

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Lhangnomphai RELIEF CENTRE

Lhangnomphai Community Hall, Sadar Hills  
(Camp Code: KPI-2-10)

Managed by  
District Administration &  
Kuki CSOs Sadar Hills

**Total Inmates Registered: 174**



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 05.02.2024



**161**  
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.

# BJP-RSS SPREADING HATRED, CIVIL WAR UNDERWAY IN MANIPUR, ALLEGES RAHUL GANDHI IN CHHATTISGARH

The BJP and RSS are spreading hatred while love is in the DNA of India, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh as his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra resumed on Sunday after a two-day break. Rahul Gandhi said that Congress wants a "Hindustan for the future generation where hatred and violence does not exist".

"At present, hatred and violence is being spread in every corner of the country. Some say they don't like others on the basis of their language, some say they don't like others on the basis of the states they belong to. Such thoughts will weaken the country," he said.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are spreading hatred, while love is in the DNA of this country. In this country, people belonging to different faiths and having different thoughts live together peacefully with love," he asserted.

He slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting violence-hit Manipur where over 100 people lost their life and several houses were torched since May last year.



There is civil war underway in the north eastern state and the Union government is not in control, Gandhi claimed.

"When I visited there, those from the Meitei community asked me not to get Kuki security personnel, while Kukis said the same for Meitei personnel," he said.

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## MANIPUR TOURISM SUFFERS BLOW DUE TO ONGOING ETHNIC VIOLENCE

According to the state tourism department, the number of domestic tourists visiting Manipur saw a drastic drop after the conflict began. Compared to an average of 10,753 domestic tourists per month in the first quarter of 2023, the numbers plummeted to a mere 831 and 2,384 in June and December respectively.

Foreign tourist arrivals also witnessed a significant decline, dropping from an average of 655 per month in the first quarter to 88 and 207 in June and December respectively.

This sharp decline reflects a stark contrast to the

promising growth the state's tourism sector had been experiencing.

In 2022-23, Manipur saw a remarkable 371.5% increase in domestic tourist arrivals compared to the previous year, with foreign tourist footfall witnessing a staggering 2369.82% jump.

However, the ongoing conflict has effectively halted this positive momentum, causing significant economic losses to the tourism industry and its dependent communities.

(Source: NE Now)

# ARAMBAI TENGGOL SEKMAI UNIT COMMANDER ABSTAINS POLICE SUMMON OVER FACEBOOK POST

Robin Mangang Khwairakpam, the Commander of the Arambai Tenggol Sekmai Unit, was summoned by Sekmai Police regarding a social media post on Facebook. In response, Robin expressed his frustration on Facebook, criticizing the state police for the summon. His Facebook post mentioned his desire to purchase AK-47 and AK-56 rifles at a reasonable price, leading to his summon by the Sekmai Police. Robin reacted vehemently on social media, hurling abuses against the Manipur Police, attempting to gain sympathy from the Meitei public.

Robin Mangang Khwairakpam, known for his involvement in the Manipur ethnic conflict, has consistently sought to maintain his relevance. Despite facing rejection from his own constituency in the last assembly election at Sekmai Assembly Constituency, receiving fewer votes than NOTA, he has capitalized on the ongoing conflict by positioning himself as the Commander of the Arambai Tenggol Sekmai Unit to reshape his tarnished image. He has made derogatory remarks against the Kukis on various platforms, including television shows and debates.

During a discussion on ISTV Discussion Hour, Robin allegedly claimed that he could eliminate the Kukis within a week if Central Forces refrained from intervening in the conflict, urging them to comply with his demand. However, the reality on the ground contradicts his assertion, as the presence of Central Security Forces has helped prevent further casualties. Despite his profession as a Merchant Navy, Robin



discussed war tactics from the comfort of his room without firsthand experience on the battlefield.

While he may project an image of power and bravado on social media, to the Kukis he appears more like an aspiring comedian. Despite his attempts to come across as strong and fearless, he is often seen as nothing more than a source of entertainment for the Kukis. They humorously teased him, and in response, he often retaliated with insults. Despite his efforts to appear imposing, the Kukis view him as similar to other entertainers like Pramot and RK Ichanthoi who provided us with comic relief during these trying times. They perceive Robin, like his peers, as someone who enjoys boasting on social media and deceiving the naive Meitei population with his attention-seeking antics and performances.



