

# Thingkho *Le* Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



**ALEX JAMGOUMANG BAITE (23 yrs)**

S/O CHOMJANG BAITE  
ADDRESS: B PHAICHAM, TUIBONG, LAMKA DISTRICT  
DATE OF DEATH: 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023  
PLACE OF DEATH: LAMKA  
CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.05.2024



**185**  
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.

# GUNMEN THREATENS IMPHAL TIMES REPORTERS; RECEIVING A DOSE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE FOR BIAS REPORTING

In a brazen attempt to stifle the freedom of expression, ten unidentified individuals donning khaki combat attire and wielding sophisticated weaponry orchestrated a chilling scene at the residence of Khumanthem Dhanachandra, journalist of Imphal Times, a local newspaper based in Imphal. The incident occurred around 8:45 pm yesterday at his residence situated in Naoremthong Laishram Leirak.

As per Imphal Times report, the armed miscreants arrived in a convoy of three four-wheeler vehicles and launched an aggressive assault upon the sister of Dhanachandra. However, Dhanachandra was absent during the harrowing encounter. Reportedly, the assault on Dhanachandra residence seems to stem from a news article recently published in the Imphal Times newspaper.

Their demeanor exuded intimidation as they relayed their purported mission of meeting him regarding a news piece. Furthermore, these assailants issued ominous threats to his sister, warning of dire repercussions should Dhanachandra fail to comply with a specified rendezvous in Imphal West district before 10 am on May 10, 2024. It may be noted here that Imphal Times posits a disturbing hypothesis that these armed operatives were likely contracted by a government official who obtained his position through irregular means, circumventing established governmental protocols.

The newspaper, known for its investigative rigor, had recently published damning exposes shedding light on such illicit practices. This heinous incident stands as a stark testament to the perils faced by journalists who courageously uncover and report on matters of public interest.

Imphal Times remains resolute in its commitment to the pursuit of truth, unwavering in the face of intimidation and threats perpetrated by any entity, be it groups, organizations, or individuals. Our steadfast dedication lies in illuminating truths that serve the public interest, thereby catalyzing positive change and contributing to the advancement of society. Intimidation tactics



will not deter us from our mission; rather, they reinforce the critical importance of a free press and the unwavering resolve of those dedicated to upholding journalistic integrity and transparency.

Dhanachandra, accompanied by the representatives of All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) and Editors Guild Manipur (EGM) took proactive measures by filing a formal police complaint at the Lamphel Police Station, emphasizing the severity of the situation. In the application, Dhanachandra unequivocally states that the audacious actions of these armed miscreants not only endanger his life directly but also represent a stark challenge to the fundamental principles of media freedom.

Meanwhile, the All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) and Editors Guild Manipur (EGM) have vehemently condemned the recent threat directed at Imphal Times reporter Khumanthem Dhanachandra at his residence in Naoremthong Laishram Leikai.

Notably, the Imphal Times and the Imphal Free Press have been running propaganda against the Kuki community in their editorial piece. This two media houses have been maintaining biasness in their news reporting and coverage. Now, they are receiving a dose of their own medicine when it comes to news reportage.

# UNIDENTIFIED MEN LOOT AROUND RS.50000 FROM HOUSE OF NAGA COMMUNITY IN KANGLATOMBI CLAIMS VILLAGE AUTHORITY

Namdilong Village Authority, Kanglatombi has claimed that four unidentified masked individuals, 'reportedly belonging to the Meitei community', looted approximately Rs. 50000 from the house of a Liangmai Naga community in Namdilong Kanglatombi under Imphal west on May 8.

As per a statement released by Namdilong Village authority on May 8, the incident happened around 6.30 pm wherein four unidentified masked individuals 'reportedly belonging to the Meitei community' forcefully entered the home of Tangamthuibou Ringkangmai(43) belonging to a naga community, brandishing firearms and subsequently looted approximately Rs.50,000 rupees.

Stating that the incident occurred behind the LNBA Sub Centre Church in Namdilong Kanglatongbi, the authority added that the wife and children of Tangamthuibou Ringkangmai, who bore witness to the ordeal, are grappling with the profound impact of the trauma inflicted upon them.

Such egregious acts not only leave an indelibly negative mark on the mental well-being of women and children but also underscore the urgent need for collective action to prevent their recurrence, says the village authority.

