

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



NEHLENLAL CHONGLOI (36 YEARS)

S/O THANGKHOPAO CHONGLOI

ADDRESS: KHUNKHO KUKI, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 29TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: LEILON PHAIJANG, SADAR HILLS

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.

UNION YAS MINISTER VISITS LAMKA; KSO CHURACHANDPUR URGES ACTION ON CONFLICT'S IMPACT ON YOUTH SPORTS

There is considerable speculation surrounding the unexpected visit of Mansukh Mandaviya, a prominent figure close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to Manipur and his subsequent trip to Churachandpur.

Mansukh Mandaviya, currently serving as the Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs & Sports, and formerly the Minister for Health and Family Welfare during the COVID-19 pandemic, arrived in Imphal on Saturday afternoon. He met with the state Chief Minister, N Biren Singh, before heading to Churachandpur on Sunday.

The significance of Mandaviya's visit is highlighted by the recent meeting between Chief Minister N Biren Singh and Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi, which was also attended by Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Chief Minister Singh has not disclosed the specifics of this meeting.

During his visit to Churachandpur, Mandaviya engaged with district-level officials at the DC's Conference Hall, Mini-Secretariat, Tuibong. Deputy Commissioner Dharun Kumar and Additional Deputy Commissioner Thangboi Gangte briefed him on departmental activities, achievements, and the law and order situation in the district. Mandaviya offered recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of various schemes.

He also distributed sports equipment to internally displaced persons in relief camps and interacted with representatives from various student organizations in the district. Additionally, Mandaviya planted a tree at the Mini-Secretariat as part of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan before concluding his visit.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Students' Organization Churachandpur has submitted a memorandum to the visiting YAS minister at Mini-Secretariat on Sunday, requesting the establishment of a Sports Academy and the conversion of Peace Ground in Tuibong into a mini sports stadium.



The KSO's memorandum highlights the severe impact of the conflict, which began on May 3, 2023, on the region's youth and their ability to engage in sports. The unrest has disrupted daily life and severely limited access to sports facilities, which are predominantly located in Imphal. Traveling to the state capital has become increasingly dangerous, leaving many aspiring athletes from the Kuki community unable to pursue their sports ambitions.

Manipur has a storied tradition in sports, with numerous talented individuals in Churachandpur whose opportunities have been significantly curtailed due to the ongoing instability. The KSO's proposal seeks to address this gap by providing local facilities where young athletes can train and compete safely.

The proposed Sports Academy and mini sports stadium would not only serve as a crucial resource for nurturing local talent but also help in fostering a safer environment for athletic development. The KSO believes that such infrastructure would be a significant boost to the sporting community in Churachandpur and help talented youth excel despite the challenging circumstances.

The organization has expressed hope that the request will be given favorable consideration and that the support of the Ministry will aid in improving sports opportunities for the youth in Churachandpur.

GOVERNOR FLAGS OFF HAR GHAR TIRANGA BIKE RALLY IN LAMKA; VISITS RELIEF CAMPS IN LAMKA & BISHNUPUR DISTRICTS

Governor of Manipur, Lakshman Prasad Acharya visited Churachandpur today. Upon arrival, The Governor was received by IGP Nishit Ujjwal, Deputy Commissioner, Shri Dharun Kumar at his office Chamber in Churachandpur. The Governor led a pledge ceremony and flagged off the Har Ghar Tiranga Bike Rally as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2024 started from the Deputy Commissioner Complex, Churachandpur to Pearsonmun Village.

Later, the Governor visited a relief camp managed by the KCC at Molnom, Tuibong Sub Division, where he interacted with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the relief camp. The Governor distributed relief materials which included wheel chairs, drinking water and sweets and study materials to the children staying in the relief camp. He held an interaction with IDPs at the relief camp.

Governor assured that the government is making concerted efforts to facilitate peace and normalcy in the state so that all IDPs can return safely to their respective homes.

Later, Governor held a meeting with members of various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), students of Churachandpur Medical College and other student leaders. They submitted memorandum to the Governor during the meeting. 3 MLAs also attended the meeting. Governor directed the District Administration to provide all requirements including foods and medicines to the IDPs.

Governor, on his way back to Imphal, visited relief camp at Old DC Office Complex, Loukoipat in Bishnupur District and interacted with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) there. He heard about their grievances and assured to extend his best possible support to them. Governor also inspected the facilities and amenities provided to the IDPs and directed the District Administration to extend their fullest cooperation to the Government in reaching out and support to the IDPs. Governor distributed study materials, drinking water and chocolates to the children in the relief camp.