**Wars almost never end the way  
starters had in mind.**

*- Malcolm*

# OIL PUMPS IN VALLEY DECIDES TO CEASE OPERATION OVER ABDUCTION OF STAFF, LOOTS AND UNBEARABLE MONETARY DEMANDS

Several oil/fuel pumps in the valley have reportedly resolved to cease operation in a few days due to the abduction of their staff, loots and unbearable demands from different groups that they have been facing in the ongoing conflict.

It has been reported that miscreants often fled away without paying anything to the outlet attendants after refilling their vehicles to its full capacity has become a common phenomenon in the valley.

Since the miscreants looted the retail outlets or either collect donations and refilled their vehicles without paying anything, the retail outlets faced difficulties in purchasing fresh stock of fuel, repayment of debt and EMI to oil companies and banks

Despite paying donations and incurring loss, they do not take excess money from the consumers and that they sell the fuel at the rate fixed by the government.

With all the problems they have been enduring, the retail outlet owners organised a joint meeting recently and have resolved to cease their daily operation.

While addressing the valley based media in Imphal on February 9, the oil pump owners revealed that substantial monetary demands, abduction of their staff and intimidation to close the outlets have become unbearable to them which leave them with no choice but to cease operation in a few days.

The oil pump owners claimed that about 70 percent of retail outlets in Manipur run their businesses by taking loans from different banks.

Informing that the sale of petrol and diesel has declined by almost half during the ongoing conflict as compared to the past, they said that paying EMI has become extremely difficult for them. Though oil companies allow them to procure fuel by credit, they are not in the position to repay the amount.

As per their revelation, they have also been making donations despite the financial crunch they have been facing in the interest of the people.



Oil pump owners also claimed that many groups came to them for assistance towards providing relief materials to the displaced people and they donate whatever they can. They further said that some groups also make unbearable demands to them.

Even the staff of retail outlets have been abducted for not arranging the money they demand, they said and claimed that miscreants have also looted cash from retail outlets on two occasions.

It is worth mentioning here that the number of the Arambai Tenggol members have reportedly increased to 60,000 with new recruitment undergoing at present. To feed its members, the Arambai Tenggol with no source of income would have no other means but to loot, ask for donations and place monetary demands to meet the daily needs of the members.

Besides, they also have to fill the fuel of their vehicles which are used in performing their road shows, and they also need to procure arms and ammunition to attack the Kuki-Zo villages which will not be financially possible without donations and loots.

There are also reports and even video evidences of Meiteis collecting donations to non-local shopkeepers and even the Nagas along the highways and roads. If this is the case, the big-shot Meitei businessmen in imphal as well as the non-local businessmen would regularly be paying huge amounts to the Meitei miscreants.

No doubt, the local representatives starting from councilor, Pradhan, MLAs and ministers will be forced to pay huge amounts as donations to the Meitei miscreants or the Arambai Tenggol. One can expect to see or hear more drama from the valley in the near future.

# BIREN ISSUES DUMMY CHEQUE TO VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE SANS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is notorious for his catchphrase "Action Yengbiyu" (Watch My Action), which he often used in response to law and order situations, indicating that action will be taken. This phrase has become synonymous with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh himself and is frequently heard when he addresses the media after significant incidents. However, this once-famous line has now become a subject of ridicule for many, as no tangible action has been taken against wrongdoers. People have grown accustomed to this ineffective phrase and no longer take it seriously.

In line with his signature catchphrase, the Chief Minister presented dummy cheques to victims of violence in the Sugnu Assembly Constituency three months ago, promising financial assistance for rebuilding their houses. However, these individuals are still awaiting the promised fund. Sugnu MLA K Ranjit has alleged that despite receiving dummy cheques from the Chief Minister two/three months ago, displaced persons from Sugnu and Serou have not received any financial aid.

Ranjit made these claims while addressing the media on Sunday, stating that the Deputy Commissioner of Kakching had informed him about the Chief Minister's invitation to disburse financial assistance to displaced persons from Sugnu and Serou on November 9, 2023. Acting on this information, Ranjit arranged transportation for the displaced persons



to the DC office. However, upon arrival, it was revealed that only four families from each village would receive financial assistance. Subsequently, these eight families were taken to the CM Secretariat, where the Chief Minister handed them dummy cheques in front of the media.

Despite these public gestures, it is disappointing to learn that these families are yet to receive any actual financial assistance. While the Chief Minister is quick to make promises and declarations, meaningful actions often fail to materialize. Additionally, despite the gravity of the situation, the Chief Minister has shown a lack of concern by refusing to entertain phone calls, even from MLAs of conflict-affected constituencies.



