

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## T. Champhai RELIEF CENTRE

T. Champhai KBC Church Sunday School Hall, Lamka

Managed by  
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi  
General Headquarters (KKL GHQ)

**Total Inmates Registered: 221\***

■ Male: 108

■ Female: 113

\*As on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2023





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 25.11.2023



**153**  
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.



# AS GOVT. PREPARES TO DISPOSE OF UNCLAIMED BODIES OF MANIPUR VIOLENCE VICTIMS, TRIBAL BODY INSISTS ON COLLECTIVE BURIAL

More than a week after the Supreme Court's directions on the dignified disposal of unclaimed bodies of those killed in Manipur's ethnic conflict by cutting out "third parties", the government has started sending notifications to the families of the victims, asking them to claim the bodies for conducting last rites at any one of five permitted locations.

But with no body having been claimed since the above-mentioned November 28 order of the Supreme Court, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) is insisting that all families of the Kuki-Zo victims had already consented to a collective burial and that the government must first transport the bodies out of Imphal.

Meanwhile, government sources have said that the State will proceed with dignified burials if the next of kin or families do not claim the body within 10 days of being notified and reminded. They added that once the families claim the bodies, logistics of transporting it can be arranged.

This comes even as leaders from the ITLF maintained that they had been asked by the Ministry of Home Affairs to expect the arrival of the bodies from Imphal in the next couple of days, spokesperson Ginza Vualzong told The Hindu.

"The ball is in the government's court now. There is no room for a compromise on this issue. The burial has to be collective because that is our tradition when it comes to community members killed in massacres. We have been told to expect the arrival of all dead bodies from Imphal in the next couple of days. So till the bodies arrive, we will wait," Mr. Vualzong said on Tuesday, referring to the meetings being held between the CSOs and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

According to a list of the 169 identified victims, as submitted to the Supreme Court, a total of 88 bodies remain unclaimed in the morgues of two hospitals in Imphal and one in Churachandpur — all those of Kuki-Zo victims killed in the violence. Of the 81 bodies claimed so far, just around 4-5 are those of Kuki-Zo victims.

Notifications being sent to the families of the victims show that of the five permitted locations, four are in Churachandpur district, and one in Kangpokpi district. These sites were proposed as alternatives to the initial site picked

by Kuki-Zo CSOs in Torbung area, which was along a buffer zone and opposed by government authorities.

The ITLF had pointed out last week to the Supreme Court-appointed committee that Kuki-Zo CSOs had been having regular meetings with the Ministry of Home Affairs on the burial and that the committee's reports made it seem like it had not been made aware of the discussions in these meetings.

The Supreme Court-appointed committee headed by Justice Gita Mittal, had in its 13th report, said the families of the identified victims should be directed to claim the bodies for last rites, failing which, the committee had suggested that the State should carry out last rites in a dignified manner, further recommending that no CSOs should be allowed to interfere in the process of claiming and conducting last rites of these bodies.

The Supreme Court, while considering this report, had accepted these suggestions and directed the State government to reach out to families of those whose bodies were still unclaimed by December 4. It had also permitted the State to conduct the last rites if the bodies remained unclaimed and not allow any "third party" to interfere.

The court order had also added that "they are permitted to carry out the last rites together with requisite religious observance".

Even though the State government and the Justice Mittal-led committee have accused CSOs like ITLF of "obstructing" the process of claiming and conducting the last rites of these dead bodies, the ITLF and other CSOs like the Joint Philanthropic Organisations, and Kuki Inpi Manipur, have insisted that these allegations are incorrect.

All tribal bodies have maintained that none of them are preventing families from claiming the bodies but that the families had themselves consented to carry out the collective burial.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## MOREH YOUTH CLUB DENIES BASELESS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ITS PRESIDENT

The Moreh Youth Club (MYC) and the Unit Representative Committee (URC) comprising MYC Unit I - XII Moreh has vehemently denied the valley-based media houses' baseless allegations against its president, Philip Khongsai, regarding the death of Ch. Anand Kumar, SDPO Moreh, Manipur Police on 31 October, 2023 who was executed by unknown assailants.

In a joint clarification issued today, the Committee said the baseless accusation and unfounded evidence and random spreading of rumours is highly condemnable by all right thinking denizens. Of course, it's a war, but not a competition of lies.

