

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



# AWAITING JUSTICE



## THANGHOULAL (35 YEARS)

H/O CHINGNEIHMAWI

ADDRESS: SIMVENG, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: BEATEN TO DEATH



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.06.2024



**186**  
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.

# CoTU REACTS TO PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND PRIME MINISTER'S PARLIAMENTARY SPEECH

In response to the Presidential address and the Prime Minister's speech in the 18th Lok Sabha, the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District, expressed deep disappointment at the lack of genuine empathy for the people of Manipur.

The Committee's spokesperson, Ng. Lun Kipgen, said that the much-awaited Presidential address was devoid of genuine empathy towards the people of Manipur, which was exacerbated by the Prime Minister's speech, which defended the fallacies of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, whom the Kuki-Zo community accuses of being the protagonist of the current turmoil.

Vehemently bemoaning the address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CoTU spokesperson Ng. Lun Kipgen maintained that the Prime Minister's speech overlooked the responsibility of his own point man, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, whom he blames for the current turmoil in the state of Manipur.

He also said that it is inappropriate for the Prime Minister to equate the past incidents of 1993 with the current situation, as the present administration under N. Biren Singh is complicit in the conflict.

"If the imposition of President's Rule 10 times in a small state such as Manipur calls for curtailing of violence, then what is stopping the Centre to impose yet another PR to resort to peace in the state", he asked.

The Kuki-Zo community strongly condemned what they describe as a "mass genocide program" aimed at eradicating their people from the entire state due to an influx of refugees escaping the military junta regime in Myanmar.



CoTU's Spokesperson, Ng. Lun Kipgen, also outlined crucial measures if the Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is serious about solving the problems in the state of Manipur.

Firstly, he emphasized the need to table the demand for Separate Administration for the Kuki-Zo in Parliament, considering this step crucial for addressing the specific governance needs of the Kuki-Zo community.

Secondly, he urged the imposition of AFSPA in the valley, covering 19 police stations, to facilitate the recovery of looted arms and ammunition, aiming to enhance security and stability in the region.

Thirdly, Kipgen emphasized the importance of reining in armed militias, including groups like Arambai Tenggol, Meetei Leepun, and VBIGs, highlighting that controlling these militias is essential for reducing violence and fostering a peaceful environment in Manipur.

## RAHUL GANDHI LIKELY TO VISIT MANIPUR ON JULY 8

Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is likely to visit Manipur on July 8, sources from the party said. He is expected to visit relief camps and also meet Manipur Congress leaders during his visit to the state.

Gandhi is expected to go to places including Moirang and Churachandpur on the same day, and interact with the internally displaced people who are taking refuge in relief camps, as per sources.

This year, Rahul Gandhi commenced the party's mass outreach programme, Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, from Manipur's Thoubal. The yatra covered a distance of more than 6,700 km across 15 states from Manipur to Mumbai.

Earlier at a rally in Manipur this year, Rahul Gandhi came down heavily on the BJP over the recent ethnic clashes in the state that claimed over 200 lives.

The ethnic clash between the Kuki and Meitei communities in the state began in May 2023, and the months-long violence has claimed over 220 lives.

The Congress MP said Manipur is an example of BJP's



“politics of hatred” and said, “Maybe for Narendra Modi, BJP and RSS, the state is not part of India”.

“After June 29, Manipur wasn't Manipur anymore. It got divided and hatred was spread everywhere. Lakhs of people suffered losses. People lost their loved ones in front of their eyes. And till now, the Prime Minister has not come here to wipe your tears and hold your hands. It is a shameful thing. Maybe for PM Modi, BJP and RSS, Manipur is not a part of India,” he said.

Gandhi might leave for Nagaland on the same day itself. (Source: IndiaToday NE)

### TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: JULY 06, 2023

#### A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON JULY 06, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

A Kuki-Zo woman was found killed near Shishu Niketan, Kwakeithel. The victim is identified as Ms. Donngaihching from Lamphel, Imphal West. She is mentally challenged. Meiteis accused her of being a suicide bomber on different social media handles.



# KUKI LEADERS SUPPORT FAIR IMPLEMENTATION OF NRC IN MANIPUR, SEEK CLEAR GUIDELINES TO PROTECT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Irrespective of the base year, the Kuki community leaders are ready to support the execution of the NRC, provided it is done in a “fair manner,” said a functionary of Kuki Inpi Manipur.

As per reports, Kuki leaders in Churachandpur are of the opinion that the NRC demand is a “good” move — for the security of indigenous communities.

