

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



### LETMINTHANG @ BENJAMIN GUTE (23 YEARS)

S/O (L) JAMTIN GUTE

ADDRESS: T. MUNNOMJANG, CHANDEL

DATE OF DEATH: 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: H. GAMNOM, CHANDEL

CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD BY MEITEI MILITANTS



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



**191**  
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 MANIPUR REJECTS PEACE TALKS WITH MANIPUR GOVERNMENT, DEMANDS JUSTICE

The Kuki Inpi Manipur has strongly condemned recent statements by Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who suggested that his government would engage in peace talks with representatives of the Kuki-Zo people. The Kuki Inpi Manipur asserts that this portrayal is misleading and falsely implies that the Kuki-Zo community is open to negotiations with the Manipur state government.

According to the Kuki Inpi Manipur, the Kuki-Zo people are firmly opposed to any discussions with the Manipur government, which they accuse of orchestrating an ethnic cleansing campaign against them. They highlight their refusal to participate in talks as evidenced by their recent rejection of an invitation from Shri Dinganglung Gangmei, Chairman of the Hill Area Committee of Manipur.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur's resolution emphasizes that any talks with the Manipur state government are futile and nonsensical without first achieving justice for the suffering and damage inflicted upon their community. They insist that their primary goal is to secure a Union



Territory with legislative powers as a form of justice for the Kuki-Zo people.

Furthermore, the Kuki Inpi Manipur clarifies that no individual or entity has been authorized to represent the Kuki-Zo people in negotiations with the Manipur government. They urge all media and relevant parties to halt the spread of inaccurate information and respect their stance on the matter.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur reaffirms its commitment to pursuing justice and ending the persecution of its people, calling for a focus on these critical issues rather than unverified claims of peace negotiations.

## CO TU TAKES PRE-EMPTIVE MEASURES AMID RISING TENSIONS IN MANIPUR

In a decisive move, the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) has announced pre-emptive measures in response to escalating tensions and perceived threats against the Kuki-Zo tribal community in Manipur. This comes after repeated efforts by the Union Home Ministry and the Manipur state government to remove the 22 and 9 Assam Rifles from the Sadar Hills in Kangpokpi and Kangvai, Churachandpur, which CoTU interprets as a tacit approval of what they describe as a "mass genocide program" targeting the Kuki-Zo community.

Recent revelations have intensified fears within the Kuki-Zo community, particularly an audio clip purportedly featuring Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, in



which he allegedly admits to orchestrating ethnic cleansing efforts. These claims have heightened

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concerns among the minority community, who have long appealed to the Government of India for protection.

Adding to these fears, CoTU General Secretary, Lamminlun Singnit highlighted a coordinated strategy allegedly led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his emissary, Promod Singh of Meitei Leepun.

He said that on June 6, 2023, Promod Singh allegedly vowed on national television to “annihilate” the 15-kilometer stretch of Kangpokpi, a threat reportedly echoed by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) on June 7, 2023, when they declared a “Clarion Call” to wage war on the Kuki-Zo community.

In light of these developments, he said, CoTU has

resolved to take pre-emptive measures to protect the Kuki-Zo community from what they believe is an imminent “second wave” of ethnic violence.

CoTU General Secretary warned that any untoward incidents resulting from the ongoing tensions will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Government of Manipur.

He also issued a call to the Kuki-Zo community to remain vigilant, united, and refrain from inciting further animosity. The committee’s statement reflects the deepening crisis in Manipur, where ethnic divisions threaten to plunge the region into further violence.

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## KUKI STUDENTS HOLD PROTEST IN DELHI DEMANDING SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION IN MANIPUR

Kuki-Zo groups held a protest under the banner of Kuki Students’ Organisation (KSO) here on Saturday, demanding a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo tribal communities in ethnic strife-torn Manipur.

The Delhi-NCR unit of the KSO also released a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding a separate Kuki-Zo administration in Manipur and opposing the Centre’s decision to withdraw the Assam Rifles from the buffer zones in the northeastern state.

Around 600-800 members of the Kuki and Zo communities gathered at Jantar Mantar despite rain, KSO general secretary Seilenmang Haokip said.

“We, the Kuki Students’ Organisation Delhi-NCR, write to you with a deep sense of urgency and desperation. The Kuki-Zo people are enduring severe atrocities and existential threats under the current Meitei-led government in Manipur, headed by Chief Minister N Biren Singh,” the organisation said in its memorandum



addressed to Modi.