Kautilya3   
@Kautilya33

"the current conflict is Meitei-centric as it is linked to **Meitei fear** of becoming a minority community and their desire of **grabbing tribal lands** in hill areas **camouflaged** in the demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status."

[ukhrultimes.com/marjing-mayang...](https://ukhrultimes.com/marjing-mayang...)

1:56 AM · Feb 9, 2024 · 5,062 Views



SUNDAY SPECIAL ARTICLE

## Manipur Crisis: Students Unsure Of Their Future As Board Exams Approach

Ninglun Hanghal

With the Manipur conflict still simmering, heightened anxiety has gripped students who are preparing for Class 10 and 12 board exams, scheduled to be held between mid-February and the first week of April. The situation is precarious for those who were forced to seek refuge in the relief camps even as the ethnic clash between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities enters its 10th month.

The constant shadow of violence and the uncertainties of living in cramped relief camps with meagre access to resources has added to the sense of doom among these youngsters who are preparing for examinations that will determine their future career prospects. When the ethnic conflict erupted in May 2023, the state's education system was one of the earliest casualties as schools remained shut for extended periods. For the better part of a crucial academic year, these students were left to their own devices to pursue education.

### Fewer students

The government's numbers shine the spotlight on the disastrous impact of the violence on the lives of the youngsters. This year, a total of 38,127 students will be appearing for the Class 10 board exams. Out of this, a total of 28,477 students are from private schools, 8,130 from government schools, and 1,520 from aided schools. According to the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BSEM), this is a decrease of 1,637 students compared to the 2022-23 Class 10 board exams. For the Class 12 board exams, a total of 28,000 will write the papers that will mark the culmination of their school education.

The unending violence has not just affected the displaced students, it weighs heavily on all those belonging to the Kuki-Zo communities, spread across the hill areas. The disturbance of civil life has made it hard for students to focus on preparing for the upcoming examinations. The trust deficit in the government runs so deep that they wonder whether their answer papers will be evaluated fairly even if they are able to appear for the examinations.

### Affiliation controversy

In December last year, 25 schools from Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts were de-affiliated by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and three District Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) in the two districts suspended for issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to schools that applied for switching affiliation from the state board to CBSE without the knowledge of the state government.

The Manipur state education department reacted by stating that the government had not provided any NOC to the schools seeking CBSE affiliation. According to CBSE bylaws, it is a legal requirement for schools affiliated to state boards to obtain an NOC from the state government before applying for CBSE affiliation. The three education department officers embroiled in the controversy are: Churachandpur ZEO Jangkhohao Haokip, Kangpokpi ZEO Lingtinneng,

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and District Inspector of Schools, Churachandpur, L. TaiTaithul.

The move to suspend 25 schools came after the state government objected to the CBSE granting affiliation to 14 schools in Kangpokpi and Churachandpur amid peak ethnic violence. The affiliation was supposed to come into effect from April 1, 2024.

The upheaval caused to the state's education system, especially in the tribal-dominated areas, has agitated student and civil society organisations. The Joint Student Body (JSB) in Lamka in Churachandpur district held protest rallies against the cancellation of the CBSE affiliation of schools, terming it "unfair" and "politically motivated". They demanded reinstating of the suspended officers and revoking of the de-affiliation.

### **Deep distrust**

JSB executive member Robinson attributes the preference for the CBSE to the deep suspicion that the state board might not treat tribal students fairly. In Manipur, all state board examination answer papers are sent to Imphal, the state capital, for examining and evaluation. "They may be left unexamined or, at worst, burnt," says Robinson.

In September 2023, there were reports of tribal students levelling serious allegations against Manipur University for targeting them unfairly when the results of the BA Psychology exam were released. The students at Rayburn College in Lamka—the only college in the state offering the course—alleged that they were victimised in a targeted manner due to their ethnicity—only 10 of the 76 students passed. Many of them were shown to have obtained 'nil' marks in one paper—the Major Indian Languages (MIL) paper.

"For months now, many academic certificates are still being held up by the institutes and colleges in Imphal," says Robinson. "Last year, evaluators in Imphal gave zero marks in MIL, while in some other subjects they just left it blank. That's why we are worried."

After the student organisations protested, the results were altered dramatically in a matter of hours. "Within a mere 2-3 hours, a new set of results was released. The number of students who had passed surged from 10 to 41," reported The Mooknayak.

