

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**POLITICAL SOLUTION
MUST PRECEDE PEACE**



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.04.2024



170
DEATHS



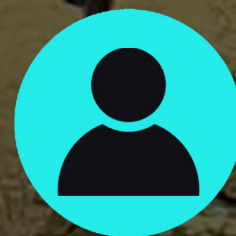
200+
VILLAGES BURNT



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.

KSO-GHQ CONDEMNS DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION ON ALLEGED 'MEITEIS DISENFRANCHISEMENT'

The Kuki Students' Organisation, General Headquarters (KSO-GHQ), strongly condemned the dissemination of false information in a recent news article purportedly depicting the situation of Meiteis in relief camps in Manipur.

In a press statement, KSO-GHQ said the article published by Swarajya misrepresented the ground reality and misled the public with its biased narrative.

"First and foremost, KSO-GHQ categorically denies the baseless allegations that Kuki organizations have systematically disenfranchised Meiteis or any other community from exercising their democratic rights. The claim that Kukis prevented Meiteis from voting is utterly false and lacks any factual basis," it said.

Furthermore, the article's portrayal of the Meiteis living in squalid conditions in relief camps due to the alleged persecution by Kukis is grossly inaccurate, it added.

The statement also stated that the fabricated accounts of Meiteis being intimidated and threatened by Kukis to deter them from voting were utterly false and defamatory. Such allegations only served to stoke tensions and undermined the peaceful cohabitation that Kukis have long fostered in Manipur.

KSO-GHQ urged media outlets to exercise responsible journalism and refrain from publishing sensationalised and misleading narratives that sowed discord among communities. It also called on Swarajya and other media platforms to retract the aforementioned article and issue a public apology for disseminating misinformation.

"While it is crucial to address any genuine concerns regarding communal tensions, it is equally important to avoid sensationalising isolated incidents that



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1. KSO Churachandpur (Manipur)	10. KSO Assam	19. KSO Mumbai (Maharashtra)
2. KSO Sadar Hills (Manipur)	11. KSO Dibrugarh (Assam)	20. KSO Pune (Maharashtra)
3. KSO Chandel District (Manipur)	12. KSO Silchar (Assam)	21. KSO Bangalore (Karnataka)
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Ref. No.

Date 06-04-2024

PRESS RELEASE

The Kuki Students' Organisation General Headquarters (KSO-GHQ) strongly condemns the dissemination of false information in a recent news article purportedly depicting the situation of Meiteis in relief camps in Manipur. The article, published by Swarajya, misrepresents the ground reality and misleads the public with its biased narrative.

First and foremost, KSO-GHQ categorically denies the baseless allegations that Kuki organizations have systematically disenfranchised Meiteis or any other community from exercising their democratic rights. The claim that Kukis prevented Meiteis from voting is utterly false and lacks any factual basis.

Furthermore, the article's portrayal of Meiteis living in squalid conditions in relief camps due to alleged persecution by Kukis is grossly inaccurate.

Moreover, the fabricated accounts of Meiteis being intimidated and threatened by Kukis to deter them from voting are utterly false and defamatory. Such allegations only serve to stoke tensions and undermine the peaceful cohabitation that Kukis have long fostered in Manipur.

KSO-GHQ urges media outlets to exercise responsible journalism and refrain from publishing sensationalised and misleading narratives that sow discord among communities. We call on Swarajya and other media platforms to retract the aforementioned article and issue a public apology for disseminating misinformation.

While it is crucial to address any genuine concerns regarding communal tensions, it is equally important to avoid sensationalising isolated incidents that could exacerbate existing divisions. The recent news article in question fails to provide a comprehensive and balanced perspective on the situation, thereby contributing to the polarisation of communities.

We encourage media outlets to exercise due diligence in verifying information and to refrain from amplifying narratives that could fuel animosity and mistrust among communities.