The statement added that the aggrieved family, alongside concerned members of the community, is vehemently demanding that the government take decisive action to stem the tide of illegal activities.

Of particular concern is the prevalence of illicit demand letters circulating in the area, which not only sow seeds of fear but also pose a grave threat of escalating conflicts to perilous levels, it added.

The authority stated that the affected family and the community at large are earnestly beseeching government officials to undertake immediate and concerted efforts to address this pressing issue.



It is imperative that authorities conduct thorough investigations and implement robust measures to combat such unlawful practices, thereby restoring a sense of security and tranquility to the community.

Failure to heed this urgent call to action may compel the affected parties to pursue further recourse to safeguard their rights and well-being, the statement added.

Timely intervention is essential to not only redress the grievances of the aggrieved but also to prevent the perpetuation of injustice and ensure a safer, more equitable future for all.

Stating that the villagers, as residents of the buffer zone, have consistently exercised the utmost restraint, prioritizing peace above all else, the authority also cautioned against interpreting their commitment to peace as a sign of weakness.

"Our history is imbued with resilience and fortitude, and we refuse to yield in the face of adversity. Should such provocations persist within our jurisdiction, we may be compelled to retaliate, risking the escalation of the conflict beyond repair. Let this serve as a clear warning against further acts of aggression, as we remain committed to peace but steadfast in our resolve to protect our community." the statement added.

# MANIPUR GOVERNOR MEETS GOC-IN-C EASTERN ARMY COMMAND TO DISCUSS SECURITY MEASURES

Lieutenant General, R.C. Tiwari, General-Officer-Commanding-In-Chief (GOC-In-Chief), Eastern Army Command, along with Lt. Gen. H.S. Sahi, GOC, III Corps (Spear Corps) and Major General Ravroop Singh, IG AR(SOUTH) called on Governor of Manipur, Anusuiya Uikey at Raj Bhavan this evening and briefed about the security situation in the state.

This was stated in a communique issued by the Raj Bhavan on Thursday afternoon.

The visiting team also highlighted the security preparedness made by the Army and Assam Rifles to face any eventuality in the state.

Also, they highlighted various activities taken up to ensure safety among the masses.

The army officers spoke about the relief activities taken up to support displaced families in different parts of the state.

They also informed the Governor that they will always work to maintain peace and stability in the North Eastern region, particularly in the State of Manipur.



The Governor appreciated their efforts and asked them to extend all possible support to the administration in the run-up to restore complete peace and tranquillity in the state.

Manipur has been on the boil due to ethnic violence between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zo that started on May 3, 2024, and cost the lives of over 230 individuals and 61,000 people were displaced.

Source: [NE Now](#)



**Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.**

*- Martin Luther King Jr.*

# SECURITY FORCES ARREST TWO SUSPECTED UNLF(K) CADRES

In Manipur, security forces have apprehended two individuals suspected to be members of UNLF(K) on May 8, as per police reports on May 10.

The suspects have been identified as Huidrom Jitanjit Singh, aged 36, and Ningtham Oinam, aged 43.

Upon arrest, various items were seized from their possession including Rs.1,17,360 in cash, 40 live rounds, two walkie-talkies, 20 grams of a substance suspected to be heroin, a gold chain, a gold ring, and other miscellaneous items.

Meanwhile, search operations and area domination were conducted by security forces in the fringe and vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts.

Movement of 192 and 204 vehicles along NH-37 and NH-2 respectively with essential items have been ensured. Strict security measures are taken up in



all vulnerable locations and a security convoy is provided in sensitive stretches in order to ensure free and safe movement of the vehicles.

A total of 125 Nakas/Checkpoints were installed in different Districts of Manipur, both in the hill and the valley and Police detained 98 persons in connection with violations in different districts of the State.

## THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



Allegations of involvement in illegal activities, including sex trafficking, by public officials are serious and should be thoroughly investigated. If proven true, appropriate legal action should be taken to uphold the law and protect the rights of those affected.

#Manipur

**Flesh trade rampant between female drug addicts and ministers in Manipur, says Nupi Samaj**

07:41 PM May 09, 2024 IST | 35 Views  
Updated at 07:41 PM May 09, 2024 IST



18 Indu Devi, the Advisor of the Nupi Samaj said that they have taken

Indu Devi said that these girls are drug addicts and it is due to their addiction that they are involved in such activities.