It may be noted that Philip Khongsai is the present incumbent President of Moreh Youth Club, Moreh and Finance Secretary of Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association, Moreh, Tengnoupal District. Therefore, he has nothing to do with such an anti-social incident. In fact, he is a philanthropist who has been sacrificing his time and energy for the welfare and development of youths as a whole.

"We, the MYC Unit Representative Committee appended our signature of condemnation to the valley rumour mongers who made it to this false accusation," the Committee Clarification statement said.

Elucidating upon a few of the contributions made by the president, the MYC said Philip K Khongsai is a person who wholeheartedly works for the welfare of the people, especially youths, in Moreh town. Under the leadership of Philip K Khongsai, the MYC, in collaboration with NGOs and Assam Rifles had been conducting Anti-Drug drives, Seminars, Counseling, Annual Sports and other related activities in and around Moreh town to save youths from the drug menace. With the active initiative of Philip K Khongsai, many drug users had also been kept at Rehabilitation Centres after consulting with their parents. The drug den which openly existed in No Man's Land near Border Pillar No.78 was destroyed after Philip K Khongsai put-up the matter to the DC and SP Tengnoupal who in turn pressured the DC of Tamu (Myanmar) following which the Myanmar Army destroyed the drug den. In May 2022, Philip K Khongsai, president MYC, and KSO



declared support for the Govt's effort on War On Drugs. In June 2022, the MYC led by its president Philip K Khongsai had conducted a seminar and awareness rally on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. These are few of the many activities undertaken by Philip K Khongsai to save Moreh from the drug menace.

In collaboration with the Assam Rifles, the Moreh Youth Club under Philip K Khongsai had conducted many career guidance and Army pre-recruitment trainings free of cost during the COVID period. He also led the anti-drug drive, drive against immoral activities and carried out night duties during festive seasons and year-end, bye-bye night in and around Moreh town.

So, accusing such a highly reputable person with false and concocted allegations is very unfortunate. The Moreh Youth Club with its 13 URCs vehemently condemn the baseless accusations made upon Philip K Khongsai. Taking advantage of the present communal conflict, some persons with vested interest had made the concocted allegations to tarnish the image of Philip K Khongsai.

The Moreh Youth Club and its 13 URCs therefore hereby clarify that the allegations made against Philip K Khongsai are baseless and uncalled for and he has nothing to do with the death of SDPO Moreh Ch Anand and appeal all the concerned authorities to not believe such false accusations.



# MANIPUR HILLS MAY WITNESS 'MUTED' CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The hill districts in strife-torn Manipur may go for a "muted" Christmas and New Year celebrations this year.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), a forum of the Kukis, on Wednesday issued an "advisory" asking the communities and the churches to observe "muted" Christmas and New Year celebrations by holding just the normal church service and not organize feasts and fellowship events.

It also asked the residents not to indulge in "overtly conspicuous" celebrations and other forms of enjoyment during "these hard times".

The ITLF on Wednesday said the "advisory" has been issued in view of the present situation where the "village volunteers" have come under constant threat from the Meiteis and many deceased have still remained unburied. It also asked to limit outdoor activities by finishing games and sports events by 8 pm, and close shops and outdoor food stalls early.

The ITLF statement also asked all to remain alert and be prepared for any possible attack from the Meiteis during the Christmas and the New Year celebrations.

The ITLF advisory came in the backdrop of many tribal martyrs who were mercilessly killed by the Meiteis during the violence; and as a show of grief and mourning for the deceased.

On December 6, the All Manipur Christian Organisation (AMCO) had also called upon Christians of different denominations in the state to celebrate the Christmas festival in a low-key manner in the spirit of eternal love, peace, forgiveness and unity while preaching the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ.

In a statement, AMCO president Reverend Simon Raomai appealed to all Christians to refrain from festival feasts and any kinds of decoration including lights and stars.

AMCO called for sharing the grief and pains of the displaced and bereaved families, and to use the Christmas



**Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)**  
Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

File No: ITLF-PN-202355

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ADVISORY

We would like to reiterate our Christmas-New Year advisory that was previously published on 08 November 2023.

Due to the prevailing atmosphere in the state, where our frontline villages are under constant threat by the Meitei community and our martyrs remain unburied, we request:

1. People not to indulge in overtly conspicuous celebrations and other forms of enjoyment during these hard times.
2. All communities and churches to observe muted Christmas and New Year celebrations by observing just the normal church service and not organize feasts and fellowship events (lengkhawm).
3. Limit outdoor activities by finishing games and sports events like Futsal by 8 pm, and close shops and outdoor food stalls around the same time.
4. All citizens to stay alert and be prepared for any disturbance, especially during Christmas and New Year.