Issued by
Department of Information & Publicity
KSO General Headquarters



could exacerbate existing divisions," KSO said, adding that the recent news article in question failed to provide a comprehensive and balanced perspective on the situation, thereby contributing to the polarisation of communities.

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HISTORICAL ERROR ON MANIPUR MERGER AGREEMENT WITH UNION OF INDIA RECTIFIED

Against the backdrop of the Meitei extremists' defiance of the Manipur Merger Agreement with the Union of India, the National Council of Educational and Research Training (NCERT) has rectified the historical error of "pressurising" the then Meitei King with "persuading" the signatory.

On page 18, in the first chapter of the Class 12 book, on reference of Manipur, the existing version reads, "The Government of India succeeded in pressurising the Maharaja into signing a Merger Agreement in September 1949, without consulting the popularly elected Legislative Assembly of Manipur. This caused a lot of anger and resentment in Manipur, the repercussions of which are still being felt."

In the changed version reference of Manipur has been dropped and the revised statement is, "The Government of India succeeded in persuading the Maharaja into signing a Merger Agreement in September 1949."

Tweaking the reference to Manipur's merger with India as well as dropping lessons on the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya and the killing of Muslims in the 2002 Gujarat riots are among the latest set of revisions made public by NCERT in its textbooks.

While NCERT did not comment on the topics being dropped, officials said the tweaks are part of the routine update and are not linked to the development of new books as per the New Curriculum Framework (NCF). The changes have been made in the Political Science textbooks of Classes 11 and 12 among others.

The Meitei public, their civil society organisations and their militant outfits have been contending the infamous Manipur Merger Agreement, and demanded to review it with India even after 75 years since its signing in 1949. They alleged that the merger agreement was signed



under duress and demanded "pre-merger status". However, it was the Kukis who had opposed the Merger Agreement. The Meiteis welcomed it by organising their ritual of "Thabal Chongba".

When the British left India in 1947, Manipur became an 'independent' state, ruled by Maharaja Bodhchandra Singh, however, this lasted for a short period. On 11 August 1947, the Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession introduced by India, under which it became an independent state, except for matters related to defence, external affairs and communication which were handed over to the Union of India.

However, in 1949, the Maharaja Bodhchandra Singh signed a Merger Agreement with the Union of India on 21 September 1949, which became effective on 15 October that year.

CHRISTIAN BODIES UPHOLD SECULAR INDIA; SEEK FREE, FAIR, PEACEFUL 18TH LOK SABHA ELECTIONS IN MANIPUR

The Kuki Christian Leaders' Fellowship (KCLF), a conglomerate of Christian denominations among Kukis, unanimously resolved to uphold secularism in India and directed all its constituent members to vote for political parties which will protect religious freedom and minority rights in the forthcoming Lok Sabha Election.

The resolution was made unanimously at the KCLF Executive meeting held on the 5th of April, 2024 at ECA Head Office, Vide Resolution No.1.

In a statement, the Fellowship advised all the leaders of their churches, both Pastors and Elders, to educate and encourage their respective members to exercise their franchise in the coming 18th Lok Sabha elections.

KCLF said that Indian Christians, particularly tribal Christians of Northeast, have contributed much for nation building in the past and asserted that they should continue to do so as rightful citizens of the country.

With regard to the ensuing 18th Lok Sabha elections, the All Manipur Christian Organisation (AMCO) has sought for an ethical and peaceful electoral process.

In a press statement on Saturday, the Christian organisation said, "In the context of ongoing ethnic



tensions and widespread concerns about violence, vote-buying, and other malpractices, this election must uphold the highest standards of fairness and integrity.

AMCO appealed to election officials, political parties, civil society groups, and all voters to join hands in ensuring that the upcoming elections are not marred by violence, coercion, or any form of electoral malpractices.

"As Manipur stands at this pivotal moment, the Christian organisation seeks the LS elections be guided by the wisdom of political philosophers like Locke and Rousseau, and the eternal principles of Christian faith," it added.