“The Kuki-Zo tribal communities are facing an existential threat under the current state administration, which has failed to protect our rights, our lives and our dignity,” it added.

It appealed to the prime minister to intervene and take immediate steps to establish a separate

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administration for the Kuki-Zo communities in Manipur.

“We, therefore, earnestly appeal to you, Honourable Prime Minister, to intervene in this matter and take immediate steps to establish a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo tribal communities in Manipur,” the memorandum read.

“This is not just a demand for political autonomy but a plea for our very survival,” it added.

The KSO alleged that the Biren Singh government has not only failed to protect the Kuki-Zo people but has “actively participated in their persecution”.

“The state’s law-enforcement agencies have been biased in their approach, with selective arrests, harassment and intimidation of Kuki-Zo individuals. In many instances, the police have either turned a blind eye to the atrocities committed against our people or have been active participants in the violence,” it alleged.

The KSO also voiced its opposition to the BJP-led Centre’s decision to withdraw the 9th and 22nd battalions of the Assam Rifles from the buffer zones in Manipur.

“The Assam Rifles have played a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in the region, especially in areas where the state police have failed to act impartially. The buffer zones, manned by the Assam Rifles, have been a lifeline for the Kuki-Zo people, providing much-needed protection from the violent attacks perpetrated by radical elements within the Meitei community,” it said.

The protesters voiced their concerns over the “potential repercussions” of replacing the Assam Rifles with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in these sensitive areas, according to a statement issued by the KSO.

“The buffer zones, established by the Ministry of Home Affairs in May 2023, have been maintained by the Assam Rifles to separate the warring Meitei and Kuki communities and prevent further violence in the conflict-ridden state,” the statement said.

“The Assam Rifles have been instrumental in stabilising the situation in Manipur’s buffer zones,” a KSO spokesperson said during the rally.

“Their removal at this volatile time could undo the progress made towards peace and potentially lead to a resurgence of violence,” he added.

The KSO highlighted the Assam Rifles’ long-standing presence in the northeast, emphasising their familiarity with the region’s terrain and socio-political dynamics as well as the trust they have earned from local communities.

The memorandum has been signed by KSO president Paojakhup Guite and Haokip. The organisation said the memorandum has been sent to the Prime Minister’s Office.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)



**When injustice becomes law,  
resistance becomes duty.**

— Thomas Jefferson

# CONGRESS URGES PM MODI TO VISIT MANIPUR AMID WAYANAD TRIP, HIGHLIGHTS 15-MONTH CRISIS

The Congress on Saturday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Wayanad and expressed hope that he would also visit Manipur, which has been facing difficulties for over 15 months.

The Prime Minister is in Kerala's Wayanad, an area affected by landslides.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh remarked on social media that it is good the Prime Minister is in Wayanad, acknowledging the tragic situation.

"It is good that the non-biological PM is in Wayanad today. It was a devastating tragedy," Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said in a post in Hindi on X.

"After this, he (Modi) is scheduled to visit Ukraine to stop the war once again. Hopefully, he will find the time and the inclination before then to also visit Manipur which has been experiencing so much pain, anguish, and agony for over 15 months now," Ramesh said.



He added that Modi is scheduled to visit Ukraine and hoped he would find time to visit Manipur before that.

The Congress has criticised the Prime Minister for not visiting Manipur despite repeated requests.

On Saturday, Modi conducted an aerial survey of disaster-hit areas in Wayanad, where landslides have resulted in over 200 deaths.



#Manipur's indigenous #KukiZo tribals face extinction from state-sponsored ethnic cleansing.

Granting #UnionTerritory4KukiZo is the only solution to protect their future. Govt must expedite process of separation and offer political solution at the earliest.



17:09 · 10 Aug 24 · 309 Views



Sushma Sharma  
@SushmaSh22

Follow Back

The answers that everyone needs but BJP neglects. One year since this day, what hasn't changed?