In June last week, Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) general secretary Muan Tombing told ThePrint that no “foreigner” has migrated from Myanmar, and that illegal immigrants crossed over to India while escaping the crisis in the neighbouring country.

“It’s good if we have the NRC, provided it must be fair. Biren Singh is always talking about illegal immigrants. Before Independence, there was no boundary between India and Myanmar. And even after the international border came up, we have remained close with each other, like ‘blood brothers’. Inter-marriage between Indian and Myanmar villages continued,” said Tombing.

“Illegals immigrants were detained from various places and kept in shelters in the past two years. Many of them were deported. No foreigner came here to stay — some arrived for health checkups, but always returned. Even for a child’s naming ceremony, they would visit for a day and go back; we would do the same,” he added, pointing out places in India that would just be a mere hop, skip and jump from Myanmar.

Seiboi Touthang, general secretary of Kuki Students’ Organisation (KSO)-General Headquarters, wants the Manipur government to be clear on its modus operandi for implementing the NRC.



“We are ready for the NRC. Let them come. But we want to know the method of operation, the approach. How are you going to segregate the indigenous from the immigrants? Was there any biometric collection in the past 20-30 years?”

“NRC should not be done to target our people and harass them,” said Mang Khongsai, Home Secretary, KSO General Headquarters.

# THERE SEEMS TO BE GREAT THREATS FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTH; KUKIS ARE NOT VILLAINS: MINISTER KHEMCHAND

Amid the rise of dehumanizing and vilifying the whole Kuki populace by the radicalised Meiteis under the narcissistic leadership of N. Biren Singh and Rajya Sabha MP Leisemba Sanajaoba, a Cabinet Minister belonging to the Meitei community came out in the open, speaking the truth that 'Kukis are not evil'.

Addressing the gathering of the 3rd Anniversary of Elite TV, a digital news and media platform based in Imphal, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Yumnam Khemchand has said that there seemed to be a fear of speaking the truth in current circumstances. He urged media houses to disseminate only the truth for peace to prevail in the State.

Strongly negating most of the insane Meiteis who spread hatred towards the Kukis, Minister Khemchand asserted that Kukis are not villains. "During the initial days of the ethnic violence, more than 120 Meiteis' labourers who were engaged for PWD/PMGSY works in the hills were stucked in Kuki areas. Sensing that their lives are under great threats, the Kuki Chiefs evacuated them, travelling about 3-5 KM, to the Assam Rifles camps," Minister Khemchand said, asking the Meitei people, "Can you say that the Kukis are villains, who had saved lives of the Meiteis?"

It is surprising to see that after more than one year of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom, a Meitei Minister began to speak the truth about the Kukis.



He might be one of the same Meiteis amongst all insane. However, his Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh still tries to find the fault of Kukis. The Meiteis' Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, continues to spew continuous lies and hate speeches against the Kukis.

In his latest interview with the online news portal THE PRINT, the narcissist N. Biren Singh made biased statements and lies to save face, revealing his incompetence in governing the state. His attempt to justify the infamous conduct of Arambai Tenggol in the current conflict in Manipur needs no further explanation regarding the Chief Minister's role in its formation and activities. He has blood on his hand and is responsible for all crimes against the Kukis.



**If you're a true warrior, competition doesn't scare you. It makes you better.**

*- Andrew Whitworth*



## PM Modi Acknowledging Manipur Was First Step, Visiting the State Must Be Next

KHAM KHAN SUAN HAUSING

President Droupadi Murmu's inaugural address to the 18th Lok Sabha on 27 June – 10 days after Home Minister Amit Shah convened a high-level meeting to review the security situation in Manipur – was highly anticipated by the people of the state and Indians at large. Not only is it customary to present the report card of the government's previous tenure, but the address is also of political salience.

As the address allowed people to read into the minds, intent, and vision of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government for the next five years, it was nothing short of disappointing.

Though President Murmu devoted 10 lines (including a line of reference to Assam) to the Northeast, the conspicuous silence on the 14-month-long unabated violence in Manipur left the people of the state and concerned citizens across India deeply hurt.

Despite newly elected Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, and Congress MP from Inner Manipur Bimol Akoijam raising objections over the government's silence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued to stay mum on the matter in his response to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address on Tuesday, 2 July.

The post-facto justification by Nalin Kohli, a BJP spokesperson, on the prime minister's silence, was that there was "no point" in talking to the Opposition, who he claimed were not willing to listen.

This justification, during a prime-time TV debate on India Today, not only reflects poorly on the intent and state of mind of the BJP-led government, but also on its dismissive attitude towards the Opposition.