Talking to the IDPs, Governor said, steps to restore complete peace and normalcy has already been initiated with the support from the centre. He further said that he can understand the pain and sorrow that the IDPs are going through and as a Governor, he will try his best to restore peace and harmony in the state. All should hope for peaceful coexistence and thereby promoting brotherhood among the communities, he asserted. Earlier, representatives of the IDPs in the camp submitted a memorandum and requested for early redressal of their grievances and for the restoration of peace and normalcy in the state. - DIPR

MEITEI INSURGENT GROUPS CALL FOR STATEWIDE SHUTDOWN IN MANIPUR ON INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

In a joint statement, eight proscribed underground outfits in Manipur have announced a boycott of Independence Day celebrations on August 15, calling for a total shutdown across the state.

The outfits, including the CorCom, an apex body of six banned groups, have appealed to the general masses to refrain from attending the celebrations.

The CorCom has called for a total shutdown from 1:00 AM to 6:30 PM on August 15 while the Socialist Revolutionary Party (SOREPA) called for a general strike from 5 AM to 5 PM on August 15.

Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK) has also called for a total shutdown across the state on August 15, with a call to hoist black flags and observe the day as a black day.

The outfits have cited India's alleged regressive policy as the reason for the widespread violence and turmoil in Manipur.

They describe Indian Independence Day as a day of sorrow for Kangleipak (Manipur), representing ongoing oppression by India.

Security forces are monitoring the situation to ensure no unwanted situation arises and people remain safe during the Independence Day celebrations.

This has been the practice of Meitei militants who demands secession from the Union of India. The Meitei insurgent groups have been boycotting holidays of national importance every year, displaying their anti-Indian stance.

The Meiteis and their anti-Indian activities has been witnessed on several occasion. The burning of tri-colour flag, harassing of non-locals, abduction and killing of mainland Indians businessmen have been witnessed in the past several years, highlighting the atrocities of Meitei anti-national activities.



Many central security forces have also lost their lives in attack by the Meitei militants. The armed hostilities that took place between the Indian Army and the combined force of the insurgent groups (sic. NSCN-K, KYKL and KCP) at Paraolon in Chandel District of Manipur on June 04, 2015 was one of the most deadly attacks on the central security forces in the region.

In that unfortunate incident, 18 personnel of the 6 Dogra Regiment of the Indian army died and 11 others were injured. On the side of the Meitei armed groups, only two died in the ensuing gun fight. The incident was perhaps the most dreadful ambush ever laid by any insurgent forces involving the valley-based armed groups. The ambush triggered serious ramifications both at the national and international levels and captured international headlines.

In another incident, the Commanding Officer of 46 Assam Rifles (AR) and his family along with four AR personnel were killed when the convoy carrying the CO was attacked by militants at S Sehken village in Churachandpur district in 2021.

The Commanding Officer, Viplav Tripathi was reportedly returning from Behiang company post to his battalion situated near Khuga dam, when the convoy was attacked. He was accompanied by his wife and six-year-old son.

APEX NAGA STUDENTS' BODY IN MANIPUR TO BOYCOTT 78TH INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM) has expressed profound concern over what it describes as the Government of India's (GOI) detrimental policies regarding the long-standing Indo-Naga political negotiations. The association accuses the GOI of failing to honor the Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015, at the Prime Minister's residence in New Delhi.

The Framework Agreement, which was hailed as a historic accord, acknowledged the unique history and status of the Naga people, asserting their identity as distinct from India and Myanmar (formerly Burma). It also proposed mutual respect for the sovereignty and powers of both parties involved. Despite nearly 27 years of negotiation, ANSAM argues that the GOI has not adequately addressed core Naga demands including the recognition of the Naga Flag, Constitution, and Integration as fundamental rights.

ANSAM's statement criticizes the GOI for what it perceives as a betrayal of the agreement's spirit and for its ongoing provocations and policies against the Naga people. The association has questioned the Indian government's commitment to resolving one of Southeast Asia's longest-running political conflicts.

The Naga people had declared their independence from British rule on August 14, 1947, a day before India's own independence, but ANSAM alleges that India's forceful occupation and divisive policies have continued since then. As a form of protest and in light of the perceived disregard for their political rights, ANSAM has called for its members to boycott the 78th India Independence Day celebrations, urging a cessation of cooperation in Naga areas.