**Ginza Vualzong**  
Media & Publicity,  
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)  
Website: <https://www.itlfmediacell.com/>



expenditure in helping the displaced people.

It also listed out some activities which could be conducted by Christians on Christmas to show solidarity to the crisis affected people.

The activities include candle light vigil for peace on the eve of Christmas by Christians of all communities; prayer events by all communities for unity, integrity and fraternity; helping crisis affected families; and low-key Christmas celebration by conducting only the basic religious rituals with message of reconciliation in sermons.

AMCO further appealed to leaders of all denominational churches to join the initiative and play their part in restoring peace and normalcy in the state.

# ASSAM PSC CASH-FOR-JOB SCAM: A MEITEI BUREAUCRAT SENT TO 14-DAY JUDICIAL CUSTODY FOR CHARGE OF CORRUPTION

There is a saying in Manipuri called “Cha thaknaba”, which roughly translates as “cash for buying tea”, meaning “corruption or taking bribe for something.” Every government office of Manipur and its employees/bureaucrats follow this pattern of demanding “cash-for-work” from the commoners.

The same pattern seems to be followed by a Meitei bureaucrat in Assam. In a major development in regards to the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) cash-for-job scam case, the former Principal Controller of Exam of the Commission Nanda Babu Singh, a Meitei, has been sent to a two-day police custody by a court.

The former Meitei officer was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Assam Police that has been probing the infamous APSC cash-for-job scam.

As per news reports, besides Nanda Babu Singh, the court also sent a Superintendent of Taxes of Karbi Anglong district in Assam – Wahida Begum to 14-day judicial custody.

Notably, the Assam government has suspended 21 civil servants thus far in connection with the APSC cash-for-



job scam. Of the 21 suspended officers, 11 are Assam Police Service (APS) officers, four are Assam Civil Service (ASC) officers, one excise inspector, one ARCS officer and three assistant employment officers.

Earlier, Assam Director General of Police (DGP) GP Singh said that the SIT probing the 2014 cash-for-job scam in APSC will file the complete charge-sheet in the case within four months.

Till now 72 people have been arrested in connection with the case.



**No matter how corrupt, greedy, and heartless our government, our corporations, our media, and our religious & charitable institutions may become, the music will still be wonderful.**

– kurt vonnegut, *A Man Without a Country*



## AFTER MAKING HOLLOW CLAIMS IN THE PAST, MAHESHWAR IS BACK ONCE AGAIN WITH ANOTHER PUBLICITY STUNT

A defeated candidate in the last state assembly election from Keishamthong Assembly Constituency and currently the Republican Party of India (Athawale) national General Secretary, Maheshwar Thounaojam today came up with another hollow claim, this time informing the press that he had met Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda at his office and apprised him about the tribal status of the Kukis, thus fooling his own people just to gain political mileage and to try to remain relevant to the Meitei populace at this time.

It is a well-known fact that the likes of Maheshwar Thounaojam and Licypriya Kangujam have been fully taking advantage of the current situation to gain mileage for themselves, making a fool out of the gullible Meiteis who believe anything and any news deemed detrimental to the Kukis uttered under the Kangleipak sun. The tall claims of Maheshwar Thounaojam in recent months have been numerous, taken with utter sincerity by a ready-to-please Meitei populace and taken with mirth by the Kukis who know very well the lies behind all the posturing.

Among them is one where he had informed the not so well-versed Meitei press that the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had assured him that the Indian Air Force had been directed to destroy poppy plantations in Manipur before harvest time. However, everyone has now seen what happened, or rather, has not happened. The harvesting season is over and the people of Manipur are yet to see the IAF in action. This only proves that Maheshwar is making baseless statements in an attempt to grab some political mileage for himself for the next general election. His publicity stunt has no limits and all forms of shamelessness have abandoned this man in his attempt to stay afloat in political game.