**Leadership is not about next election,
it's about the next generation.**

— *Simon Sinek*

HEIROK LOCALS DETAIN POLICE COMMANDO OVER ATTEMPTED ARREST ON INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE TOTOMSANA

Tension erupted at Heirok in Thoubal District, after Police along with District Election Officer Imphal East, Kh. Diana and SP Thoubal Rakesh Balwal, tried to arrest Independent Lok Sabha Candidate, Totomsana Nongshaba today.

Thousands of Supporters confronted the security forces forcing the personnel to take refuge at the Heirok Police Station. Thoubal SP, DC Imphal East along with 11 Convoy of security forces comprising of Police, Commando and Manipur Rifles who came to arrest Independent Candidate To-tom-sana Nong-shaba had to rush inside the Police station.

Meanwhile the Irate Mob have surrounded the Police Station and demanded the District Election Officer



Imphal East to revoke the complaint and all security personnel who came along with the DC and SP to leave Heirok.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION RECOVERED FROM BISHNUPUR AND KAKCHING

Acting on specific intelligence regarding the presence of arms and ammunition in the general area of Nambol Maibam in the Bishnupur district of Manipur, Assam Rifles, and Manipur Police including commandos and CRPF launched a joint search operation on Saturday.

The joint team recovered one Sten Gun Carbine, One 9 mm pistol, one modified 303 rifle, nine grenades, ammunition, and war-like stores, the police said.

The operation was the follow-up actions that were carried out on Friday at an area of Terapishak Natekhong village, the adjacent district of Kakching. The joint team 'recovered' two carbine semi-machine guns along with



two empty magazines and four hand grenades.

The recovered items were handed over to the concerned police stations.

Source: [NE Now](#)

SECURITY FORCES IN CONFLICT-HIT MANIPUR FEAR USE OF MUSCLE POWER IN LOK SABHA POLLS

The sight of young boys clad in camouflage — some of them in bulletproof vests — moving around carrying ‘licenced’ weapons in front of the central security forces, both in Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley and the Kuki hills in conflict-hit Manipur, has raised fears about the use of muscle power in the run up to the Lok Sabha polls.

“They have all sorts of weapons, AK-series rifles, INSAS, mortars, LMGs and pistols. Most of the weapons were looted from the India Reserve Battalions in the Valley during the conflict,” a senior officer of a central security force told DH in Imphal, while pointing to the camps of Arambai Tenggol, a radical armed group of the Meitei community, found in every localities of the state capital.

Nearly 6,000 weapons were allegedly snatched by members of Arambai Tenggol and other Meitei miscreants during the Meitei-Kuki violence since May 3 last year. Nearly 2,000 of such weapons have been seized so far, mostly in the Valley a large number still remains untraced.

With many such groups, both in the Valley and the hills, refusing to deposit their licenced weapons ahead of Lok Sabha elections — a practice normally followed during elections — central security agencies fear that these groups could use their muscle power before and during the elections to Manipur’s two Lok Sabha seats on April 19 and 26. “Even if they deposit the licensed weapons, they may use the illegal weapons to threaten people to vote for or against a candidate,” said the officer.

Arambai Tenggol With 62 battalions, each having nearly 1,000 cadres, Arambai Tenggol has emerged as the biggest worry for central security forces deployed to prevent further violence. The outfit came into being in 2020 as an organisation to work for the “protection and promotion of Meitei culture” but a few new leaders turned it into an armed group amid the conflict with the Kukis.



“Young boys, from most Meitei families, have joined Arambai Tenggol following an appeal by the influential Meira Paibi (women vigilante group) in August,” said the official. The group has been held responsible for several attacks on the Kukis.

“The parties may like to take their help to win elections given the clout they enjoy,” said the official.