Unlike the general expectation that a diminished BJP, which has been reduced to 240 seats – 32 short of a simple majority in the Lok Sabha – will be constrained by the compulsions of coalition politics to demonstrate more humility, accountability, and responsiveness in Parliament, the NDA government seems intent to give short shrift to the legitimate concern of the Opposition and parliamentary norms.

However, in an interesting turn of events, PM Modi broke his long silence during a speech at the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, 3 July, and said that the

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government is making all efforts to bring normalcy in the violence-struck state.

Looks like the persistent pressure, widespread criticism, and electoral debacle in Manipur (BJP-Naga People's Front coalition lost both the Lok Sabha seats) compelled him to finally read the writing on the wall.

### **But That's Just the First Step**

This belated realisation should be seen as a necessary first step only.

Unless the structural causes of the issue are not addressed, and a workable solution is not found, the initiatives of the Modi government will not be sufficient to restore normalcy and peace in Manipur.

The initiatives underlined in President Murmu's message, reiterated by PM Modi in his Rajya Sabha speech, include:

- The revocation of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in large part of Northeast India, including 19 police station areas in Manipur's valley districts
- Signing peace accords with armed groups
- Improving connectivity and infrastructure and making Northeast the engine of development and bridgehead to Southeast Asia

The establishment of a 'buffer zone', implemented after Amit Shah's visit to Manipur in May 2023, and the massive deployment of over 60,000 central paramilitary personnel have helped secure the foothill Kuki-Zo villages from relentless attacks from Arambai Tenggol, a controversial Meitei nationalist group, and other radicalised groups.

Yet, they have failed to contain the spread of violence across the state for over a year now. Over 200 villages and 360 churches owned by the Kuki-Zo alone were burnt down, 220 people (including 186 belonging to Kuki- Zo) have been killed, and 60,000 (including over 41,000 Kuki-Zos) internally displaced.

The Modi-led NDA government must realise that unless this problematic division of labour of security between the Centre and the state is resolved by allowing the Centre to take direct control over law and order, the prospect of peace and stability will remain elusive.

The superimposing of a centrally appointed security advisor, along with establishing a unified security command, without empowering the former, has opened up a good excuse to shift the blame on the Centre for allowing the Manipur violence to continue.

This is despite the fact that Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh, who is in-charge of Home Affairs, has utterly failed in restoring law and order for over a year.

The security vacuum and the revocation of AFSPA in 19 police stations in valley districts have also led to a fertile ground of mass mobilisation by the radicalised armed groups like the Arambai Tenggol.

The massive military training reported, and other proscribed armed groups like the Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup and the United National Liberation Front

with an avowed secessionist agenda, has deepened

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the security dilemma in the state with far-reaching implications on India's national security.

The counter-armed mobilisation by Kuki-Zo village defense volunteers and their armed groups, who come under the wings of Suspension of Operation Agreement, does not augur well for peace and stability.

The sustained ethnic security dilemma across the divide is likely to spoil the future of a generation of youths as they are compelled to spend most of their time on the 'frontlines' to secure their villages from transgression and attacks across the 'buffer zone'.

### **Need For Viable Political Solution to Ensure Peace**

Unless this structural source is addressed with a viable political solution, pitching Manipur and the Northeast as an 'engine of development or bridgehead to Southeast Asian economy' is likely to remain a pipe dream.

The indiscriminate and relentless attacks against Kuki-Zos, one of the largest transborder communities across the Indo-Myanmar borderland, under the guise of declaring a 'war on drugs', checking 'illegal immigration', and 'encroachment' on protected forest must stop.

While these are real issues, which involve all communities in the state, objective handling of these matters by following established procedures must be a priority.

The infrastructural power of the state to autonomously regulate state-society relations must be made more capacious in order to rebuild trust and legitimacy in the institutions of the state.

The PM Modi-led NDA government cannot naively normalise the gradual opening of schools, colleges, and markets across the divide as a sign of normalcy.

Unless the structural source of violence remains unaddressed, any minor spark or stray incident of violence in any part of Manipur is likely to engulf the state into another quagmire.

These issues demand that PM Modi not only sees what Mahua Moitra – quoting Chilean poet Pablo Neruda – calls 'blood in the streets' of Manipur, but also sees the scars of violence, hate and distrust, which has run deep across the divide.

Given that this violence has ruptured the shared spaces of communities across Manipur, PM Modi must walk the talk by immediately paying a visit to the state to show his empathy and seriousness on the issue.