An alleged pimp who was handed over to the Nupi Samaj by the VDVs has also attended during the press meet held at the Manipur Press Club, Imphal.

He also disclosed the involvement of influential individuals including ministers in this illicit activity.

Devi further stated that as per disclosure from the addicted girls, a few Manipur ministers and MLAs are also involved in the sex racket.

Additionally, all the addicts were later handed over to their relatives for proper rehabilitation

Manipur Police and 9 others

9:40 pm · 10 May 24 · 149 Views



The Caravan  
@thecaravanindia

Follow

Many partially burnt or vandalised properties of Kukis in Imphal now bear an Arambai Tenggol unit number on their gate.

Read @jeegujs's latest report from #Manipur, to understand why the Biren Singh government gives a free hand to #ArambaiTenggol.  
[caravanmagazine.in/conflict/biren...](https://caravanmagazine.in/conflict/biren...)



10:00 pm · 10 May 24 · 568 Views

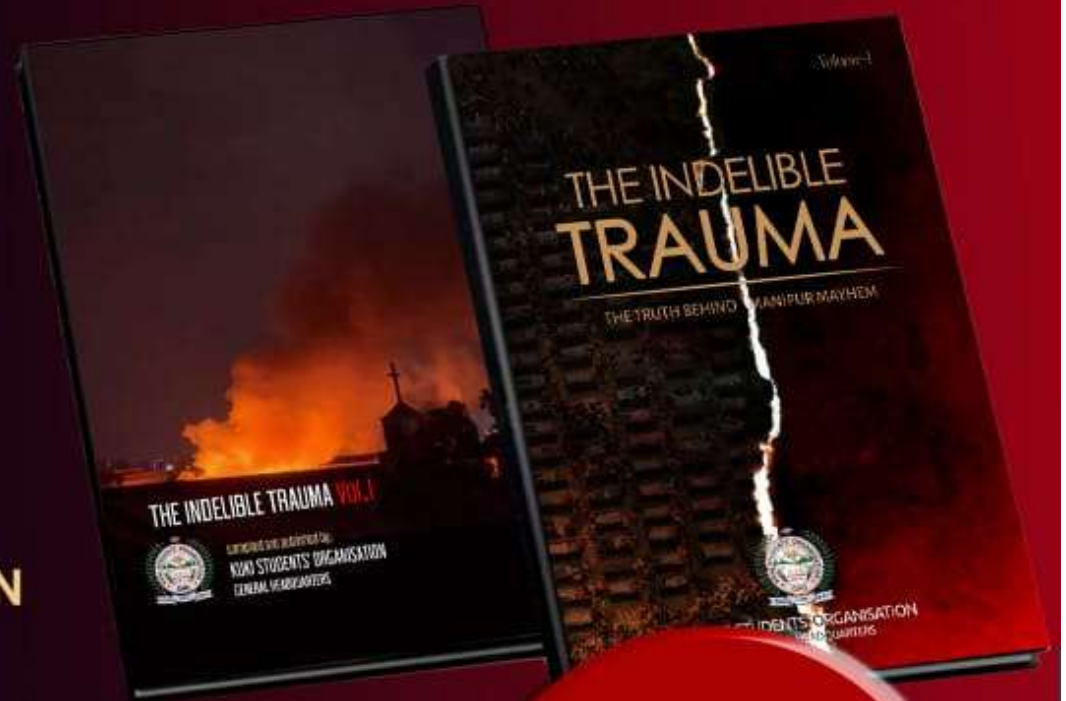
Click to Follow



# THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA

THE TRUTH BEHIND MANIPUR MAYHEM **VOL. I**

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY  
**KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION**  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS



## ABOUT THE BOOK

PAPERBACK COVER &  
HARD COVER PRINT

**AVAILABLE  
NOW**

This treatise is being prepared and published to unravel the lies and perfidy of our adversaries and put in perspective the authentic truth so that it stands as a testimony of the genocide that is being perpetrated on us and our people

With the hope and expectation that the perpetrators of these reprehensible crimes are brought to justice; and ignite a glimmer of solace and consolation to our indignant souls