Another officer posted near Moreh in Kuki-dominated Tengnoupal district, about 110kms from Imphal, told DH that they received information that sophisticated weapons snatched earlier were being sold at Rs1.5 lakh to Rs2 lakh each while a bullet was being sold at Rs500-600 ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

In Imphal, single-barrel shotguns were found being sold at Rs7,500 and a single shot pistol at Rs3,000. “These are without a licence. Price will be more if you go for licensed ones,” one such seller told DH near the Palace Ground at Imphal.

Kukis not to deposit weapons At Phualjong village in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district, about 60km from Imphal, young “village volunteers”, also clad in camouflage and bulletproof vests, were seen moving around with ‘licensed’ weapons and jostling with the central security forces. “They are moving with licensed weapons but they use

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sophisticated weapons,” said a jawan of a central force posted in the Kuki-dominated village market.

Less than a kilometre away, 25-year-old Lalcha Haokip, one of the Kuki “village volunteers” stood inside a bunker with his shotgun pointed towards the Meitei-dominated Bishnupur district. Sand-filled bags were used to make the bunker, which is normally prepared by security forces during wars and conflicts. There are many such bunkers along the ‘buffer zone’ that divides Bishnupur and Churachandpur. Lalcha, who studied till 12, told DH that he wants to join the Indian Army after the conflict ends in Manipur. Kukis have been demanding a “separate administration” for the Kuki-Zo communities in Manipur.

“We are here not to attack anyone but to defend our land and people against the armed Meitei insurgents,”

said Lelen Haokip, a leader of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), a forum of Kuki-Zo organisations in Churachandpur.

ITLF had earlier asked the Kuki-Zo village volunteers not to comply with administration’s order to deposit their licenced weapons as the same would be required to defend their homes and people.

“The administration has not yet returned the weapons our boys had deposited before the elections in 2023. This could be another ploy by the Meitei-led Manipur government to disarm the Kukis and then send Arambai Tenggol to attack us,” the ITLF leader said.

Source: [Deccan Herald](#)

ARAMBAI TENGGOL GANGS RUN AMOK IN IMPHAL VALLEY

In a continuous example of the absence of law and order in Manipur, members of the Arambai Tenggol assaulted Manipur police personnel at Thoubal district on Saturday.

A part of the incident was captured in a CCTV footage installed along the road.

The incident occurred after some members of the Arambai Tenggol refused to comply with a routine check of the Manipur police led by Superintendent of Police, Thoubal.

The incident is one of many glaring examples of lawlessness in the valley and how the Arambai Tenggol has been given an upper hand in the valley areas.

As per available information, an altercation broke out between the Manipur police and the Arambai Tenggol on Saturday at Thoubal district.

The incident occurred after the Arambai Tenggol who came in an Alto car and a Creta refused to stop their



vehicles during a routine check conducted by police personnel of Thoubal district.

It is learnt that the Arambai Tenggol mocked the police personnel and did not abide with the routine check of the police force and forcibly drove through the check post. In response, the police went after the Arambai Tenggol team and got hold of them near Islamic English School.

In response to the action of the police, the Arambai Tenggol members assaulted one Sub-Inspector of the trailing Manipur police team.

TWO WEEKS TO LOK SABHA ELECTION: NO POLITICAL RALLIES, POSTERS IN STRIFE-TORN MANIPUR

Posters of political parties, mega rallies and visible movement of leaders -- the traditional elements of campaigning -- are conspicuously missing in violence-hit Manipur where polling for Lok Sabha elections is due in less than two weeks.

The only visible hint of the impending election is the hoardings put up by local election authorities, urging citizens to exercise their franchise.

Amid the muted election fervour, major party figures have refrained from visiting the conflict-ridden state to canvass for votes or make electoral pledges.

While the BJP has enlisted prominent figures like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah as star campaigners, the Congress lineup includes Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and other key leaders.

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However, none of them have any appearance in Manipur yet.

Though the Election Commission of Manipur maintained that there are no official restrictions on campaigning



activities, party representatives emphasised the need for subdued campaigning to avoid aggravating the delicate situation in the state.