This is a necessary first step for him to engage with stakeholders on ground in order to forge a workable and durable political solution, including the demand for a separate administration.

However, addressing this may entail fixing political accountability of Biren Singh and directly taking over law and order. The jury is out on whether PM Modi can muster the courage, large-heartedness, and real statesmanship to wade into this troubled political water to resolve this political quandary.

(Kham Khan Suan Hausing is a professor and former Head, Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad. He is an honorary Senior Fellow, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi.

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SOCIAL MEDIA  
**THE BUZZ**



**Sominthang Doungel**  
@sominthang

At the beginning of the crisis, around 122 laborers from PMGSY and PWD were stranded in Henglep (Ccpur). The Kuki Chiefs took them 10-20 km through the mountain path to an Assam Rifles camp. My humble question is, will you still call the Kukis bad for saving around 120 laborers?



23:24 · 05 Jul 24 · 10.3K Views



**Paul Koshy**  
@Paul\_Koshy

Follow

The tensions between communities in [#Manipur](#) can be resolved. It may take time and patience, but this HAS to be done.

But, Peace and Normalcy can be achieved much faster through administrative reforms.

The Nation stands with the Union Govt in support of such initiatives. Kindly keep this matter very high on priority.

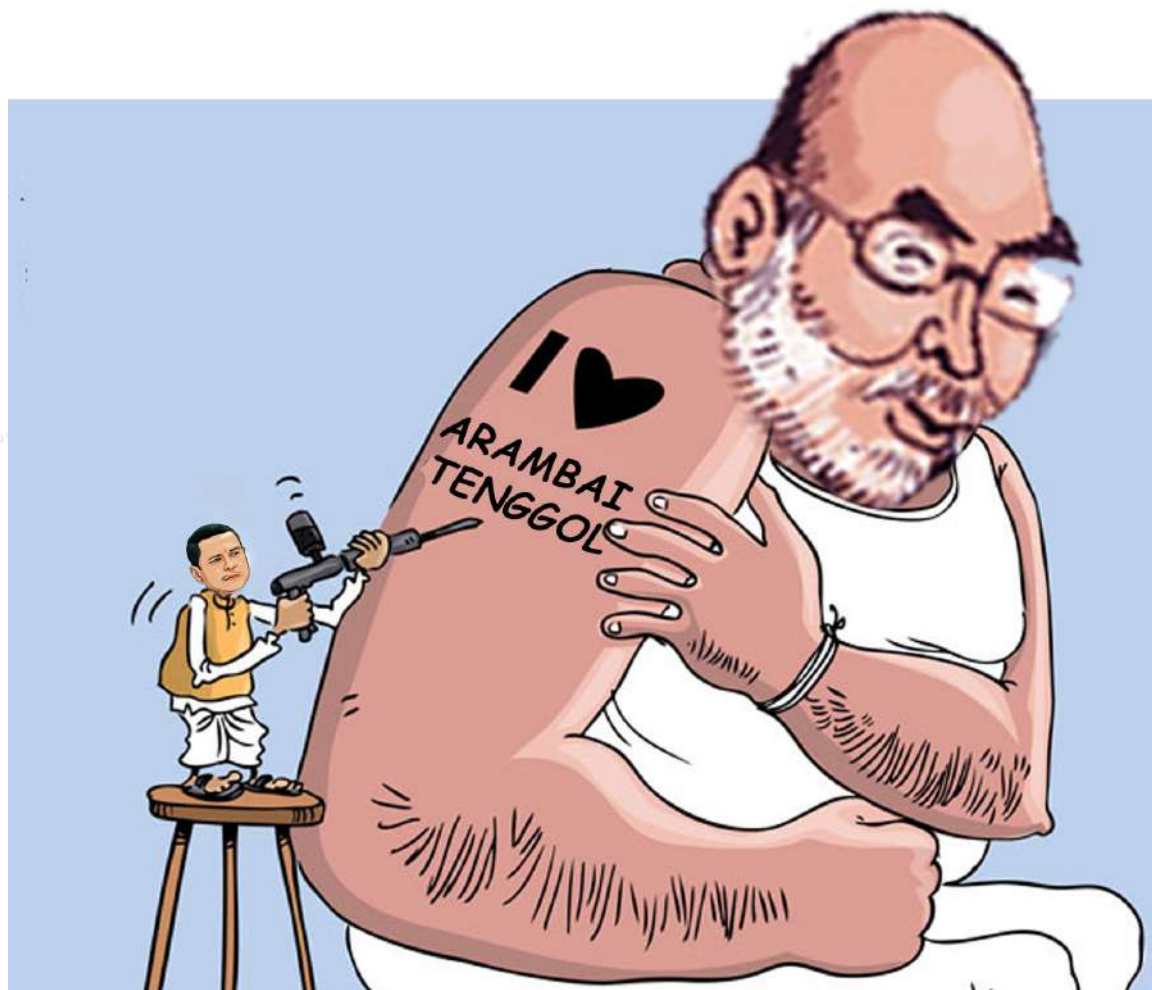