The treatise also seeks to debunk the patently false canards, innuendoes and narratives that are being peddled as the gospel truth, and the aspersions that are being casted without any substance

And to put in perspective the historical misdeeds meted out to the tribal society by the extremely self-centered Meitei society with the clarion call to stand united and the urgent need for the convergence of our political position so as to collectively extricate ourselves from this oppressive dispensation

If we are to march forward like our tribal counterparts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh- SEPARATION IS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

Issued and published by  
**Kuki Students' Organization- General Headquarters**



**NEWS ANALYSIS****How Fake Social Media Posts, Backed by Meitei Media, Fuel Violence in Manipur**

During the initial stage of violence in the state of Manipur in the early week of May 2023, the internet was blacked-out in the whole jurisdiction of the state, leaving the social media space to the Manipur citizens residing outside the state. Many fake news have been peddled and all this information has been passed onto people who reside in the state through phone calls or text messages. This unfiltered or unverified information has caused more damages than good. The Meitei media houses based in Imphal valley have acted as a catalyst in disseminating fake news, pouring more oil into the already inflamed volatile situations.

On May 4, 2023, a Meitei mob attacked B Phainom village in Manipur's Kangpokpi district. They caught five villagers, killed the two men among them, stripped the three women, and groped and paraded them naked. An FIR filed in the case said the youngest was gang-raped.

"It was all because of fake news. The men were saying 'this is revenge for the Churachandpur case,'" one of the victims told ThePrint, a digital news platform.

The same day, an old video showing a couple of men firing automatic weapons were shared on social media claiming "Kuki people" were shooting at Meiteis.

The "Churachandpur case" - in which Meitei social

media handles shared a graphic photo claiming it was the body of a Meitei nurse who was raped and killed by Kuki tribals - and the video of weapons being fired were both debunked by fact-checking websites.

But the damage had been done. These two videos and many other fake "news" that spread among Meiteis from May 3 had whipped up the community into a frenzy. The lynching of almost a hundred Kukis in the Imphal valley in the first two days of the ethnic conflict in Manipur can be partly attributed to the spread of these false information.

When violence broke out on May 3, 2023, Meitei social media handles began circulating a photo of a dead girl saying it was a Meitei nurse who was raped and murdered in Lamka. However, the photo turned out to be of a woman killed in Uttar Pradesh in 2022. The father of the purported Meitei nurse, K. Achouba, also spoke to a local news channel in Imphal, clarifying that his daughter was safe.

During this year-long crisis in the state, one of the most vocal in spreading hate messages and fake news is a 12-year old self-styled climate activist Licypriya Kangujam. Before May 3rd,

*Contd.*



*Contd.*

most of her posts used to be related to climate activism. It suddenly changed course on May 3. Her social media account began sharing fake stories about Meitei women being raped by Kukis. In one of her posts, she uploaded a picture of a burned body and claimed it was a Meitei girl who was raped and burned alive by “Kuki illegal immigrants.”

Instead, the body was identified as that of Kuki woman Thiandam Vaiphei from Pheitaiching village in Kangpokpi district. Her local pastor Thiena Vaiphei, accompanied by Gorkha Rifles and personnel of Andro police station, identified and claimed the remains of the woman.

She even described tribals as “aliens”, parroting the propaganda of Meitei radicals and the chauvinist Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

With her social media reach and global image, Licypriya Kangujam has done more than most people in spreading hate and radicalizing the Meitei community.

Besides Licypriya Kangujam, Meitei influencers such as Soma Laishram, RK Ichanthoi and others too have been passively involved in disseminating fake news.

As though the spreading of false news on social media and on the streets was not enough, the mainstream Meitei media went full throttle in publishing biased and, on many occasions, totally fabricated stories.

On June 9, 2023, the Meitei militants dressed in army combat gear attacked Khoken village in the New Keithelmanbi area of Kangpokpi district in the early morning around 4 am. The villagers thought it was a combing operation by the army as they were all dressed in Army uniforms. Suddenly the villagers were shot with automatic rifles. Three villagers died on the spot while two others were injured.