One of JSB's demands is that no answer paper should be sent to Imphal for evaluation. They fear that Meitei evaluators might adversely mark and fail them. Kangpokpi Kuki Student Organisation (KKSO) executive member Thangtinlen Haokip points out that some results of last year's sixth semester examinations of DM University, Imphal, are still withheld.

These incidents have led to apprehension in the student community and the demand by student leaders for seeking central board affiliation because then answer papers would be evaluated outside the state. "We urgently need our schools to be affiliated to the CBSE to ensure that the answer papers are evaluated in an unbiased manner, results declared promptly, and certificates issued on time," says Haokip.

After ethnic violence erupted on May 3, 2023, a large number of students were forced to relocate from the affected areas and seek admission in schools and colleges in safer areas. The majority of those displaced lost their documents in the mayhem. This compounded the students' problems, particularly for those who were due to appear in board exams in 2024.

### **Murky twist**

On January 15, 2024, 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs—seven belonging to the ruling BJP—wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding revocation of suspension of the officers and review of the withdrawal of CBSE affiliation to the 25 schools. They also sent a similar letter to the CBSE chairperson, seeking review of the suspension in the light of the prevailing situation in the state.

The letter highlighted how tribal students are allegedly facing targeted discrimination. "There have been glaring cases of discrimination and injustice meted out to the deserving students in recent months. The blatant downgrading/tampering of marks of many bright students of Rayburn College in Churachandpur by Manipur University recently

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is a case in point,” it said. The lawmakers also alleged that “thousands of certificates” were burnt, affecting the “future of thousands of students” in the hill districts.

This controversy, however, took a murkier turn on February 6. Several news reports indicated that the three suspended education department officials had allegedly admitted to being coerced into issuing NOCs by the local community.

According to a report on NDTV.com, the three officials allegedly wrote an “apology letter” to the state government for issuing NOCs “without following the due process”.

The report quoted the letter which one of the suspended officials, Jangkhohao Haokip, sent to the Manipur education department. “Then, out of pressure from different angles such as from parents, joint student bodies, CSOs, and even elected representatives, I cannot deny any longer. It’s a do or die situation after receiving duress. Then, I am compelled and forced to issue my signature to two schools i.e. Salt Brook School, and Soikholal High School. Therefore, it is my earnest prayer and request to understand my situation and seek apology and consideration from your end. I will ensure that no such issue will happen again in future,” wrote Jangkhohao. He also enclosed the letters written to him by four Kuki MLAs, urging him to issue NOCs.

Whatever the facts, the issue underlines the extent of the mistrust between the tribal and non-tribal communities, shaping the narratives within and outside the state. That the state’s education system has become the latest battleground of the ethnic rift illustrates how dysfunctional the state administration has become.

### **No end in sight**

Schools and academic institutes reopened after about four months in the Imphal valley, but regular classes have not resumed in the hill districts of Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, and other Kuki-Zo dominant areas. Many school buildings are still being utilised as relief camps, and classes cannot be held.

Though some attempts were made to engage students—either online or in relief camps—it cannot replace classroom teaching. For the students appearing for board exams, it is especially difficult to face these challenges.

Many of the tribals and Kuki-Zo students are also economically disadvantaged. Going for higher education outside the state is not an option. Even for those who can afford it, good schools and colleges remain out of bounds for them since they are located in the Imphal valley.

There is only one college in each of the tribal hill districts, while the two universities are both in Imphal. Not a single professional or technical institute is located in the tribal hill districts.

This controversy not only highlights the extent to which the Manipur administration has broken down under the watch of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, it also illustrates the haplessness of students who find their future hostage to the brutal conflict that has already claimed more than 200 lives with no end in sight. It also points towards the Centre’s abject failure to normalise the situation in the border state.

### **Question of standards**

No Manipur college or university figures in the top 100 list of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2023, released by the Union Ministry of Education. Manipur’s unemployment rate was at 9% in 2021–22, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), while the national unemployment rate stood at 4.1%. The problem is far more serious in the tribal rural areas compared to urban areas. Government service is the main source of employment, and agriculture is the primary occupation for a large majority in the state. Though small enterprises have come up in recent years, they have been severely impacted by the ongoing crisis, which raises grave concerns about unemployment in coming years. The future looks bleak for Manipur’s youth.