Sushma Sharma
@SushmaSh22



Very easy to look all this and say nothing. It's our national duty to take care of our fellows, where ever they live, Northeast is a part OF India and justice must be served.

#Kuki students hold protest in #Delhi demanding separate administration in #Manipur.
#Olympics2024Paris #Kanguva



14:26 · 12 Aug 24 · 1,214 Views



Saptarshi Basak
@wannabhistorian



Cachar Police has handed over to the families the bodies of the three Hmar youth who were allegedly shot dead in a "fake encounter" on 17 July.



Saptarshi Basak @wannabhistorian · 2d

Important 📢 On 17 July, Joshua Hmar, Lallungawi Hmar, and Lalbiekkung Hmar were killed in an alleged encounter in Assam's Cachar. In a rejoinder filed recently by the families in the Gauhati HC, fingers have been pointed at Himanta Biswa Sarma. Thread:...

17:41 · 10 Aug 24 · 5,414 Views



WESEAN NAGA STUDENTS' UNION URGES PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE BOTH NAGA INDEPENDENCE DAY AND INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

In a heartfelt message addressing the people of Wesea, the Wesean Naga Students' Union (WNSU) has issued a call for unity, peace, and reflection as the region grapples with ongoing divisions and conflict. The union's appeal emphasizes the importance of coming together and embracing both Naga and Indian Independence Days as symbols of shared identity and heritage.

The WNSU urges the people of Wesea to set aside divisive sentiments and work towards a unified future. They highlight that while Wesea's rich diversity should be a source of strength, it has often been a cause of discord. The union calls for a collective effort to overcome bitterness and build bridges of understanding.

The organization strongly condemns practices of extortion, violence, and division that have plagued the region. They appeal to militant groups to abandon their destructive paths and instead focus on positive contributions to society.

The organization pays tribute to historical figures such as A. Z. Phizo and Lengjang Kuki, who advocated for unity among the diverse ethnic groups of Wesea. They criticize the exclusion of Kukis from the Naga identity and call for a return to a unified vision that honors all ethnic groups.

The union encourages a shift in focus towards improving education, healthcare, and regional development.



An Open Letter to the People of Wesea
From the Wesean Naga Students Union (WNSU)
A Wing of the WSF



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Wesea,

As we stand at a crucial juncture in our shared history, we feel compelled to reach out to you with a message of unity, peace, and reflection. Our region, Wesea, is blessed with a rich diversity of cultures, traditions, and identities. Yet, this diversity, which should be our strength, has often been a source of division. Today, more than ever, we must come together as one people, united in our common purpose and vision for the future.

To our fellow Nagas, we urge you to consider the path we are on. **What do we truly gain by harboring hatred towards Mainland India?** Anger and resentment may seem justified, but they only serve to isolate us further and deepen the divisions within our hearts. We must ask ourselves: **What is this apathy towards August 15th really achieving?** It is time to think rationally and to recognize that our future lies not in bitterness, but in building bridges of understanding and cooperation.

It is also time to put an end to the practices that have brought so much suffering to our people. Extortion, violence, and division have only **weakened our society and tarnished our identity**. To those who continue down the path of militancy, we implore you to heed the words of our Lord: *"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:44-45). There is no victory in militancy—only more bloodshed, pain, and loss. Look at how much us Weseans have suffered! **We plead with you to return to the mainstream**, to work for the good of our people, and to **help heal the wounds that have divided us for too long**. We appreciate you all trying to unite the People of Wesea!

Let us **remember the legacy of A. Z. Phizo**, who envisioned a united Wesea where all ethnic groups could come together under a common identity. Phizo reached out to the Ahoms, Kacharis, Garos, Khasis, Tripuris, Kachins, Zo-Chins, Tanis, Meiteis, and many others, with a **vision of unity, not division**. The **Naga identity was never meant to exclude**; it was meant to bring together all the peoples of Wesea under a shared banner of peace and solidarity.

We must also honor the sacrifices made by **our Kuki brothers and sisters for the Naga cause**. On January 10th, 1929, when the Naga Club submitted the Simon Commission memorandum, one of the signatories was Lengjang Kuki, a leader who embodied the spirit of Wesean unity. The exclusion of Kukis from the Naga identity was not the will of the Naga people but the **work of those who sought to divide us for their own gain**. Today, these **same forces preach unity today in the guise of "One People"**. We must reject this false narrative and instead work towards reclaiming the unity that was once the cornerstone of our shared identity.