“There are no restrictions from the Election Commission’s side on campaigning. Anything which is within the boundaries of the model code of conduct is allowed,” Chief Electoral Officer of Manipur, Pradeep Jha told PTI.

To tackle the tricky situation, the candidates -- BJP’s Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh, Congress’ Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, Republican Party of India’s Maheshwar Thounaojam and Rajmukar Somendro Singh who is backed by the Manipur Peoples’ Party (MPP) -- have come up with a unique solution.

They are reaching out to the voters in a non-conventional way which includes holding meetings at their residence or party offices and their supporters indulging in door-to-door campaigns.

“It would have been better if I addressed public meetings and held rallies, but I have decided to

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keep the campaign low-key,” Maheshwar Thounaojam, who has deployed teams of volunteers for door-to-door campaigning, said.

“The voters know the importance of their vote in the current situation and will make an informed choice,” he added.

Basanta Kumar Singh, the sitting Education and Law Minister of the state, who is contesting the Lok Sabha polls this time, is holding small meetings at his residence and the party office.

Similarly, Akoijam, a professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, mostly meets people at his residence.

Posters of Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Yatra and those seeking voters for Akoijam have also been put up at the Congress office in Imphal.

“Elections are important for us but we cannot rub salt in people’s wounds by doing pomp and show. Elections are also like a festival but we cannot celebrate the festival in a loud manner because of the current situation” BJP Manipur President A Sharda Devi told PTI.

“People are living away from their homes, we want them to have faith in us but we are not campaigning,” the BJP leader added.

A senior state government official asserted that any kind of loud campaign can be detrimental to the law and order situation in the state.

“Though the situation seems to be under control at the moment, any kind of loud campaign can be detrimental to the law and order of the state and no party wants to take that risk,” the official said requesting anonymity.

At least 219 people have been killed in the ethnic strife in the state that started on May 3 last year after a ‘Tribal Solidarity March’ was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community’s demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. A majority of over 50,000

internally displaced people are currently staying at relief centres across five valley districts and three hill districts.

Scheduled in two phases on April 19 and 26, the Lok Sabha elections in Manipur have garnered attention for the displaced population’s voting arrangements.

Special polling stations will be set up at relief camps to enable the displaced people to cast their votes.

While the relief camps provide voting opportunities, candidates are yet to visit these facilities, where residents await resolution and peace amidst the prevailing unrest.

“Some workers from parties have come once or twice but none of the candidates. If they come they will get to see in what situation we are living in the camps with no sight of a resolution or peace in the state,” said Dima, a mother of two living in a relief camp in the Kwakeithem area inhabited by the Meities.

Meanwhile, a similar lack of election activity is evident in regions like Moreh and Churachandpur, where Kuki communities predominate.

Some Kuki factions and societal groups have even called for a boycott of the polls.

Despite the semblance of normalcy in the Meitei-inhabited Imphal Valley, with businesses and institutions reopening, the pervasive presence of security forces underscores the lingering tensions and challenges the populace faces.

As Manipur braves through these turbulent times, the subdued election climate reflects the region’s earnest pursuit of stability and peace.

Source: [Telegraph India](#)

**OPINION**

Unveiling the Quest; Advocating for a Separate Homeland

If history has taught us anything, it is the fact, proven time and again that the only possible means of escape from the shackles of slavery, subjugation and suppression is through radical manifestation in varying nuances; revolution, insurrection, upheaval etc, or as in the case of India, Civil disobedience or non-cooperation. The principles of civil disobedience championed by Gandhi galvanised millions of Indians to challenge the might of British supremacy through peaceful resistance and nonviolent protest. One could attribute the success of India's freedom movement to the effective machinery of Civil disobedience and non-cooperation policy. Its practicality is indubitable, as consistently demonstrated by Gandhiji in numerous agitations. He understood consciously the efficacy of social disobedience and its implications on the administration as a whole. Gandhi genuinely knew and pointed out that the British's continuing subjugation of India was possible only because of the cooperation of the Indian people. He went on to assert that the British administration would collapse within a matter of weeks if Indians ceased to cooperate unanimously. Hence he laid emphasis on Swadeshi and renunciation of the western adaptation of life to sever attachment and dependence upon the

British, his objective being an eventual dissociation from the British hegemony.