1. The grim situation in #Manipur
2. The Prime Minister's continued ignorance of Manipur
3. The Chief Minister of Manipur
4. The grief and sorrow of the families of #Manipur
5. Our resolve to continue fighting for restoration of peace in Manipur

@GauravGogoiAsm Deputy LoP  
#IndiaAtOlympics #LCDLFX2 #ParisOlympics2024



14:46 · 09 Aug 24 · 1,344 Views

Click to Follow



## BOMB BLAST AT DOCTOR'S RESIDENCE IN IMPHAL: NEED FOR RE-IMPOSITION OF AFSPA INTENSIFIES

A bomb detonated at the residence of Dr. Moirangthem Dhanabir, located on the Dhanamanjuri University campus in Imphal, Manipur, around 10 pm on Friday. According to Manipur police, the blast occurred at Dr. Dhanabir's home, who is 44 years old, the son of M. Tomba from Uripok Sorbon Thingel, and currently residing at the southern Dhanamanjuri University campus. Dr. Dhanabir is the president of the Akhil Bharatiya Hill Kranti Party Manipur State Unit and owns a private diabetic hospital.

Police reported that CCTV footage captured an unknown individual dressed in women's clothing throwing a suspected Chinese-made hand grenade at the residence's gate before fleeing the scene. Fortunately, no one was injured, though some property was damaged. An investigation is underway at Imphal Police Station, but no group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

Earlier this year, in January, a hand grenade was thrown at Dr. Dhanabir's residence but failed to explode. On June 7, another incident involved unknown individuals



in black clothing delivering a box containing a hand grenade to Dr. Dhanabir's private hospital.

These incidents highlight the urgent need for the re-imposition of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in the valley areas, where daily reports of lawlessness, including extortion, threats, intimidation, kidnapping, and ransom demands, have been frequent. Protests have also emerged in Imphal valley, Thoubal bazaar, and Moirang against the ongoing issues of extortion and monetary demands.

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## OVER 300 TRUCKS STRANDED AMID "BANDH" ON NH-37

An indefinite bandh, imposed by the Affected Landowners Committee (CALA) Longmai, has brought vehicle movement from Silchar, Assam, to Imphal, Manipur, to a near halt for the second consecutive day.

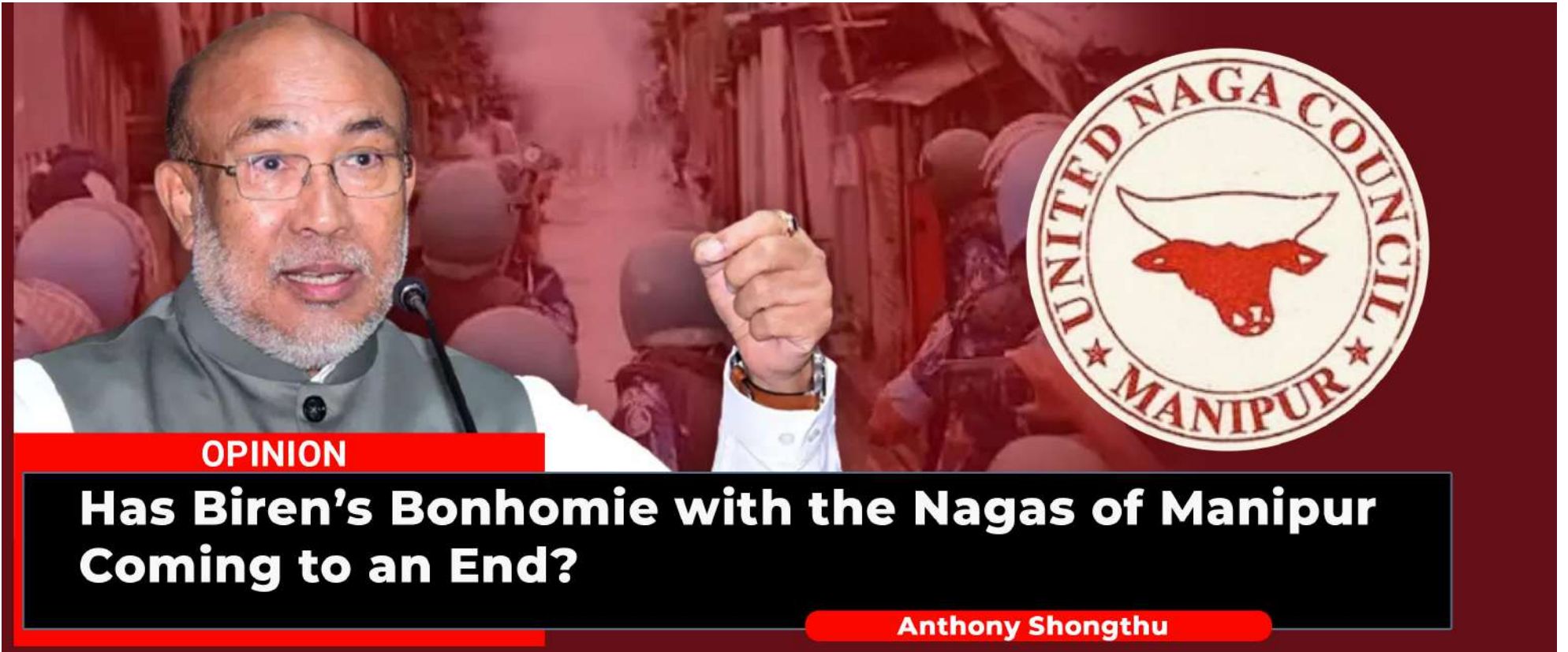
The bandh, which began on August 9, 2024, at midnight, affects National Highway 37 (Imphal-Jiribam Road) and all national project works in Longmai, Noney District.