However, contrary to the actual incident, Meitei media with malaise intention reported it wrongly. A Meitei digital news site called HY News said eight Kuki militants

were killed in a fierce gunfight between the Kuki militants and village volunteer forces. They even called one of the deceased, Pi Domkhohoi, aged 67, as a sniper shooter.

Mainstream media like The Hindu reported it correctly. As per The Hindu report, the woman, Domkhohoi, had gone to the local church to pray when she was killed. The ludicrousness of Meitei media is beyond imaginable.

Not content with the biased news, the Meitei media occasionally published totally fabricated stories to confuse the public.

On August 13, 2023, Imphal Free Press said, Kuki and Paite militants in Churachandpur town and Sangaikot area were shooting at each other in the streets with guns and snipers. Earlier in June, Meitei vernacular paper had reported that ‘ZRA’ and ‘Kuki militants’ were fighting each other in Chiengkong area of Lamka.

Imphal based media are good at words, twisting news report as per their whims and fancies to suit their narratives. One such instance is the release of 5 Meitei youths who had been under the custody of Kuki volunteers. They were released on July 2 by the Kuki volunteers as a humanitarian gesture.

However, the good gesture was diluted by the Meitei media house. The Imphal Free Press reported that the five civilians were rescued from Kuki militants. On the contrary, mainstream media houses like India Today reported that the Kukis had released 5 Meitei youths as a gesture of peace.

These are some of the wrong news reporting done by Imphal based media house, which if we were to list it exhaustively, would be countless. “If you don’t read Meitei newspapers, you’ll be uninformed; if you read you’ll be misinformed,” is the cliché that clicks with them.

**FEATURED ARTICLE****Quest for ST Status : Majoritarian Approach of 'By Hook or By Crook' Has Its Risk****Ngaranmi Shimray**

A disturbing trend has emerged since 2022 in the push by Meitei organisations spearheading the demand for ST (Scheduled Tribe) status. It has become a relay race with the first runner, STDCM (Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee of Manipur), carrying out awareness campaign in 2022-23. The second runner, MMTU (Meitei/Meitei Tribe Union), took the ST demand to the Manipur High Court in March 2023 and got a favourable order dated 27.03.2023, which was modified by Court's order dated 21.02.2024. The third runner, WMC (World Meitei Council), is currently exerting pressure on the State Government to send the reports "by hook or by crook" in total disregard to the Court's order and advice of the Government of India which their sister organisation sought and got from the Manipur High Court.

Interestingly, STDCM, MMTU and WMC are no longer asking the State Government for carrying out a "latest socio-economic survey and ethnographic study" as directed by the Manipur High Court and initially stressed by them. Instead, it is now urging the State Government to send socio-economic survey and ethnographic study reports to the Government of India without carrying out the requisite formalities.

It is common knowledge that there is no latest socio-

economic survey and ethno-graphic study; and whatever is there is out-dated and out-of-context. Sending to Government of India out-dated and out-of-context reports would be foolhardy as it has the risk of being mis-interpreted by both parties; the Meitei masses believing ST status is within grasp while the tribes feel infuriated and concluding that they are losing their lands to the ST Meiteis in hill areas. Half-baked proposal based on out-dated and out-of-context documents can potentially spark a wider conflict between the non-tribal and tribal and doom the prospect of redefining the idea of an inclusive Manipur.

A huge trust deficit already existed between the tribes and the State Government including the legal fraternity on account of the surreptitious machination employed in obtaining the High Court order dated 27.03.2023. Sadly, the ill-conceived litigation of MMTU resulting in order dated 27.03.2023 is widely believed to have triggered the 3rd May 2023 conflict. The modified Court's order dated 21.02.2024 in revision case has left only one operative para which reads as, "The first respondent is directed to submit the recommendation in reply to the letter dated 29.5.2013 of the Ministry of

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

Tribal Affairs, Government of India.” This has rendered the entire legal exercise of MMTU seeking the Court’s intervention an exercise in futility, but tragically its impact has divided communities and it can be felt even today with the ongoing ethnic conflict still remaining unresolved.