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*(Ninglun Hanghal is a freelance journalist and writes on the most burning issues in the north-east for some of India’s leading publications. With her extensive contacts in the region, she gets details and information, which are difficult to gather. She writes on current affair, politics, gender issues and human rights.)*



REINSTATE  
**AFSPA**  
IN MEITEI VALLEY

OPINION

## Now or Never: India Must Rein in on Meitei Militia and VBIGs, or Prepare to Face a Leviathan

On January 24, 2024, all the Meitei legislators, including Shri R.K. Ranjan Singh, the Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, and Leishemba Sanajaoba, MP Rajya Sabha and the titular king of Manipur, bowed to Mr. Korounganba Khuman, the chief of Arambai Tenggol, at Kangla by taking an oath of allegiance. On that fateful day, the 37 MLAs and two MPs, including Mr. N. Biren Singh who was the only one spared in the Oath-Taking ceremony presumably for being the chief minister and overall chief of the Arambai Tenggol, also put their signatures to promising to fulfil the six points raised by the militia group. Notably, the Arambai Tenggol is a newly formed Meitei militia group and has been responsible for most of the atrocities against the Kuki-Zo community in the ongoing ethnic violence.

The oath-taking ceremony which was held at the Utra Shanglen, a sacred site in Kangla highly revered by the majority community, was strongly resented by all the major Kuki-Zo frontal organizations and the ten elected MLAs. Even the United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of the Nagas of Manipur, clearly stated that the Government of Manipur no longer represents the whole state. In a press statement released on February 2, 2024, the apex Naga body said that the “Meitei legislators, in the face of the Kangla capitulation on January 24, 2024 cannot claim anymore to be the Government of the entire State of Manipur and has limited its powers, functions and relevance to the valley and the Meitei community only”.

It may be noted that most of the arms and ammunition looted from the police armouries are in the hands of the Arambai Tenggol militia. They are also often seen travelling openly on armoured police vehicles, and even Casspir, meant for the security forces. Wielding sophisticated weapons in full combat fatigues, this militia roam freely around Imphal, chanting genocidal slogans such as “*Kuki tumna hatkadabani*” (All the Kukis must be wiped out), “*Eegi laman, Eena singani*” (The price of blood must be paid in blood), and what not. In many instances, they are seen alongside the cadres of the banned VBIGs such as the UNLF while attacking Kuki-Zo villages.

Various Meitei social media handles including members and sympathisers of Arambai Tenggol and their leaders such as Korounganba Khuman and Robin Mangang Khwairakpam regularly posted hate messages on Facebook in a bid to demonise the Kukis. They also actively carried out hate campaigns against the Christians and Muslims without any concern for the law. In many cases, anybody who speaks against the Chief Minister and Arambai Tenggol are kidnapped, beaten, and forced to apologize. Videos of the atrocities carried out by these hooligans are often circulated on social media platforms presumably to scare away others from doing the same. Popular singer

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Akhu @Ronid Chingangbam, social activist and former police officer Thounaojam Brinda, human rights activist Babloo Loitongbam, and even Union Minister of State Shri RK Ranjan Singh were victims of such goondaism.

Many innocent civilians, particularly those belonging to the minority Muslims [Meitei Pangals], were also victimized on several occasions. Some of these individuals were either ostracized from their locality, their house torched or vehicles burnt, for allegedly helping the Kukis. In many other instances, the Nagas and minority KomRem people also came under constant threats and physical abuse. Some of them, including Mrs. Lucy Maring, an elderly Naga Schizophrenia patient and Sepoy Serto Thangthang Kom of the Army's Defence Security Corps (DSC) platoon, were mercilessly killed. Not to forget that Imphal had long been a valley of death for the Kuki-Zo since the beginning of the first incident of violence on May 3, 2023. In fact, all their properties in the Meitei dominated valley are either destroyed or looted. Even documents, traditional shawls, vehicle plates and smart cards in the Transport Office in Imphal belonging to them are not spared. Many buildings such as schools, churches, offices, and residential houses are now used by this militia.

Despite enough evidences indicating the complete collapse of the state machinery, and the abject surrender of all the 39 Meitei Legislators to the Arambai Tenggol, the Government of India chose to turn a blind eye, apparently to reap a political mileage from the majority community. The scourge of central forces, including the Army airlifted to Manipur to deal with the situation, are largely ineffective since they are often denied orders by their superiors who are mostly from the state police department. The Meira Paibis too repeatedly blocked the movement of Central Security Forces hindering them from performing their duties efficiently. In one such incident, these womenfolk were even seen questioning the loyalty of the Army Personnel by demanding documents to determine their ethnicity.

