16 this year. In the meantime, the Government of India is expected to issue an order whereby FMR would be scrapped totally," the chief minister told the House.

On referring to some recent media reports about the arrest of "illegal immigrants from Myanmar" in Manipur, in spite of the suspension of the FMR, the chief minister said that citizens of the two countries "can move across the border if they are permitted by authorities of both the countries even though FMR has been suspended."

While there has been a longstanding demand from Manipur's Meitei community to fence the international border the northeastern state shares with Myanmar, citing the issue of 'illegal immigrants' entering the



Indian state through it, their last ten-month-long ethnic strife with the state's Kuki community has also seen a vociferous demand to not only fence the border but also scrap the FMR understanding too, as per which people residing on both sides can cross the international border up to 16 kilometres without passport.

Several Meitei civil society groups have been alleging that "illegal immigrants" have intruded into the border areas populated by the Kuki community, who share kinship with those across the international boundary, thereby posing a threat to the population of the majority community.

Even as the Narendra Modi government's decision to scrap India's FMR with Myanmar has been welcomed by the majority Meitei population of Manipur, it has been vehemently opposed not only by the Kukis of the state but also by the Mizos and Nagas across Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland.

Both the Mizoram and Nagaland assemblies have passed resolutions to oppose the Centre's decision, citing kinship with the people across the international border.

Mizoram chief minister Lalduhoma has recently met Shah in New Delhi on the matter. The Naga Students' Federation has written to the United Nations to intervene on the subject.

Source: [The Wire](#)

# CHURACHANDPUR DISTRICT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RETURNS, GREETED WITH TRADITIONAL SHAWL; REFLECTING ON FEB 15 TRAGEDY

Following the tumultuous events of February 15, 2024, wherein an enraged public besieged the Mini-Secretariat Complex in Tuibong, resulting in tragic fatalities and injuries, Deputy Commissioner Dharun Kumar of Churachandpur District has now returned to his duties in the district headquarters, after a period of seclusion in Imphal, wrapped with traditional shawl. Will the SP, Mr. Shivanand Surve, receive the same welcome?? Fingers Crossed!

During the February incident, the public stormed the complex over the unjust and insensitive suspension of a police head constable, leading to loss of lives and widespread unrest. Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) and other Churachandpur-based CSOs demanded the reversal of the constable's suspension, issuing ultimatums to senior officials.

Despite persistent calls for their removal from Churachandpur, Deputy Commissioner Dharun Kumar has resumed his official duties without even flinching. This return has raised eyebrows, as the same officer had previously faced strong criticism for his inept handling of the February 15 events.

The events of that fateful night continue to haunt the collective memory, with unresolved compensation issues for victims and their families. Since then, the DC has stationed himself in the Imphal valley for reasons best known to him.

However, despite persistent efforts by various CSOs for the transfer from Churachandpur district, the DC of Churachandpur district, Mr. Dharun Kumar is back this time by conducting meetings, even with a certain CSO.

Our memory is indeed short - the ones protesting against his administration are now welcoming him with all sorts of garlanding. Only a few weeks have passed since the February 15 incident, where various CSOs have held the DC and SP responsible for the mess, but to the bewilderment of the general populace, the most disliked person in town is now welcomed heartily.



The main reason for the February 15 protest was the outright suspension of a Kuki police Head Constable for clicking selfies with young girls wearing assorted colour dresses and were officially considered as Village Volunteers. Even then, Village Volunteers are not a part of any unlawful organization. Untoward incidents could have been avoided if the concerned SP had factored in the sentiments of the district as the other SPs of the Valley districts have done for the subordinates under them. But, some inexperienced and egoistic IAS and IPS officers do not care for the people they are serving. An order was summarily issued by the SP, with the knowledge of the DC Dharun Kumar, without any preventive measures in place. The DC had probably issued Sec 144 CrPC but it was way too late to effectively enforce it. He and Mr Surve nonchalantly belittled the sentiments of Kuki citizens of Churachandpur District. Both of them are morally responsible for the deaths of the innocents, the injured and the eventual burning of offices and bungalows.

The DC and SP should remember that there is no such thing as "Obedient or Peaceful Mob." The SP should have made adequate security arrangements beforehand. The SP and DC should have multi-contingency plans and Crisis Management Plans in place to deal with any situation. Both the DC

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and SP failed to carry out their bounden duties as expected of IAS and IPS officers.