The CALA is protesting against the non-payment of compensation for land used in NH-37 road expansion.

With the protest continuing, the protestors burnt tyres and placed large benches and logs on the road at Noney parts 4 and 5 to block the traffic.



Over 300 goods-laden vehicles are reported to be stranded at Leingangching village for the second day, with normally over 1000 vehicles plying from Imphal to Silchar via Jiribam daily.



OPINION

## Has Biren's Bonhomie with the Nagas of Manipur Coming to an End?

Anthony Shongthu

The United Naga Council (UNC), the apex social organisation of the Nagas of Manipur, in its presidential council meeting held on 9 August 2024 at Maram, Senapati district, resolved to continue its demand to roll-back the seven new districts created in December 2016 by the then Congress government.

It may be noted that the UNC had launched a series of agitation including a four month long economic blockade along the two National Highways (Imphal-Dimapur road and Imphal-Jiri road) in protest against the bifurcation of the then seven existing districts out of nine to create seven new districts. The newly created districts include Jiribam (from Imphal East), Kakching (from Thoubal), Kangpokpi (from Senapati), Kamjong (from Uthul) Noney (from Tamenglong), Pherzawl (from Churachandpur), and Tengnoupal (from Chandel). Imphal West and Bishnupur were the only two districts which were not bifurcated. The main argument of the UNC was that the Nagas were not consulted while creating these new districts.

However, after the BJP led government came to power in 2017 with Mr. N. Biren Singh as the Chief Minister, the UNC lifted its four-month long agitation though the reason behind such a u-turn was never shared to the public.

In the meantime, Mr. Biren began frequenting the hill districts either to inaugurate newly completed projects or announce new projects worth millions. During his first stint as the Chief Minister (2017-2022), Mr. Biren's government had become much friendly to the Nagas while distancing itself from the Kukis. Though he had also often visited the Kuki-dominated districts such as Kangpokpi and Churachandpur, much of his government's attention was focus on the Naga-dominated districts particularly Ukhrul, Senapati and Tamenglong. Even Ukhrul was proposed as the second capital of Manipur!

Towards the end of his first tenure, particularly since 2021, systematic attacks on the Kukis have started, and gained more momentum after he took oath as the Chief Minister for the second term on 15 March 2022. These include issuing show-cause notices to thousands of landowners in Imphal including churches, village chiefs, and random arrest of Kuki youths for social media comments. Whereas landowners of Imphal were declared as illegal occupants or encroachers, village lands in the hills were declared as reserved forest, protected

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forest, and proposed reserved forest. Notably, three Churches attended mostly by the Kuki community in Tribal Colony, Imphal, were also destroyed in the wee hours of 11 April 2023 while another church in the same colony spared. Interestingly, this particular church is attended mostly by the Tangkhuls (Naga).

Initially, when the state government issued show cause notices or eviction orders to the Churches in Imphal, the All Manipur Christian Organisation (AMCO) and All Tribal Students Union Manipur (ATSUM) along with UNC and Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) had collectively fought together to protect them. But slowly the Nagas chose to save their own Churches leaving those of the Kukis at the mercy of the “communal” state government.