The direction given by the Manipur High Court to the State Government is clear without any ambiguity. It states specifically-to submit the recommendation in reply to the letter dated 29.5.2013 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. With the baton changing hands, it appears that WMC has been given the task of pressuring the State Government as it is not a party in the Manipur High Court cases. It is urging the State Government to send the proposal without carrying out requisite established formalities in total violation of the Court’s direction and the advice of Government of India. From the manner the State Government is responding to one crisis after another, it appears that it is often swayed by majoritarian politics in total disregard to sentiments of minorities. This is a dangerous approach and the risk of adversarial reaction is high in case the State Government decides to violate the advice of the Court and Government of India by skipping established processes in an already vitiated atmosphere of ongoing ethnic conflict.

The Sangai Express on 28th and 30th April 2024 and also on 5th May 2024 reported that the WMC has urged “the State Government to send the socio-economic and ethnographic reports of Meetei/Meitei to the Centre to enlist the ethnic group in the ST list of the Constitution”. The WMC admitted that the Meiteis had rejected the idea of becoming ST in 1951, 1956 and in 1981. Now they want to be ST after missing opportunities from 1951 onwards. The Meitei society should realise that sea-change of social, educational, economic and political advancements have taken place in the Meitei society since Manipur became a full fledged State in 1972. They are the most populous community in Manipur and

control the political and administrative machinery. They know that they do not fulfil the five criteria laid down by Lokur Committee for identification to be ST namely, primitive traits, distinct culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness. Under any stretch of imagination the Meiteis are not primitive, isolated, shy to contact or backward. The Meiteis need to understand and appreciate that their ST demand has to go through the tests laid down by the Lokur Committee and to carry out the direction of the Manipur High Court the State Government would require latest socio-economic data and ethnographic study to examine and consider the matter. Avoiding carrying out a latest socio-economic survey and ethnographic study shows lack of confidence of the ST demand organisations for fear that it may reveal the advanced status of the Meitei community.

The tribals suspect that there could be a secret understanding between the Meitei ST demand pressure groups and the State Government/ Assembly (dominated by Meiteis) to send out-dated socio-economic survey and out-of- context ethnographic reports to the Centre with or without any specific recommendation and shift the onus of “belling the cat” to the Central Government. The tribals feel that the Govt of India has been biased and partial by not offering any comments or seeking time to obtain comments in the first Manipur High Court case thereby resulting in an order favouring the petitioners.

The concerted pressure being built-up to refer the Meitei ST status demand to Government of India is fraught with the risk of being mis-interpreted by both sides and this path should be tread cautiously. The potential of erroneous assumptions could spark a wider conflict between the Meiteis (non-tribal) and the tribes (Nagas and Kukis) and spiral

*Contd.*

out of control. The pressure of sending the proposal “by hook or by crook” without following the orders of the Manipur High Court will only precipitate confrontation between the tribals and non-tribals. If a wider conflict is ignited it would forever bury the idea of redefining Manipur for inclusive growth and development.

This is the 21st century now and Meitei community has made remarkable advancements and progress since the time the British colonial officials may have mentioned Meiteis as a tribe in the 18th Century. The Kaka Kalelkar Report of 1956 has categorised Meiteis as an advanced community and since achieving full fledged Statehood they have made advancement in leaps and bounds leaving the tribes far behind. It is clear as daylight, right from the beginning of the ST status campaign, that Meiteis do not qualify the Lokur Committee backwardness criteria. The Meiteis of today are very advanced people that their youth are securing high positions in the Civil Services Examination (CSE) as General, OBC and SC candidates. Four Meitei youth succeeded in the CSE 2023. Many direct recruit IAS and IPS Meitei officers are in Manipur cadre holding senior positions disproving the claim that the desire for reservation of jobs under the ST category is not the real objective behind the Meitei ST demand. The ST demand narratives have been changing from being a tribe historically, to pressure on land for 53% population in 10% land vis-a-vis 41% tribes in 90% land, and now the latest that NRC, ILPS and border fencing are not enough but only ST status can secure Meiteis betraying the real objective of ST demand organisations of usurping tribal lands in the hill areas from the tribes.

Captain LB Singh (Retired Indian Navy) has stated in The Sangai Express on 7th May 2024 that the issue of ST status for Meiteis can be debated in the State Assembly and voted upon. Identification of ST status is based on certain criteria laid down by Lokur Committee. To determine eligibility a socio-economic survey and ethnographic study is required and this has already been pointed out by Government of India and reiterated

by Manipur High Court. This is the first test that has to be applied to determine if a community is a tribe and if it satisfies the backwardness criteria. The composition of Manipur Assembly is in favour of the Meiteis and the outcome is obvious if it is put to vote. But majoritarianism is not the procedure and the process is scientific and objective. The Government of India and the Court has already advised for sending specific recommendation along with the latest socio-economic survey and ethnographic study report.