They stress the importance of working for the common good and supporting Naga communities in Myanmar as part of a broader shared identity.

Emphasizing inclusivity, the WNSU announces that they will celebrate both Naga Independence Day and Indian Independence Day. The union views both flags as integral symbols of their heritage and identity, advocating for a future where unity, peace, and progress are prioritized.



The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.

— Socrates



OPINION

Self Governance for the Nagas and Kuki-Zos

Douminlien Haokip

Ngaranmi Shimray (Is it the Opportune Time for Nagas to Demand for a Sixth Schedule... Ukhrul Times, 31 July 2024) has written an article on the issue of self-governance that is close to the hearts of the tribal people in Manipur. He has referred to Article 371-C of the Constitution with special provisions under the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) and has clearly identified the shortcomings - not owing to the provisions, but on account of the state government and the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly. To plug loopholes, Shimray has mooted the question of an opportune time for Naga to consider the Sixth-Schedule. Ironically, the Kuki Zo people no longer share the same aspiration because they do not enjoy the benefits of being spared the experience of ethnic cleansing from 3 May 2023.

The stance taken by the state Government, dominated by the Meitei valley people of Manipur, is intrinsic to the issue of land. Any form of self-governance for tribal people is anathema, as it impinges on their exclusivist territorial notion of Manipur. This view is also corroborated by Capt (rtd) LB Singh's 'Article 371-C aggravates ethnic divide and stalls progress of Manipur' (The Sangai Express, 12 Feb 2024).

Reported interactions related to self-governance between representatives of Gol and various components of Naga and Kuki Zo communities, with respect to Manipur, suggests Government would be more

receptive to the Sixth-Schedule option. However, relegation of HAC and atrocity inflicted upon select community are summary evidence that the valley people will not welcome the Sixth-Schedule, which is explicit re protection of tribal land rights.

A worrying issue is land. To resolve this factor between Naga and Kuki Zo, Shimray has delineated three types of inhabited areas: two, with preponderance, respectively of Naga and Kuki Zo, and one, inhabited by both tribes. The Constitution provides the structural viability of administration of the tribes in the existing six Autonomous District Councils, albeit demonstrably lacking essential devolution of power. However, given the condition of Kuki Zo post-3 May 2023, there is need for an appropriate administrative alternative with Constitutional safeguards that also addresses the land factor concerning both communities.

Constitutional safeguards and administrative structure

With respect to areas inhabited by Naga and Kuki Zo, Shimray echoes a similar sentiment to the

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Naga Intellectual Forum's article circulated in social media, 'When Opportunity Come Knocking; Seize It: Challenges Ahead for Nagas of Manipur'. The premise of both is an administrative arrangement, which maintains the sanctity of the respective habitation of Naga and Kuki Zo. The Naga Intellectual Forum's article refers to the Union Territory of Puducherry with legislature, comprising four districts surrounded within three different states: two by Tamil Nadu, and one each by Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. The four non-contiguous districts are a single administrative entity with headquarters at Puducherry.