Meeting a Union Minister is not that much of a challenging task. Every Tom, Dick and Harry can meet a Union Minister if he has genuine grievances to be addressed. Even Kuki MLAs and their CSOs have



also met Union Ministers in Delhi every now and then. But they do not make noises like this man. Holding a press conference after every meeting with Union Ministers only exposes his real intentions and purpose – to gain political mileage taking undue advantage of the current situation, not really bothered by the real issue. The most important thing to charlatans such as this man is to stay in the limelight at all costs, and truth is most often the casualty.

In this whole debacle, the Meitei population is also to blame. They are so hungry and desperate for good news that they are ready to believe anything, especially those stories that tell of the imagined misfortunes of the Kukis. Any day, anyone in the valley can come out with any bizarre story against the Kukis and he will find hundreds of mindless believers who will happily share the story as if it were genuine. No wonder, Meitei fake news factories and fake news handles are blooming on social media. A shallow, desperate public makes a hot market for liars such as Maheshwar Thounaojam and Licypriya Kangujam to peddle their tall tales.

# STATE GOVT WILL HAVE ZERO TOLERANCE TOWARDS CORRUPTION: MIZORAM GOV

Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati on Wednesday said the state government will have zero tolerance towards corruption.

He said the mission to eliminate corruption from public life and government services will be steadfastly implemented.

“My government is determined to rid the state of the scourge of corruption and will have zero tolerance towards it. The fight against corruption will be comprehensive and effective,” the governor said while addressing the state assembly.

He said general consent will be given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe corruption cases in the state.

Remunerative prices will be fixed for four agricultural products — ginger, turmeric, chillies and broomsticks — and the state government will start procurement of such agricultural products from the current fiscal year, he said.

He said crops and agricultural produces will be prioritised as export-oriented and domestic consumption-oriented and steps will be taken to convert farming into a profitable venture through scientific practices and agro-technology.

The government will also take steps to promote the small-scale industries and those based on agriculture and horticulture.

Kambhampati said the government will implement a hand-holding policy called ‘Bana Kaih’ and under this it will give financial support to hardworking youths to start their ventures so as to encourage entrepreneurship and startups, enhance employment avenues and create new opportunities for the youths.

He said project monitoring committee involving representatives of all stakeholders and other sections of society will be set up to monitor important and major infrastructure development projects in the state to ensure public accountability, timely completion and quality control.



The governor said the government is committed to stabilise and improve the state’s financial condition and it will endeavour to set things right through fiscal consolidation, proper fiscal management, austerity measures, pruning non-developmental expenditure and resource management and mobilisation.

Austerity measures will be initiated from the highest levels of public office, including chief minister and ministers, and will percolate down the administrative machinery as well, he said.

Kambhampati said the government is committed to providing welfare programmes and services to the weaker and vulnerable sections of society.

All-out efforts will be made to combat the menace of drugs, alcoholism, juvenile delinquency and rehabilitation as well as restoration and de-addiction programmes through network of residential homes and non-institutional services with partnership with civil societies, he said.

He said the existing healthcare scheme will be revamped and improved to ensure health equity to all.

The governor further said the National Education Policy will be implemented in the state keeping in line with Mizo ethos, values and society.

He urged the people of Mizoram to extend whole-hearted support to the government to make Mizoram one of the most developed states in the country. (Source: PTI)



# ‘UNCONSTITUTIONAL’: TRIBAL ACTIVISTS SLAM CAMPAIGN TO DELIST CHRISTIAN ADIVASIS

Kolkata: The Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch (AARM) has expressed grave concern, alleging that the Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) is intensifying efforts to target Christian Adivasi communities across different states. AARM, during its recent National Executive Council (NEC) meeting, issued a press release stating that the JSM is reportedly supported by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and has affiliations with various known Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders.

AARM asserted that JSM’s campaign to exclude Adivasis who have converted to Christianity from the Scheduled Tribes list is both unconstitutional and divisive. The tribal rights forum clarified that neither religion nor conversion serves as criteria for categorising any community as a Scheduled Tribe, as per law or the Constitution. AARM accused the JSM of shielding pro-corporate, anti-tribal policies under the Modi government, citing flagrant violations of constitutional and legal protections for land rights of Scheduled Tribes, Gram Sabha rights in Adivasi areas, and amendments that undermine laws such as the Forest Rights Act and PESA.

Reported instances of demands to remove Christian Adivasi communities from the Scheduled Tribe category have emerged from Telangana, Tripura, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Sources indicate similar movements are planned in West Bengal as well.