Do this. Why are the Meitei organisations and scholars avoiding and ignoring the advice of Government and Court?

It is high time that the State Government should catch the bull by the horns and order a socio-economic survey and ethnographic study of the Meitei community. This was initially what the ST demand organisations wanted the State Government to carry out. Dilly-dallying and allowing the ST demand to fester would spread the venom of hatred between the two largest communities and this is harmful for Manipur’s integrity. Expecting the tribals to remain quiet, as the crescendo for ST status demand picks up, would be inviting trouble as it will make the tribes protest in the hill areas thereby widening the chasm between the valley and the hill people of Manipur.

Allowing the WMC and other ST demand organisations to whip up frenzy by involving innocent school students and civilians in road processions raising false hope is irresponsible and will vitiate the tense communal environment further. Ponder for a moment on the divide that will be caused if anti-ST protest marches are taken

*Contd.*

Contd.

up in the hill areas as the Meitei ST status demand is understood by the tribes as targeting tribal lands in the hill areas and not for jobs under ST quota. The ST status demand for Meiteis is not to be decided on the streets but on the latest relevant data and documents. The tribals are not naive anymore and will strongly resist the attempt of Meiteis to grab tribal land through the route of ST status. Land is always an emotive issue and has caused wars around the world. It will not be different for Manipur.

Demand based on Meitei majoritarianism approach and emotions will breed ill-will between the Meiteis and the tribes and will be detrimental to the idea of unified Manipur. The State Government is playing with fire by deterring and allowing the suspense to linger. It should have the courage to call the shots and not leave policy and decision making to disruptive elements to dictate terms to a democratically elected State Government. Chief Minister of Manipur has stated recently that a

proper discussion is needed on the matter of ST status demand by Meiteis. This is the right step forward; State Government should lead and set the narrative for discussion with all stakeholders.

Therefore, the onus falls squarely on the shoulders of the State Government to bring about sanity. It requires the latest socio- economic study and ethnographic study and its availability will enable the State Government to analyse the latest data and information and take informed decisions for considering inclusion or otherwise of Meitei community in the list of ST. The challenge for the State Government and MLAs, both from the valley and hills, is to institute a socio-economic survey and ethno- graphic study without any delay through a credible independent third party with transparency and accountability and take control of the situation before it spirals out of control.



**THE  
TWO-FACED  
NETA**

BEFORE  
ELECTION



AFTER  
ELECTION





## THE INEVITABLE BATTLE

Marching down the battlefield,  
Heart pounding fast.  
With a gun and a shield,  
Emotions and tears he cast.

His skin is all bruised,  
And Hands, legs quivers.  
His mind is not bemused,  
The order given is all he considers.

Family, he leaves behind,  
With a tear rolling down his skin.  
A happy moment he rewinds,  
Reminiscing for last with a grin.

Telling his family not to hope,  
With a shatter voice.  
As Returning is not the scope,  
He tells with out of choice.

His child crying is all he hears.  
While walking down the battlefield.  
Not able to see them again is he fear,  
And cry helplessly on his knees.

Under the blanket his child cries,  
A mother tries to divert, child's  
innocent mind.  
With all the love and water in their eyes,  
The father whose a warrior bid goodbyes.

On the way he wiped his tears,  
With his head held high.  
His family and NAM are all he cares;  
And For them he prepares himself to die.

While he stands firms with a purpose,  
With all the emotions kept aside.  
He hears the news about the callous,  
He knew it would be done tonight.

He went forth with his brothers,  
With the same flame their spirit ignites;  
They made their enemy stumble,  
But they knew it would be a tough fight.

Fighting for his NAM was all in his mind;  
TahChapa a voice he hears from inside.  
With all his strength, with all his might  
He led our NAM's to victory,  
Though he had to die.

He took his last breath,  
And fell on the ground.  
He could not stop his death,  
But His victory made the loudest sound.

**-Valentina Mangte**