Gandhi was successful with his experimentation on 'Non-Cooperation/ Civil disobedience' approach; leading a series of mass participation, the likes of which have never been seen before. It didn't take long for the British to realise that their grip over India had noticeably weakened, and an expeditious transfer of power to responsible Indian hands would be most pragmatic. In his private letter addressed to Ernest Bevin in 1947, Clement Attlee remarked and I quote, "It would be quite impossible for a few hundred British to administer against the active opposition of the whole of the politically minded population". Realising the gravity of the situation Attlee and his cabinet didn't waste time in granting independence to India.

Taking into account the expediency with which Gandhi advanced his cause, and the legitimacy of 'non-cooperation/civil disobedience' strategy employed by Gandhi that pressurised the Colonial Govt into meeting the demands of the Indian

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people, let us draw a parallel to our ongoing crusade for Separate Administration. It has almost been a year since the Kuki-Zo community grappled with the atrocities of the Meitei community, but the Central Govt is yet to release a formal statement of condemnation let alone address our grievances. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO)'s disingenuity concerning Manipur is rather appalling and unbecoming of the symbolic divinity it represents. Given the close affiliations with the Central govt. that the CM of Manipur enjoys, it is a no-brainer that the Central govt. will pay close heed to his appetite. This explains why after thousands of displaced and inhuman atrocities meted out to the Kukis, no arrest has been made so far in the valley. It also explains the reluctance of the Central govt. to impose Presidential Rule despite the incontestable evidence of a constitutional breakdown.

Inconsistent to the nonchalant, sometimes biased attitude displayed by the Central govt. we the Kuki-Zo community continue to parade to the tune of the centre's direction for want of some form of 'pat in the back' from the Central govt ; postponement and relocation of funeral date and site of our Martyrs, dismantling our much revered cross planted at Thangting hills to alleviate tensions and some of the many cases. None of these gestures seemingly deter the Central govt to taking cognizance of our cause. Two parliamentary sessions have ebbed and flowed and the Manipur questions have been successfully evaded. By now it would be safe to assume that the Central govt. harbours no sympathy to the plight of the Kuki-Zo community.

This brings us to the questions; does cooperation still hold any relevancy in our endeavour for a Separate Administration? Is there a promise of reward for our servility? Pardon my ignorance but the pulse of a young blood tells me a more passive-aggressive if not radical

approach will do more service to our demand than the conventional 'wait and watch'. Can you picture a free India where freedom fighters submit to the wisdom of its rulers? Can you picture a full-fledged Mizoram state where the Mizos fall in line to the tune of the erstwhile ruling govt?

It is natural for kids to act erratic and act-up to their parents when making demands, throwing tantrums and creating an atmosphere of inconvenience for their parents until their demands are met, righteously oblivious to the financial constraints of their parents. Regardless, kids know theirs is the most effective means to meet their ends.

In light of the above analogy, it is our constitutional rights as citizens of India to aspire for our "rights to live with dignity"(Article-21). Reclamation of our land which is a symbolic representation of our tribal 'dignity' should be our utmost priority, followed by disassociation from Manipur to preserve our cultural heritage and language(Article 29),which has been undermined and censured by the Manipur govt. To realise this goal, it is imperative that we sever all ties with Manipur and adopt a systematic passive resistance, similar in form and spirit to that ritualised by Gandhi. To quote an old adage "strike the iron while it is hot", it would be foolish to not be opportunistic at this juncture and make the mistake of relying on prophecies and empty promises. The onus lies on our leaders to formulate plans of action for mass mobilisation for the realisation of our goal.

"Rise, brave souls, in freedom's name. With hearts ablaze, ignite the flame. Through darkness deep, let courage soar. For liberty's worth, we dare explore."