The CBI should exhaustively inquire into the mob violence and the armed forces' actions that night. If both the DC and SP are culpable, then FIR should be filed against them and necessary legal action should be taken accordingly for instigating homicidal firings, dereliction of duty and losing the confidence of the general public by using excessive force.

The murderous firings on the night of 15th Feb 2024 was of the most disturbing degree! I've never heard such murderous firings upon civilians before. Blank-firings should be done in the air and "warning-shot" be fired upon the ground, and even if firing is done upon the public the norm is to fire below the waist as the law stipulates minimum use of force. But on that night, the jawans opened fire directly upon unarmed

public in automatic mode as if they were in a gunbattle. The jawans were so ill equipped that there were not even enough rubber bullets. Mr S Surve allegedly displayed his AK assault-rifle and ordered the jawans to open fire-at-will. Now we have our own Governor Dwyer (Dharun Kumar DC) and Gen Dyer (Shivanand Surve SP).

However volatile the situation might be, the local police officers could talk to the local citizens more effectively. Mr Surve's disdain for the district police forces is understandable, considering the fact that he has been hand-picked by the Meitei CM to be posted here. Even if due action is not taken against them, it would be best for Mr Surve and Mr Dharun Kumar to apply for voluntary transfer on moral grounds, and even if their master, Mr CM, thinks otherwise. Blood on their hands is blood on their service records.

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## MANIPUR GOVERNMENT TO SOON ENFORCE LAW ENDING HEREDITARY CHIEFTAINSHIP IN HILL REGIONS: MEITEI MLA RK IMO

The Manipur government is set to enforce a law that will put an end to the practice of hereditary chieftainship in the state's hill regions.

This information was shared by BJP MLA Rajkumar Imo Singh on X, a platform formerly known as Twitter. The move is seen as an attempt to bring about equality and democratic governance in these areas.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh announced in the Manipur assembly on Monday that the government will enforce an Act from 1967 aimed at abolishing hereditary chieftainship.

The Act, which received Presidential assent in June 1967, has not yet been implemented, allowing chieftains to continue establishing villages based on hereditary practices. Imo Singh, the son-in-law of the Chief Minister

and a BJP MLA, highlighted the need for the Act's implementation, noting that Manipur is the only North Eastern state where it has not been enforced. He pointed out that Mizoram implemented a similar act in 1954.

The hereditary chieftainship system has been criticized for its potentially exploitative nature, often leading to nepotism and autocracy.

Manipur, which borders Myanmar, is still experiencing unrest 10 months after violent clashes erupted between the hill-majority Kuki-Zo tribes and the valley-majority Meiteis over land, resources, political representation, and affirmative action policies. Following these clashes, 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs have called for a separate administration to be carved out from Manipur.





**THE HINDU****FEATURED EDITORIAL****Law and Disorder: On Manipur, Its Ethnic Polarisation and its Law and Order**

One of the cardinal principles of a functioning and modern democracy is that only the state, led by a government that is elected by the people, has a legitimate right to use or to authorise the use of physical force. When civilian groups resort to violence against state actors without repercussions, one has to call into question the maintenance of law and order in the State of Manipur. In late February, cadres of the Meitei chauvinist group, the Arambai Tenggol, allegedly abducted a police officer, assaulted him and vandalised his home. Police officers protested the attack, lamenting their inability to take action against the group. It is another matter that the group has managed to source its weapons from the looting of police stations in the valley following the ethnic conflagration last May. Many of the weapons are yet to be seized or returned despite the government's appeals. The police in the valley are heavily ethnicised with barely any representation from the Kuki-Zo minority. Yet, the impunity with which the Arambai Tenggol has acted against a police official, and even assaulted a leader of the opposition in the recent past besides administering oath to legislators from the valley to pledge for its majoritarian cause, suggest that such actions have either the nod of the leadership of the State government or have been deliberately ignored. The severe ethnicisation in the valley and the hills has also granted a degree of popularity to groups such as the Arambai Tenggol and counterparts in the

hills, making law enforcement difficult to achieve.