Moreover, various hills such as Koubru, Thangjing (Thangting), Nongmaiching hill range, etc., which are located within the village jurisdictions of the Kuki chiefs were declared as heritage sites on the ground that they are culturally significant to the Meiteis. In all these cases, about 90% of the land which are under the surreptitious project of the state government belongs to the Kukis whereas those of the Nagas were largely excluded except in few occasions where the latter had lands in the Kuki-majority areas.

During this period, government officers who were sent for spot visit in Imphal often told the landowners, in case it happens to be that of a Naga, that they need not worry since their intention is only to identify those lands belonging to the Kukis. There was also a household survey conducted in 2022 particularly in Lamphel and National Game Village areas in Imphal West district in which the gates/doors of the Kukis were marked with ink/colour!

There was also a proposal to construct Maharaja Chandrakirti Park at the historic Chivu site in Churachandpur district, and the statue of a Meitei King was erected in the Indo-Myanmar border town of Moreh. Regrettably, a village named K.Songjang in Churachandpur district was also bulldozed on

21 February 2023 on the ground that it was a newly established village within the so-called Churachandpur-Khoupum Protected Forest.

In the meantime, the Schedule Tribe Demand Committee Manipur (STDCM) which has been spearheading the demand for inclusion of the Meitei/Meetei as Scheduled Tribe has been getting a favourable order from the Hon’ble High Court of Manipur on 27 March 2023. This demand of a section of the Meiteis was fiercely opposed by the tribals under the aegis of ATSUM. In protest against the directive of the Hon’ble Court, a massive solidarity rally was organised in all the hill districts on 3 May 2023. And it was on this day that the radicalised sections of the Meiteis with the open support of the state government including its Chief Minister Mr. Biren and the titular King and lone Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) Leishemba Sanajaoba had begun its plan to ethnically cleanse the Kukis from the Meitei-dominated Imphal valley and its surrounding areas.

All these steps taken up by the Government of Manipur with Mr. Biren as the Chief Minister have been viewed as anti-Kuki. In fact, all the state machinery including the Hon’ble High Court had been exploited to annihilate the tribals particularly the Kukis and served the interest of the majority Meitei community. It is from this background that the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic pogrom against the Kukis needs to be seen.

Though the attack on the Kukis started on the day ATSUM had organised a mass rally, the Nagas of Manipur tactlessly chose the path of neutrality giving free hand to the majority Meiteis and the state in their attempt to annihilate the Kukis. In the last 15 months, all employment as well as educational opportunity, not to forget other