**The Hindu** @the\_hindu · 2d

Most residents said the Prime Minister was forced to address the issue because of the speech given in the Parliament by the Congress's Lok Sabha member from Inner Manipur A. Bimol Akoijam, @al\_lakshman reports [trib.al/OqMjY4F](https://trib.al/OqMjY4F)

22:12 · 06 Jul 24 · 453 Views

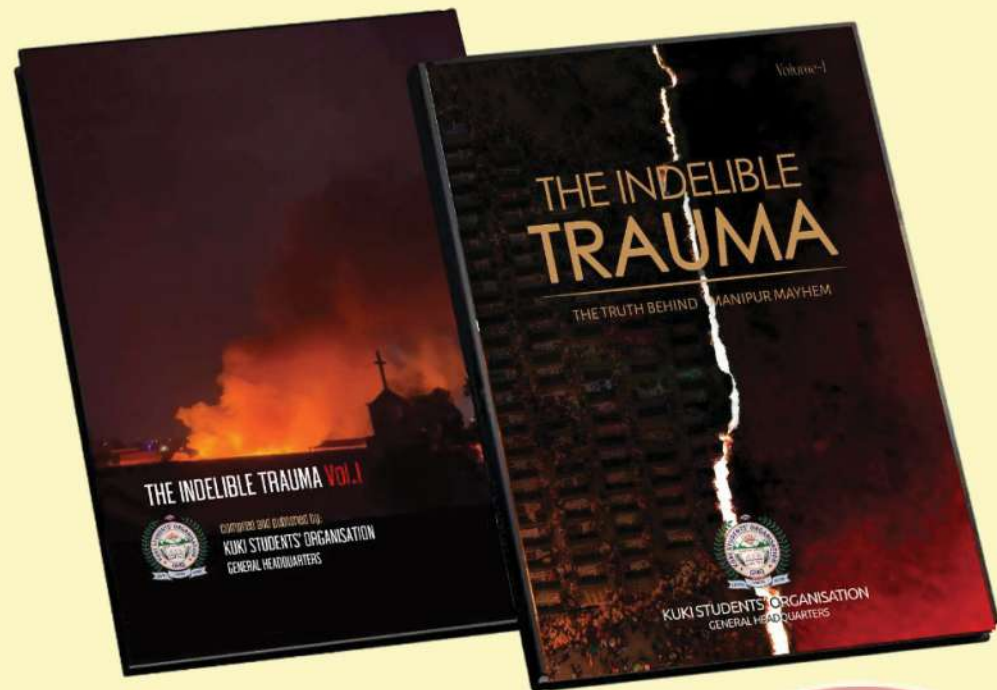


**THE POLITICAL  
TATTOO**





A BOOK ON  
THE TRUTH BEHIND  
**MANIPUR  
MAYHEM**



# THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA VOL. I

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY  
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# SHATTERED DREAMS RESILIENT HEARTS

- Patrick O Haokip

In shadows deep, where whispers weep,  
A tale of sorrow lies,  
Of hearts that bleed, in silent heed,  
Beneath indifferent skies.

Where children cry, as echoes die,  
In streets of muted gray,  
Their dreams are torn, by hate reborn,  
And night consumes the day.

The color of skin, or faith within,  
A mark, a scar, a sin,  
In narrow minds, where justice blinds,  
And love cannot begin.

They walk alone, with hearts of stone,  
Through fields of shattered hope,  
In every tear, in every fear,  
They search for ways to cope.

The winds of hate, they devastate,  
With fury and with force,  
And souls once bright, now seek the light,  
Along a darker course.

Yet in the night, a flicker bright,  
Of courage, bold and true,  
In unity, their strength will be,  
A dawn of crimson hue.

For in their pain, they will remain,  
Resilient, fierce, and strong,  
And through the mire, they'll inspire,  
A world where they belong.

So hear the plea, of those set free,  
From chains of silent screams,  
In justice found, on common ground,  
We'll build their shattered dreams.