On December 25, during Christmas celebrations, a call for a rally has been made by the JSM in Tripura with the demand to alter the Constitution to exclude Christian Adivasis from the Scheduled Tribe category. Opposition parties in the Northeastern state, including the Communist Party of India (Marxist), have opposed the JSM’s demand.

“All across India, adivasis are mobilising for the protection of jal, jungle and zameen (water, forest



and land). They (government) have passed the Forest Conservation Act, 2023, and have curbed our Pasha Kanoon, and the rights of Gramsabhas in the tribal areas our land is being given to mining corporations; we are witnessing this in Bengal’s Deocha Pachami region. Mining projects are coming up in Purulia’s Ayodhya Pahar region, Jharkhand’s Lohaburu and Ghontaburu in the scheduled areas. Sometimes, they do it in the name of religions like Sari and Sarna dharma,” said a leading activist of AARM while talking to NewsClick.

“Before the Lok Sabha elections, they are trying to bring in the Uniform Civil Code. This will end the special identities of Adivasis in the country. This rule, once passed, will also put an end to laws like the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Our special status within the Constitution will be taken away,” he added.

Speaking to NewsClick, DR Pulin Behari Baskey, National Convenor of AARM, said that it is learnt that during the Christmas season, the JSM has given a highly provocative call for programmes in different

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states, such as Tripura and Jharkhand, to hold programmes to delist Adivasis of the Christian community.

The NEC of AARM called upon all its units across the country to counter the JSM's call through a strong campaign, including demonstrations and dharnas. AARM also urged all secular and democratic forces of the country to raise their voices against this alleged design of the RSS-BJP in the guise of JSM. It also called upon the state governments to deny permission during the Christmas period for such provocative activities by the JSM.

Baskey added that the eastern regional headquarters of the RSS is at Gopali near Kharagpur, West Bengal, from where they are purportedly planning rallies in the region.

He added that the Indian Constitution is not in line with efforts to inculcate divisive mindsets by starting schools training young minds of the tribal diaspora against their own interests. "More than 1500 such schools in the Adivasi-inhabited districts of Purulia, Jhargram, West Medinipur and Bankura in West Bengal are running a lethal campaign. The ST quota is also not based on any religion. What they are doing is an unconstitutional thing. They are trying to harm the unity of the Adivasis across the country and are trying to bifurcate the tribal society. They are not doing work for the Adivasi people, but in the interest of the corporates," Baskey said.

Apologies for the oversight. Here are the revised excerpts with direct quotations:

NewsClick spoke with Dr Mary Grace Zou, a leading Tribal activist from Manipur and an educationist at the Anthropology Department of the University of Delhi. She emphasised, "Article 342 of the Indian Constitution confers rights to tribals to belong to the Scheduled Tribe category based on distinct customs and practices." Whereas, under Article 341, one needs to be Hindu to be an SC, in Article 342, there is no criterion that is needed to be an ST. Dr Zou

clarified, "Being an ST is not about religion but about tribal customs and practices." She also highlighted the absence of a caste system in Scheduled Tribe communities.

She expressed concerns regarding changes in fundamental rights and urged the preservation of the Constitution's integrity, stating, "It's about upholding our Constitution, not emotion. I was born in a secular country, and I will always uphold its secular nature," Dr Zou said.

Philip Hembrem, a prominent activist of Christian tribals in West Medinipur district, asserted, "Delisting converted tribals from the ST status would vandalise the Constitution." He criticised campaigns against Sarna or Sari religions followed by the tribals, stating, "Religion does not play a role in tribal categorisation."

Hembree further told NewsClick, "I had once challenged the teachers of an RSS-backed Saraswati Vidyamandir school, who were referring to Tribals as Banbasis or Janajatis. Both these terms are derogatory to us; next they might refer to us as monkeys because we live in jungles. When they are talking about delisting the tribal Christians, they should tell which religion should be the basis of giving ST tags. They are playing with fire. They organised a Gita Patha campaign in the tribal areas, which is against the Sarna or Sari religions, which we follow and trees are our gods."

Bimal Baskey, a follower of the Sarna religion of the Adivasis, condemned the campaigns seeking to remove Christian Tribals from the ST list. Baskey denounced such efforts, labelling them as attempts to divide the closely-knit tribal society. He stressed, "The Sarna religion isn't part of Hinduism," expressing concern that future efforts might deny ST status based on religion. Baskey criticised the JSM for its "destructive designs" targeting the tribal society.