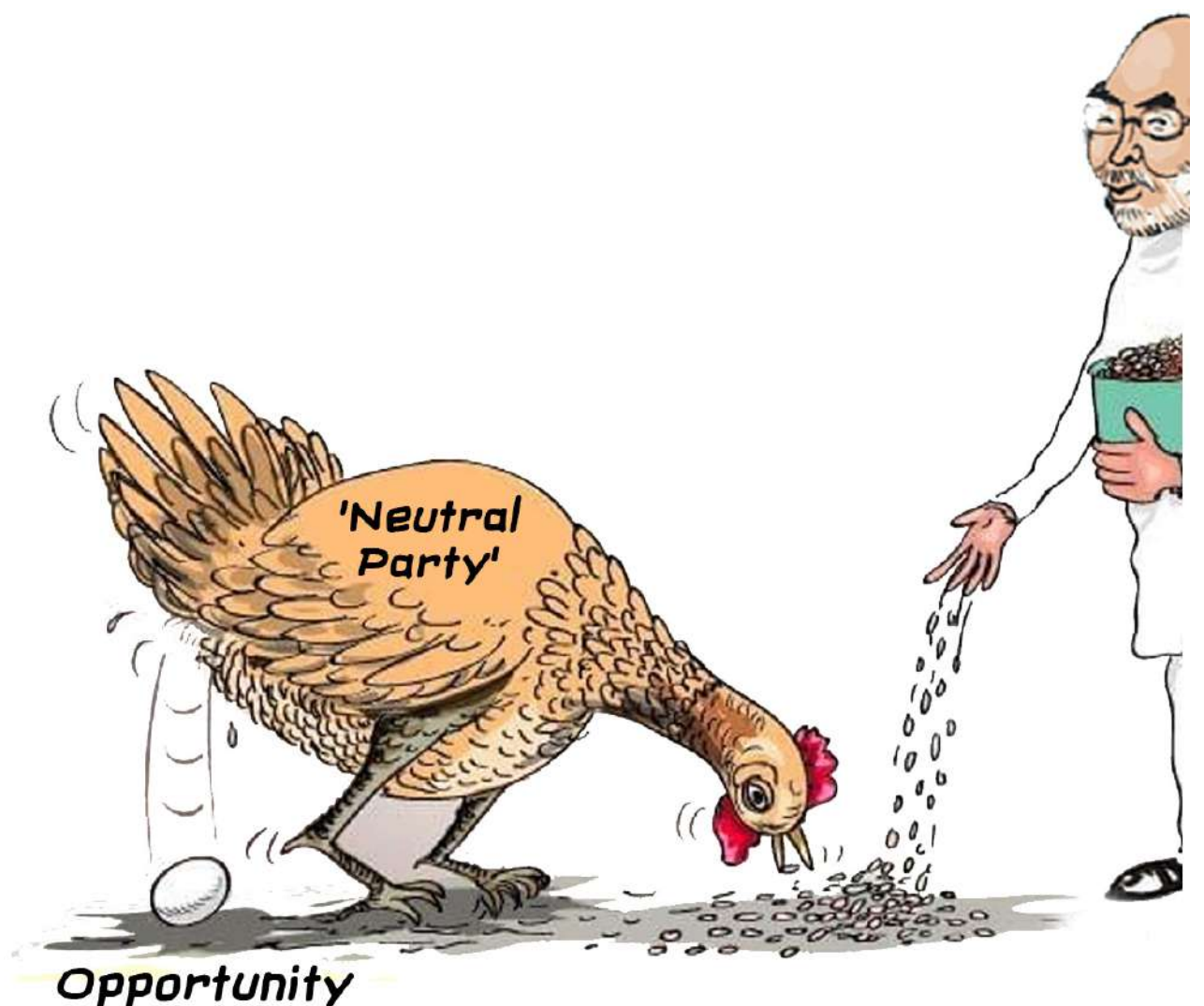
Each of the eight existing Union Territories in the country is unique. Article 239A of the Indian Constitution, which deals with creation of local legislatures or Council of Ministers can fulfil the long-standing aspirations of Naga and Kuki Zo. In the existing political environment, Government will be better disposed to a simultaneous solution.

Given the implications of the valley people's exclusivist notion of Manipur territory, whether it be Article 371C, Sixth-Schedule, Autonomous District Councils, Autonomous Territorial Councils or Union Territory, co-operation from the dominant Meitei community of the state cannot be expected. Precedence exists. Owing to opposition from the same community, the Centre did not follow through on the Supreme Court delimitations order concerning representation in the Legislative Assembly. Naga and Kuki Zo political aspirations of self-governance will continue to face similar opposition.

For Kuki Zo in particular, who do not share cordial relations as Naga and Meitei, there is no alternative to UT. Securing our existential future is paramount. Article 371C, Sixth-Schedule, Autonomous District Councils or Autonomous Territorial Councils are all water under the bridge.



FEEDS FOR THE OPPORTUNISTS
'NEUTRAL PARTY'





SEVEN O'CLOCK AT NIGHT

There are stars above
I used to love them
Yet now they seem not bright
They are not the stars back at home
I closed the window and watched outside.
The mist slowly form through the coolness of the night
I missed home all this time
The pain of sadness, a melancholy days,
tears sliding down my face.
I cried, covering my face with anything on my hand.
I wanted to be strong, I pretend to be brave,
taken aback stumble down and cry.
I can hear voices coming from the streets and vales
but they lacked the melody
They are not the songs of the place I used to roam
A foreign place, keep me missing HOME

~ Momoi Khongsai