BhaiPal @RayiCis



The report appears to be a smear campaign, as it fails to obtain statements from the accused individuals to present their objections and it lacks evidence to most of its claims.

Focus seems to be on hearsay from which they spun the story to paint the Kuki negatively in #Manipur.

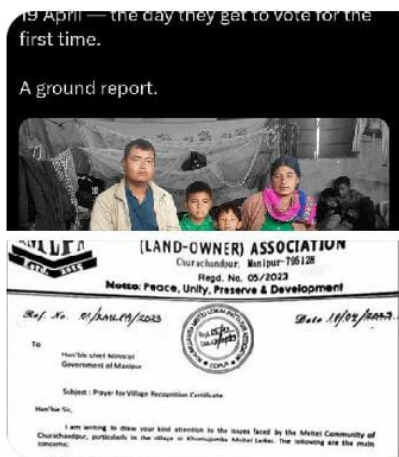


Table with 11 columns: Polling Station Name, Total Electors, Males, Females, etc. It lists various polling stations like Bhaikhatla, Bhaikhatla-1, etc.

Arijit Nobody and 6 others 9:08 pm · 06 Apr 24 · 606 Views



Follow

Elections are not a solution to the problem in Manipur. Whether Kuki-Zo community votes or not, it makes no difference. That's the harsh reality of the state of Manipur.

Ethnic conflict casts a shadow on Manipur polls; Kuki-Zo, Meitei people devise voting strategies

Abhinav Lakshman NEW DELHI

As Manipur heads into the first phase of the Lok Sabha election in the shadow of an ethnic conflict...



Atmosphere of uncertainty: Most of the violence-affected parts of the State go to the polls in the first phase on April 19. FILE PHOTO

The Naga People's Front's Kachui Timothy Zmik, from the Naga community, in Outer Manipur. Meanwhile, the Congress has fielded Alfred Kanngam S. Arthur, also from the Naga community...

The ethnic conflict that began on May 3 last year, has so far led to at least 220 deaths

The ethnic conflict that began on May 3 last year, has so far led to at least 220 deaths...

of the Kuki-Zos for a separate administration, a demand that has grown stronger after the conflict...

Mr. Akoijam is looking for ways to capitalise on the Meitei community's disappointment with the BJP for not having taken a hard enough stance on dealing with Kuki-Zo groups...

The Kuki-Zo dilemma

The hill districts going to the polls in the first phase had more of a mixed population till the conflict