**Author: Sandip Chakraborty**

Source: [NewsClick](#)





**ANALYSIS**

**The Pursuit of Peace: What Peace is to the Kukis**

In the past weeks we have heard leaders from both camps, CSOs and well-intended or ill-intended people echoing the word “peace” in almost all platforms of social communication. Renowned people and well-wishers of Manipur and Kuki ancestral lands have expressed the desire for peace and reconciliation. While peace is not an undesirable virtue nor is it not an undesirable situation to be in, most of us think we know the meaning of peace, but more often than not we are equally unaware of the fact that different people often have different understandings of this ‘seemingly simple word’. This is true for the current conflict in Manipur. Both the Kuki(Zo) and Meiteis wants peace. But each has a different definition of peace.

**Negative Peace**

To the Meiteis and the general masses and even to the government, both Union and state, they define peace as the ‘absence of war’ and ‘other forms of large-scale violent human conflict’. Scholars in the field of Peace and Conflict studies would term this as ‘Negative Peace’. It is peace defined in the narrowest sense. It confines peace to a situation where the goal is to maintain a general sense of calmness, free only from physical violence. Even if political bullying and constant discrimination and demonisation against a particular community prevail, it remains unmitigated as long as it does not lead to a law-and-order problem. The goal is “to keep things the way they are”. Thus, Negative Peace has a conservative goal, it seeks to maintain the status quo. Eluding back to the present crisis in Manipur, the majority community

has achieved one of their goals i.e. to chase the Kukis(Zo) away from the Imphal Valley. There are no Kukis(Zo) left in the valley. It is at this point in the conflict that they wish to maintain this status-quo. It benefits them. Hence the support and cry for peace albeit a ‘Negative’ one.

**Positive Peace**

However, the Kuki(Zo)’s definition of Peace is a more nuanced and progressive one. Termed as ‘Positive Peace’, it endorses not only the absence of war, but also includes harmony, justice, and equity. It includes, “...a state of security or order within a community provided for by law...”; “...freedom from outside disturbances and harassment.” It also implies, “...harmony in human relations: mutual concord and esteem.”

To achieve this Positive Peace, it has been reiterated time and again that Separate Administration is the only solution, and this political solution precedes peace. Taking cues from antiquity, we do not want to end up in a situation like the Roman Empire where it tried to create and maintain a form of Negative Peace wherein the different nationalities within the empire were socially and politically oppressed. Yes, there was absence of large-scale physical violence. But if history has proven anything, it is that oppressed people always revolt against their oppressors. And more often than not it always ends violently and the common people end up paying the highest price. Every conflict

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story whether you are from the West or East, North or South, the story of humanity in a nutshell was, is and always will be 'the tragedy of the commons.' Negative Peace always ends in violence.

It is only through Positive Peace that can we truly establish a long-lasting peace. This takes me back to our very own Indian national movement where the freedom fighters fought for our independence not only from British Raj but from prevailing forms of violence of oppression, discrimination and inequality.

The desire for Positive Peace stems from the Structural Violence perpetuated by the Meiteis towards the Kukis(Zo). For years, the Meitei-centric state government denied us of our important constitutional rights under Art. 371(C); robbed us of our equitable economic well-being, not to mention the brazen violation of social and political equality. Utilising state institutions and Imphal-based media houses, they have successfully demonised the Kuki(Zo), robbing us of the luxury of personal fulfilment and self-worth. These are not physical or overt violence but psychological or covert in nature – or in other words, political and social bullying. In a situation where these forms of violence remain unchecked and unabated, physical violence is always the result. The Arambai Tenggol, Imphal-based Manipur state forces and Meitei Leepun ultimately became the harbinger of death and turmoil in Manipur.

### **Peace from the Clutches of Meitei Tyranny**

We the Kuki(Zo) are all for peace, but our definition is more nuanced, mature, desirable and durable. As long as Positive Peace is not achieved, it is the duty of every Tahchapa (Zopa) and Tahchanu (Zonu) to resist the Majoritarian-Integrationist policy spearheaded by N. Biren Singh and his radical Meitei terrorists. It is not out of hatred for the Meiteis but out of a sense of selfless duty to protect and defend our ancestral land from the clutches of Meitei tyranny. Leaders, individuals, and volunteers from both the warring groups who seek personal gain at this juncture may cause irreparable damage to the fragile socio-political arrangement in the Kuki(Zo) state and Manipur. One thing for sure is that the Kukis(Zo) will not destroy the 700sq.mile territorial integrity of Manipur.