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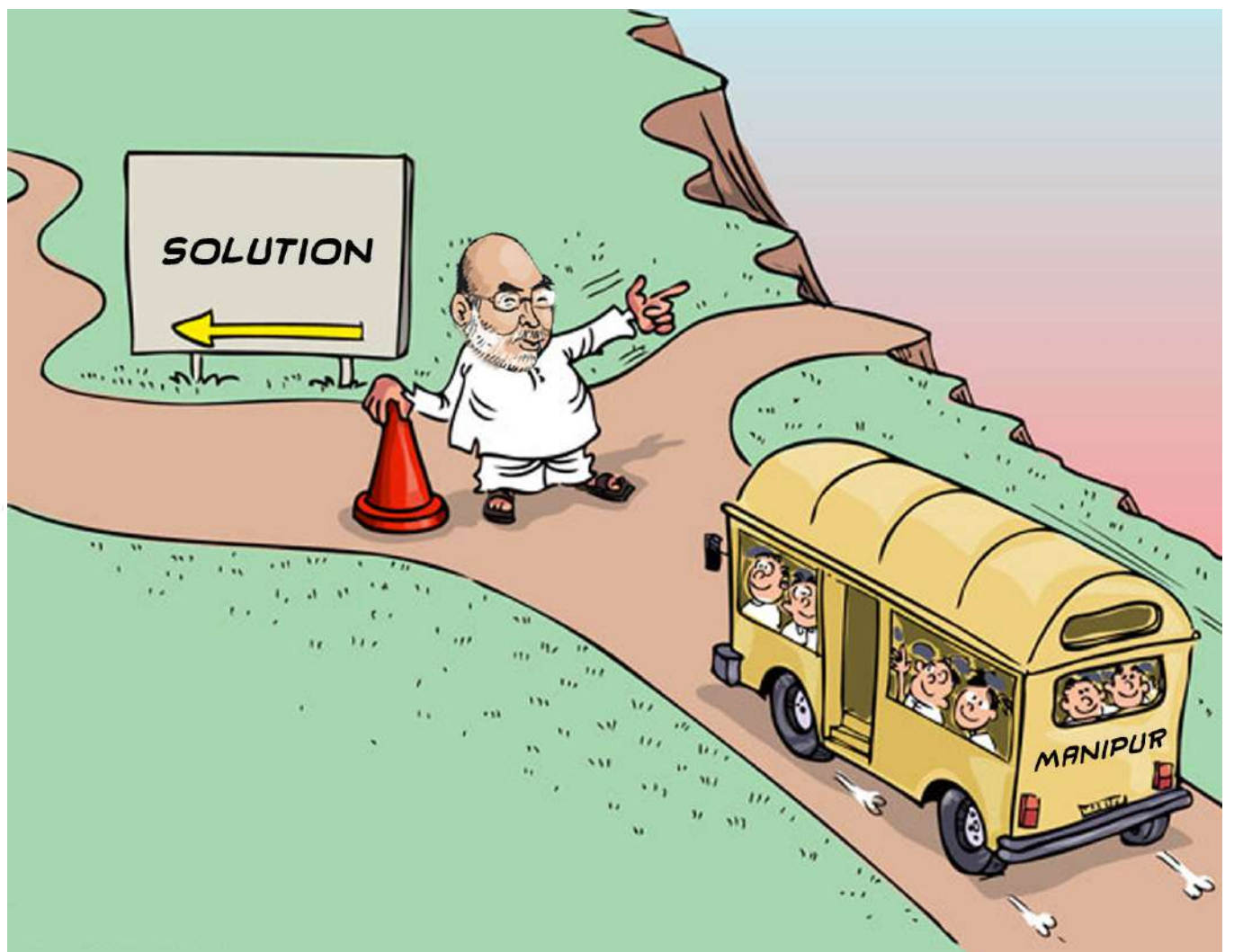
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amenities such as medical, trade, communication, etc. available in Imphal have been usurped by the Meiteis along with the Nagas and other smaller communities. Before, all the communities including the Kukis usually share these opportunities but all the facilities meant for the tribals are now taken by the Non-Kuki tribes.

It may also be noted that the several incidents involving atrocities meted out to the Nagas including the brutal murder of Ms. Lucy Maring, physical assaults/molestation of its women as in the case of the four Tangkhul women who were on their way to the Airport and the raid in a restaurant in Tangkhul Avenue by the Meiteis have been negotiated as per "Naga customary laws" and are forgiven. But any silly mistakes committed in the Kuki-dominated districts are often taken as attack on the whole Naga community. The best example is how the burning of a Truck belonging to the Meiteis in Kangpokpi district was responded with an economic

embargo on all the Kuki-Zo communities for weeks!

Now that the UNC came out with an ultimatum to the state government to roll-back the new districts along with other demands, one wonders whether the bonhomie between Mr. Biren and the Nagas of Manipur have come to an end. Or, is it a ploy to take advantage of the prevailing situation for political gain? As fellow tribals and Christians, it is expected of the Nagas to take a decision which will be in the collective interest of the whole minority tribals. Else, a trivial mistake can only serve the interest of the dominant community and the communal state government headed by the narcissist leader Mr. Biren and his cohorts whose ultimate motive is the annihilation of the minority tribals. Now, they came for the Kuki-Zo, and it is everybody's guess who will be their next target.



**THE STUMBLING  
BLOCK FOR  
PEACEFUL  
SOLUTION**

## What if???

For years on end I cannot bring myself to think about what happened that day , not in any probing way  
The few times my reminiscing carried me back to that traumatizing afternoon.

Now after a year has passed, I sit down to write, to reconstruct the incident from the echoes and shouts of a trembling soul.

I scratch every detail out and when I get to the end , i pause.

There is an overt , visible , upfront, non-secretive, make-known ethnic cleansing of my people, a masacre in the story.

I read it again, I read it again

And there it is

Who started the fire??

A scared quivering voice says , the significant mob.

But we were completely alone, isolated by the whole world and fellow anthropoid.

Till this day, i think about wat if the war had never started, what if it was put to an end before it overpowered the emotions and sentiments of the people.

The question "what if" keeps me up on night when I lay my head and my soul craves for filial love.

And I ponder upon the question "what if" and my encephalon still stuck to the zero chances of "what if??"

MOMOI KHONGSAI