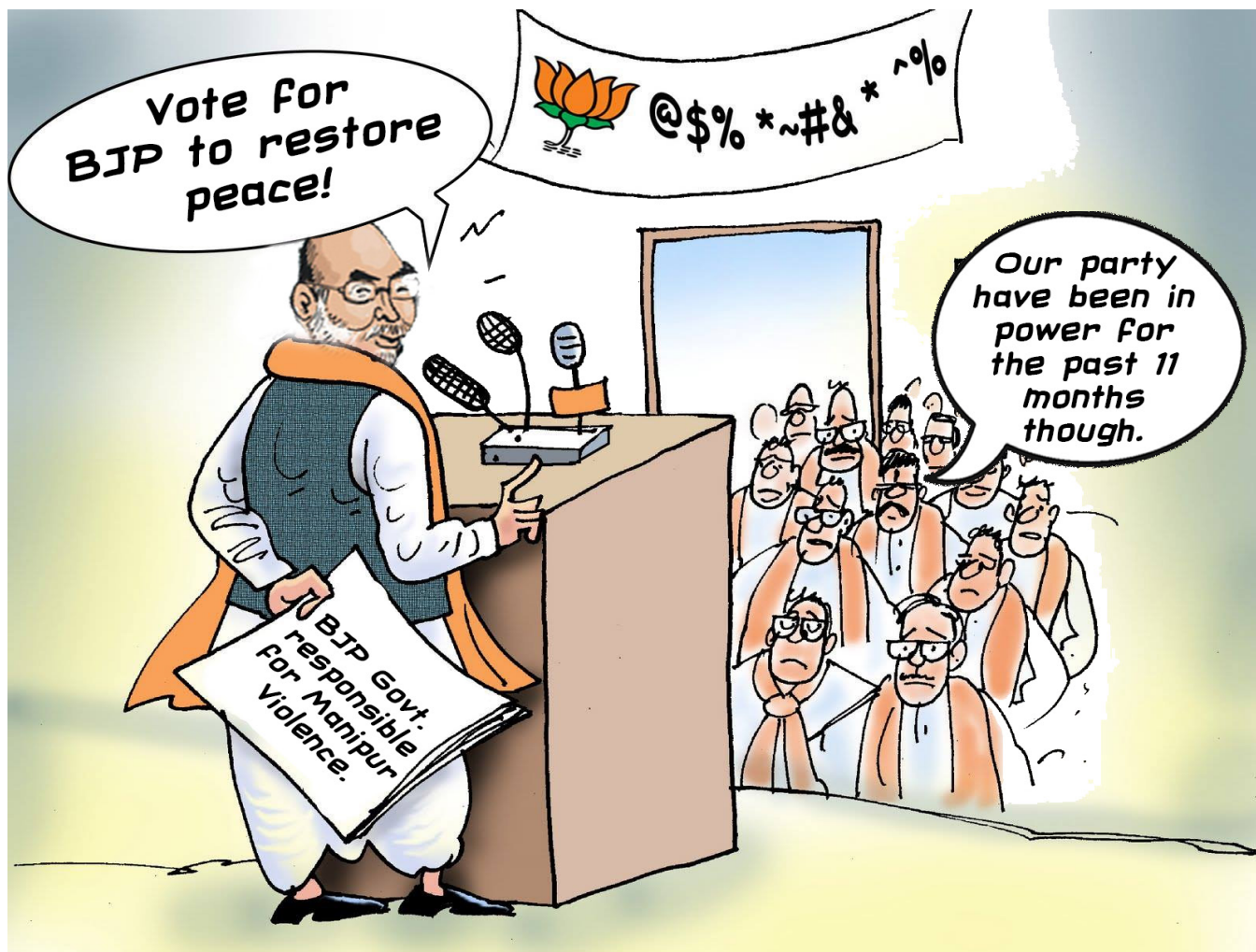
The BJP has fielded State Education Minister T. Basanta Kumar Singh for In

Disagreements over the right to pray and worship on the hill range have only escalated since the ethnic conflict between the two communities began in the State.

8:54 am · 06 Apr 24 · 1,880 Views



POLL GIMMICKS VERSUS REALITY





ELEGY ON A BAMBOO FENCE : *DAVID THIEK*

-Annie Boichong

HEAD HUNG UP THE BAMBOO FENCE,
UNBOWED HEAD OF DAVID THIEK:
HMAR BY BLOOD, TRIBAL BY IDENTITY.
BONES OF THE TRIBAL HERO LAID TO REST:
EACH PIECE SCREAMS FREEDOM FOR HIS PEOPLE.

HIS HEAD IS NOT YOUR TROPHY,
HIS SPIRIT IS NOT YOURS TO KILL.
THIS IS NOT HOW YOU KILL A MOCKINGBIRD,
THIS IS NOT HOW YOU KILL INNOCENCE.
HEADHUNTERS OF THE PAST DISAGREES-
THEY TOO SHAME THIS SAVAGERY,
IN THIS AGE, IN THIS MODERN ERA!

HEAD HUNG UP THE BAMBOO FENCE,
THE TRIBAL SPIRIT LIVES ON.
THANGSUO PUON FOR HIS MORTAL REMAINS:
COUNTABLE PIECES OF FEARLESS BONES.
HE DID NOT BETRAY HIS TRIBE,
WHY THEN, SHOULD WE?