It is now incumbent upon the Union government and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to take into account the severity of the ethnic polarisation and the dangers posed to law and order. Humanitarian concerns related to the displacement of people apart, the predominance of extra-legal forces in public life in the valley and the hills points to the delegitimisation of the idea of the state alone having a monopoly over the use of physical force in establishing law and order. The rampant radicalisation provides an opportunity for the muzzled civic voices in Manipur, and in the valley in particular, to raise their concerns about the impunity enjoyed by such forces. Unless the Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, cracks the whip on the Arambai Tenggol, the radicalisation of Manipuri society will continue, making a return to a much-needed civic state of affairs all the more difficult. But with Mr. Singh acting less as a Chief Minister and more as a leader promoting majoritarian politics, it is incumbent upon the BJP leadership to yet again rethink its strategy to let the status quo continue in the State.

Click here to read on [The Hindu](#)

# AN OPEN LETTER TO UNITED NAGA COUNCIL, MANIPUR

Dear **UNITED NAGA COUNCIL, Manipur,**

This is not an official rejoinder to your press release dated 2nd February 2024, but treat it as a heart felt response from a Kuki-Zo volunteer. You have given us a warning citing some of the issues that you assert have hurt you. Now, lets look at the origin of this conflict. It started with Meiteis demanding ST status which we tribals( both Naga and Kuki-Zo) were against it since it would put us at a great disadvantage vis-a-vis Meiteis. So, after deliberations, our apex tribal student's body ATSUM called for a mass protest. While that protest happened in all hill areas, problems started in Lamka after volunteers who had returned from the town to the periphery villages were assaulted by the Meiteis. One thing led to another and by evening, Meiteis selectively targeted Kuki-Zo in Imphal and the savagery was there for all to see. Given the fact that we were all trying to fight together for tribal rights, it was logical that Manipur Nagas should have stood by our side and sent strong messages against Meiteis if they would escalate the violence. But what did you all do except for your stoic silence. Its like two brothers going to fight together against a vicious neighbour but one suddenly changing stance and deciding to be 'neutral' when the neighbour reacted violently. If there ever was one community that can feel grieved against your betrayal, it is the Kuki Zo.

Secondly, the case of the burning of a Liangmai house in Leimakhong is blown out of proportion. Please remember that the said house caught fire during retaliatory burning of Meitei houses. Moreover, since the occupants were Meiteis, no body had the time to research the owner of the house at the heat of the moment. We were threatened to pay Rs. 20 Lakhs which was not only a heavy sum at a time such as



this and that too for a house which didn't deserve that high amount. But we complied not wanting to grieve the family further. Our Liangmai brothers should have realised that we were fighting for our common future instead of trying to act vengeful.

Thirdly, with regard to the harrasing of a Naga driver, the act of the Kuki underground was condemnable. Yet, it is a given that all insurgent groups collect taxes in their respective regions and this menace is as prevalent in Kuki areas as it is in Naga areas. The blank firing case is another unfortunate episode for which actions of such reckless jackasses need no defending. However, four of our Kuki civilians were butchered deep inside Ukhrul district. Not to forget the burning of villages within Ukhrul district. The Meiteis cannot reach there without crossing many Tangkhul areas, and a certain Manipur Naga Revolutionary Front was also involved in the Killing. Did we threaten any Naga living nearby because of that? Is the Killing of Kukis justified?

What about the safe passages that Meitei insurgents from Burma are getting via Ukhrul? Do

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you all understand that we also can get hurt? That too for fighting alone for something we started together? Or were we lured to a trap? We know that Meiteis are trying their best to draw you all in the conflict and are waiting for us to make mistakes. Therefore, we didn't even react to the killing of Kukis in Ukhul even though it has hurt us. Though much grieved, we also remember the Naga individuals who gave us shelter in Imphal on those unforgettable nights, and those who assisted us tremendously by tending to our injured; those contributing sacrificial reliefs especially from Senapati and Tamenglong districts. We also can't forget the help that Nagaland Nagas rendered to us. We shall remember them. Yet, at such difficult times, a warning letter from UNC is very unwarranted.