If at all Meiteis want peace, they should not block the central armed forces from doing their duty. On the

contrary, in a bizarre turn of event, a Meitei mob led by women successfully rescued "12 KYKL Cadre along with arms, ammunition and war-like stores" from the Indian Army on the 24th of June. KYKL is a terrorist organization, proscribed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967. In a recent incident, 13 Meitei militants from the PLA were again caught traversing the Kuki hills. Moreover, Meitei police commandos are being flown in to Moreh, a part of Kuki ancestral lands, from Imphal via helicopter. Added to this, Saikul area has been targeted numerous times by Meitei militants. It is feared that Meiteis will start attacking Kuki villages at the fringes during the auspicious Christmas period. We urge the central security forces to annihilate all Meitei militants who seek to kill the Kuki Indians. These Meitei militants are a domestic threat to the sovereignty and integrity of our beloved country. We, the Kukis have defended the Kuki hills before India got independence. Now, let us defend the Kuki ancestral lands together and in doing so, protect the territorial integrity of India from secessionist Kangleipak.

In conclusion, we the Kuki(Zo) have fought against the British Empire in 1917. Famously known as the "Anglo-Kuki War", it took the Assam Rifles (Colonial) and the Burma Military Police to fully end the war in 1919. Prior to that as well, we the Zo ethnic groups never easily surrendered under the then mighty British. We raided their camps; waged many wars against them and vice versa to protect our freedom and our ancestral lands. We even joined Netaji's INA to fight against the British. By defending our ancestral lands, we were effectively protecting the integrity of India. We have a rich history of standing up against tyrants. It is high time the government of India, political parties, activists, journalists, civil society organisations and most importantly, our fellow Indian citizens begin to acknowledge our sacrifices and commitment to the protection of the sovereignty and integrity of our country. And it is at this juncture we ask our fellow countrymen, women and others this important question – considering the contribution we made for the country, **Is it an unreasonable proposition to demand a separate administration with complete financial autonomy for the Kuki community within India, adhering to the constitutional framework and separate from the Meitei community?** This can ensure Positive Peace. A long lasting one at that. After all, we are not demanding to secede away from India like some sections of the Meitei militants and others in Manipur.



# THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Kautilya3  
@Kautilya33

Here is an interesting piece of "news" published in the Meitei mouthpiece *Sangai Express*.

Titled "**Rapid spike in new villages Illegal immigrants**" (written in Meitei grammar, I suppose), the phrase "illegal immigrants" appears in the title and nowhere else!

[thesangaiexpress.com/Encyc/2023/12/...](https://thesangaiexpress.com/Encyc/2023/12/...)

3:56 PM · Dec 13, 2023 · 2,596 Views



Kautilya3  
@Kautilya33

What passes for "news" is garbage like this!

"Population machination, the pattern in the unnatural increase in population, the rise in the number of new villages, wherein even five or six houses clubbed together go on to form a village etc now all appear to have been worked out in a such a way that one can claim indigeneity to the land and cook up such fantastically sounding names as ITLF and CoTU!"

3:59 PM · Dec 13, 2023 · 710 Views



Kautilya3  
@Kautilya33

"In Churachandpur, the place from where the current clash originated, the number of villages has increased by 129 between 2006 and 2018."

Ok, that works out to 10.75 villages per year.

"From 2019 to the present, the spike in number has been put at 19."