Again on June 24, 2023, the Indian Army was able to cordon off 12 militants, including one self-styled Lt. Col. Moirangthem Tamba alias Uttam, a wanted terrorist

who was the mastermind of the ambush of 6 Dogra Unit in 2015, where 20 brave Indian soldiers were brutally murdered and 11 injured. However, more than a thousand strong mobs led by the Meira Paibis and the local MLA, Shri Th. Shyamkumar Singh of Andro AC, forced the Security Forces to release the terrorists. The Army sources said that the group had infiltrated from Myanmar, and that additional reinforcements were prevented from reaching there by the Meitei vigilante groups, including Meira Paibis, which had further delicate the situation.

Despite all these developments, the Central Government still refrains from taking drastic measures. Even the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) 1958, the minimum requirement for the Army to take control of law and order, is yet to be implemented. As such, the thousands of Central Forces personnel, including the Indian Army, who are deployed in the state remain largely toothless as their roles are limited to assisting the state police in maintaining law and order. Interestingly, the "Disturbed Area Status" was extended in the hill areas though it is relatively peaceful, but the more volatile valley areas remained exempted.

Now, the question arises whether the Central Government is also planning to submit itself to the Arambai Tenggol as their counterpart in Manipur did on January 24. Being the most populous country having one of the largest military strengths in the world, the Government of India must reconsider its strategy and rein in on this Meitei militia and their ideologues, at least by now. A rising world power not in a position to handle an ethnic cleansing campaign in a tiny state like Manipur in nine months must be a thing to be ashamed of for the political leadership.

If India is to remain a democratic country where human lives matter most, it is time for the Central Government to take strong actions against all these anti-social elements who are adamant on

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taking the law in their hands. Declaring the valley, particularly the jurisdictions of the 19-police stations as “Disturbed Areas” and reimposing AFSPA is the minimum the Central Government must consider for the Indian Army to act in order to restore normalcy in the state. Allowing the Army to take control of the situation will not only help in maintaining law and order but also in protecting the lives and properties of so many people who may be victims in the days to come. Taking stock of the situation completely will also remind those anti-social elements about the existence of India as a powerful nation which has been missing in Manipur for months.

However, if India remains unwilling to take control of the situation, it must clarify its intention, or prepare to face the Leviathan it has been building. If the death of over 161 people, destructions of over 200 villages (or

7000 houses), burning of 360 churches, and the forced displacement of 41,425 persons from the Kuki-Zo community alone, and the rising crime rates and increasing unlawful activities of arm militia and VBIGs in Imphal do not ring the alarm bell at the corridors of power in New Delhi, it will be taken as akin to a surrender as Biren’s government did. Therefore, the Government of India must allow the Indian Army to rein in, not only to maintain law and order, but also to prevent further annihilation of the minority Kuki-Zo. For this, the AFSPA must be reimposed in all the valley areas and the Central Forces including the Indian Army must be entrusted with the power to take control. Opting for neutrality at this juncture will only intensify the ethnic unrest to a point where reconciliation may become impossible.



**THE  
BIREN'S  
TIME  
MACHINE**





# YOU WILL NEVER EVER BE FORGIVEN

Long, long ago, as will be narrated by the storyteller:

In this beautiful land of ours,  
There were no curtains that divided us.  
Children of every tribe attended the same school,  
Sat in the same class, and were taught the same syllabus.

After school, hand-in-hand, they walked on the same streets,  
And hung out in the same restaurants,  
Ate from the same plate without any feeling of unease.  
They shared the same bill equally as they shared sweet memories.

However, one odd evening, a war broke out,  
That took away all their beautiful smiles overnight.  
They called each other enemies against their will and conscience,  
Their love for one another faded away each day.

Who amongst us took away those childhood bliss of our children?

Who amongst us took away their innocence?

We will surely be judged by our children, their children,

And their children's children, not on good terms.

Of course, as the father got the larger portion of blame

For their family's misfortunes and misconduct,  
The head of this beautiful land will be blamed for everything.

For not taking care of his children equally,  
In taking sides when a fight broke out between them,

Which he could have easily solved in a day with utmost care and love.

He will be judged by our future generations.

Surely his own children will despise him, and will be trampled upon,

When they witness their own brothers and sisters,  
Parted ways in a far-away land to never return again.

This story will be told for a hundred years to come,  
And he will never ever be forgiven by many generations to come.

*- Hillsman J. Tearsworth*