In the initial days of the war, our leaders approached you to join hands together. Your response was that you will get back to us but that day never came. You all have been fighting for Greater Nagalim which was to carve out portions of Manipur. Looking at your attitude in this war, those high sounding shibboleths of the Naga national workers from the South seem all an eye wash. If claimants to hill districts is a concern, tribal Christians can surely chalk out such issues in a give-and-take manner since we live in contiguous areas. The British opened sub-divisions after our surrender in the Kuki Uprising 1917-19, and the headquarters were placed in your villages for fear of disturbance if placed in Kuki villages. That doesn't mean that all hill areas belong to you. We wouldn't have fought the British for almost 3 years if we were not defending our land, and as much as it belongs to you, it also belongs to us. Each village was an independent entity and didn't belong to any particular tribe.

You know well that the greatest hindrance to your political dream is the Meiteis with their avowed pledge to defend Manipur's territorial integrity. Today, if our churches can be burnt, one day, yours can be burnt too. Your silence and 'neutrality' in this conflict shows that you are preferring short term benefit for the cost of perpetual subjugation. Some of the influential ones

among you even seem to be consigning themselves to a future with their Meitei 'brothers'.

Meitei have 40 MLAs in an Assembly of 60; they control all the state machineries. Our foolish leaders gave them a foothold in Lamka, Kangpokpi and Moreh. Now, via the ST status, they want access to all our land. With the kind of financial clout they have, in few years they will finish buying all our land, including 'Naga Hills' in Manipur. There will be no reservation in the state and they will eat up all tribal jobs in the centre. Infact, Kuki-Zo from Lamka might still be able to compete with Meiteis but what about us Kuki-Zo and Nagas from Kangpokpi, Chandel, Tamenglong, Tengnoupal, Ukhul? Do we stand a chance? What then explains such cloudy vision from your leadership? Has the safety of your homes in Imphal become the most important political vision?

As for us, we are done living under the domination and subjugation of the Meiteis. We don't know whether we will win or lose, but at least our grandchildren will be proud that we fought with all our might with our heads held high instead of bowing to a barbaric and savage civilisation. They might have all the state machineries but we have the will, a desire to be free. We leave it to you to choose your path but as for us, we will never again barter our dignity with pigs and compensations! Lastly, please remember that though we are fighting alone, we are still fighting on our (Naga and Kuki-Zo) behalf. Our victory will be your victory and our loss will be your loss. If we lose, know that you are the next target of the Meiteis. The least you can do is to at least give us moral support.

Yours sincerely,

**David Kuki,**  
A Kuki Village Volunteer

# THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

ITLFMediaCell (A) @ITLFMedia\_Cell

The communal Meitei government continues to take advantage of the absence of the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs.

In the absence of any opposition, they'll continue to bulldoze their fascist acts and policies, all with the objective of grabbing tribal ancestral lands.

These perennial majoritarian, subjugating acts of the Meiteis has been a contributing factor to the ethnic violence that has been escalating since May 3, 2023.

#EthnicCleansingOfManipurTribals #SeparateAdministration #ManipurViolence #UnionTerritoryWithLegislature4KukiZo

BhaiPal @RayiCis

The absolute state of distraught is evident when armoured vehicles like MPVs are deemed necessary for state forces,

underscoring the profound deterioration of the situation in #Manipur.

If this isn't a failure on the part of the government, then I don't know what is.