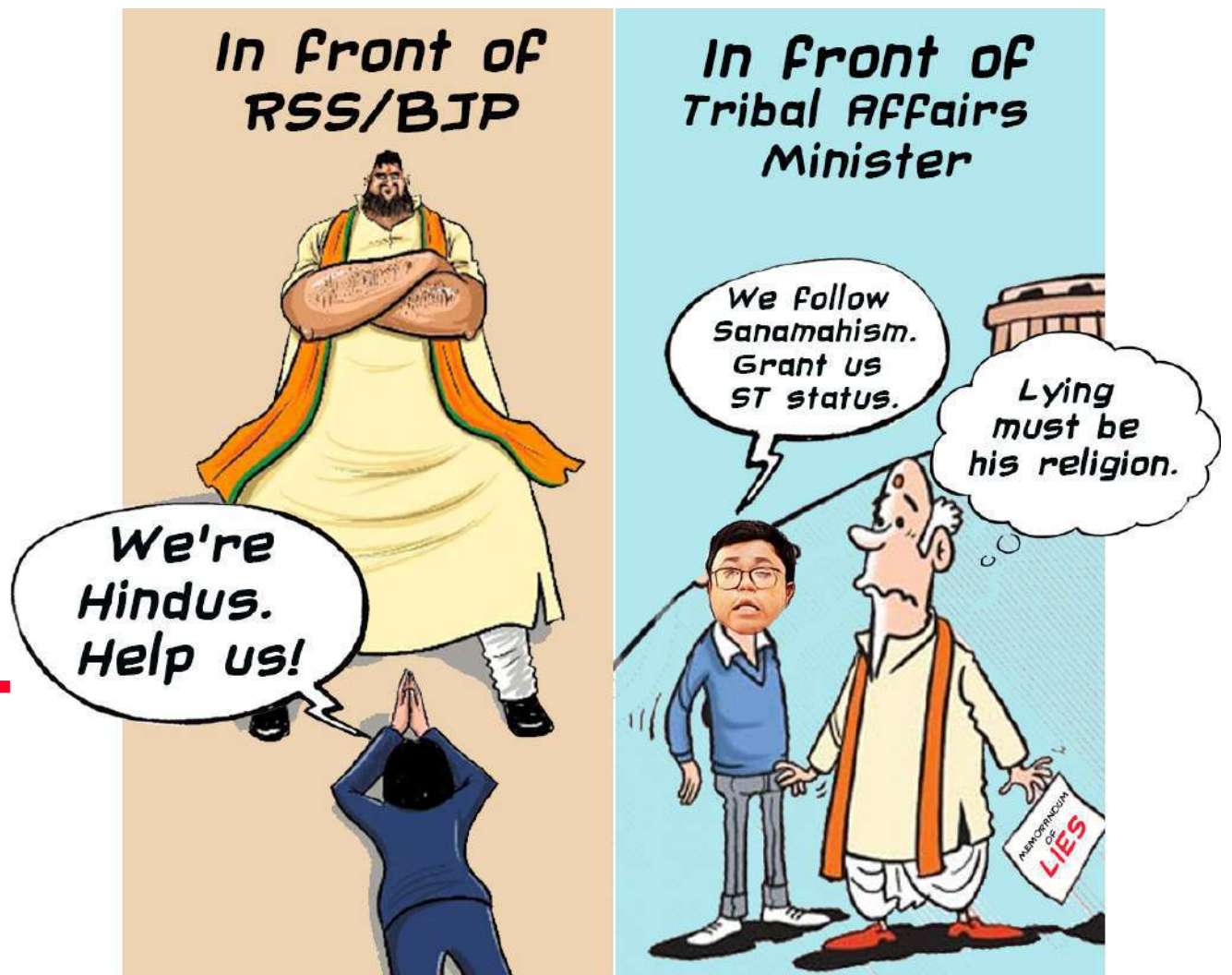
That is 3.8 villages per year and it is termed a **spike**!

One wonders what these Meitei brains are filled with. 🤔

4:13 PM · Dec 13, 2023 · 701 Views



## THE JUNIOR PROPAGANDIST





# TAHCHAPA, KUKI CHAPA !

*In a land of ancient tales and wisdom old,  
Where KUKI warriors stood unyielding and bold,  
They defended their land, a sacred ground,  
With honor and courage that knew no bound.*

*In each and every home, the prayers would rise,  
As mothers beseeched GOD with tear-filled eyes.  
They were beacons of strength, a binding force,  
Filling each warrior's heart with unwavering course.*

*No invader's army could break their will,  
For in their hearts, determination instilled.  
They fought as one, a tribe united,  
Their bond unbreakable, their duty ignited.*

*"TAHCHAPA, KUKI CHAPA!" the warriors proclaim,  
Their warcry spreading like wildfire's flame.  
With these fierce words, enemies comprehend,  
Their doom approaches, for it's the sound of the end.*

*On the horizon dawns a radiant day,  
When foes will falter, crumbling away.  
United, they'll rise, their spirits aglow,  
"LI...LI...LI...LI...LI...HO..HO.HO..HO..HO.."  
their victory cry, will echo.*

*- Seimonlal Singnit*