@PMOIndia



N. Biren Singh (Modi Ka...) @NBirenSingh

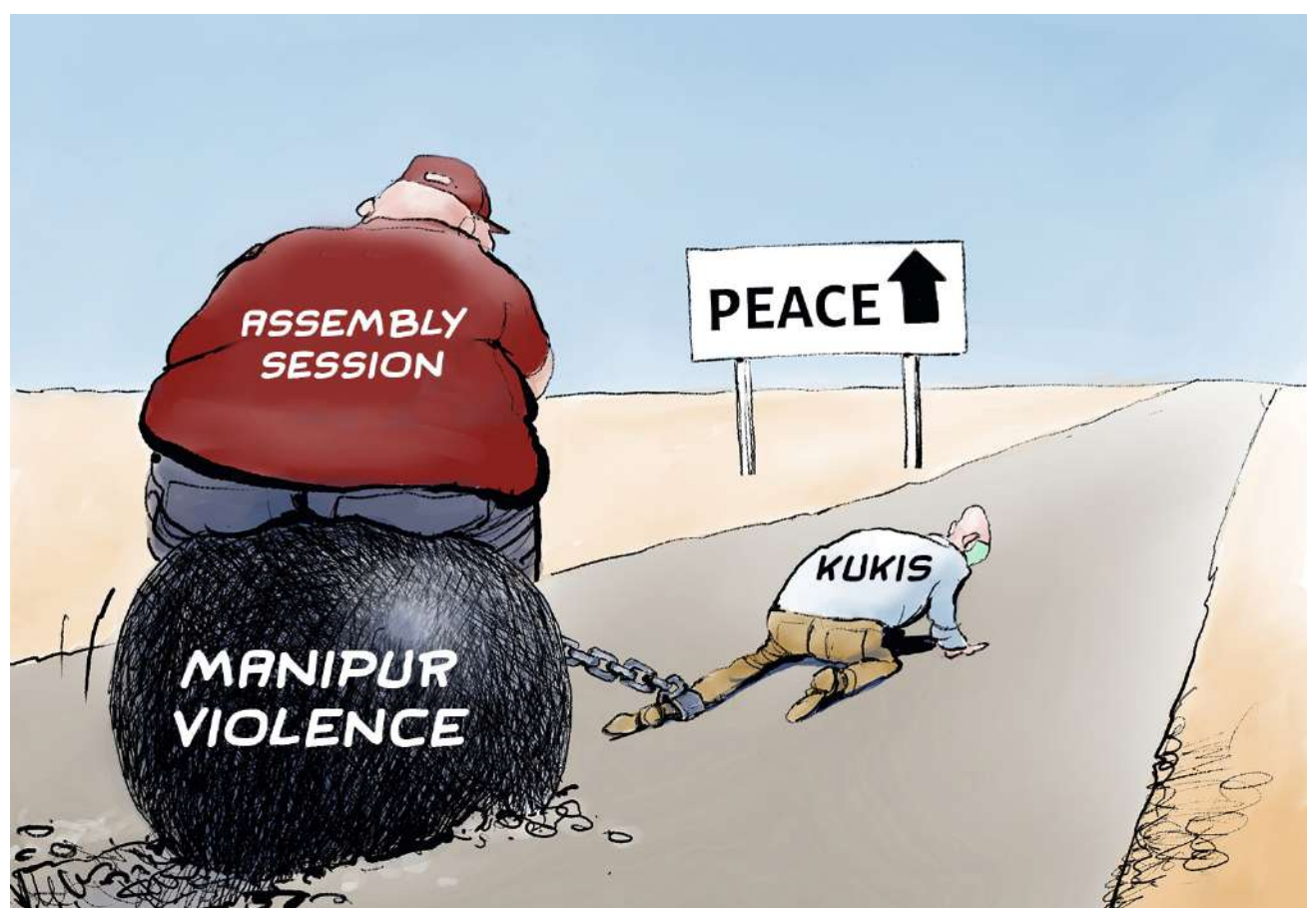
Follow

Launched the Mine Protected Vehicle (MPV) for the Manipur Police at 1st Bn. Manipur Rifle, Imphal.

With the ever vigilant service of Manipur Police, this addition will enhance our capabilities in ensuring the safety and security of our citizens. Together, we'll continue striving towards a safer and more secure Manipur.



## MANIPUR'S NO PEACE ASSEMBLY SESSION





# 'T WAS A pleasant DAY IN MAY

- Deikin Haokip

'Twas a pleasant day in May  
The city bustled it's way into the day  
Students to school and the rest to work  
Out to make hay while the sun shone  
Who would have thought it would turn so grey.

'Twas a pleasant day in May  
The hills echoed with a cry for justice  
A peaceful march of a thousand kindred spirits  
Young and old alike, for a better tomorrow  
Unbeknownst of the calamity at bay.

'Twas a pleasant day in May  
With dusk came chaos like never before  
A night of terror with a mob to rob  
To hunt to kill, to burn to erase  
An entire community, out of hatred and rage.

'Twas a pleasant day in May  
A race against time for dear life;  
Some hid, others sought shelter and many fled  
A few unfortunate, butchered and slain  
Once a harmonious place, we became prey.

'Twas a pleasant day in May,  
As unkind as it was for us, we dare to hope.  
May we be strengthened in our sufferings,  
May we rise from the ashes to stand ever tall;  
May the lives we lost, the dreams that broke,  
May they never be for naught !!!!