

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



S. Saisijang RELIEF CENTRE

S. Saisijang (Y. Langkhong) Community Hall,
Sadar Hills

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 56



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13.03.2024



167
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.

NAGA, ZO INDIGENOUS GROUPS SIGN MOU TO ADDRESS ISSUES ON FMR, CAA, UCC, AFSPA

The Zo Reunification Organisation (ZORO) and Nagaland Indigenous People's Forum (NIPF) have opposed the scrapping of Free Movement Regime, implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act, Uniform Civil Code and implementation of AFSPA in tribal regions of the Northeastern states.

In a meeting held on March 16, the two tribal bodies signed a memorandum of understanding, appealing to the Nagas and Zo ethnic groups to support the MoU and also urging the Government of India to revoke the above stated acts and laws.

The tribal bodies said, "Border fencing that divides a community of indigenous peoples is more suitable for weaker governments with limited options, rather than for a country like India, which asserts itself as a world power and is a signatory to the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007 (UNDRIP)."

As a signatory to the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007 (UNDRIP), the two bodies stated the notion of abolishing the Free Movement Regime (FMR), implementing border fencing, Forest Conservation Act 2023, CAA 2024, UCC and AFSPA 1958 are an indirect contradiction to the spirit of Article 36 (1) and(2) of the UNDRIP.

"Article 36 (1) and (2) of UNDRIP declaration asserts the right of indigenous peoples, divided by international borders, to maintain and develop contacts, relations, and cooperation across borders for spiritual, cultural, political, economic, and social purposes with their own members as well as with other peoples across borders," the statement said, adding that such policies of the Indian government could have negative impact and would hamper peace, loss of land and economic survival of the Northeast people.

The statement also stated that the scrapping of FMR and enforcing Border Fencing along the Indo-Myanmar

JOINT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NAGALAND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S FORUM(NIPF) AND ZO RE- UNIFICATION ORGANISATION(ZORO) ON THIS DAY OF MARCH 16, 2024.

We, the Zo Reunification Organization (ZORO) and Nagaland Indigenous People's Forum (NIPF) jointly agrees to express our stand to oppose the Indian government's policies that the people of North East can have negative reinforcement. In short, it will hamper our peace, loss of land and our economic survival will be at stake. We, would like to bring our appeal to the Government of India for the following four areas:

1. The scrapping of The Free Movement Regime(FMR) and instead enforce Border Fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border in both the states of Mizoram and Nagaland. The scrapping of Free Movement Regime and enforcing border fencing will divide the Zo ethnic(Chin-Kuki-Mizo) living in India, Burma, Bangladesh and Nagas residing in India and Burma.

Our political history requires a new rereading when the British colonisation recognised us that we are neither Indian nor Burmese. As a result they declared our area "Excluded Area" where the Indian nor the Burmese government directly controlled our areas. The 1935 Government of India Act was enforced, and Burma was made 'colony' on April 1, 1937. Since then, the Chin-Kuki-Mizo boundary in Mizoram side and the Nagaland side was enforced while maintaining the FMR continues with 40 Km distance from each side even after India got independence in 1947 and so also Burma got independence in 1948.

The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs issued notification on September 26, 1950. The later notification was issued on June 28, 1968 the permissible distance of Km 40 each from India and Burma side. Again, another notification was issued on July 21, 2010 where the permissible distance was reduced to Km 16, it was tremendously reduced to Km 24 distances from each side. Now in 2024, the Home Minister Shri Amit Shah speech indicated the possible scrapping of the FMR and enforcing the Border fencing.

We, witnessed the negative reinforcement of scrapping the Free Movement Regime and its consequent Border Fencing between Mizoram and Bangladesh, where Mizoram lost 15 villages completely and 21 villages partially, all cultivable land by the river side as well as the river itself. Also the house of the Angh of Longwa village in Nagaland's Mon District has been divided in the middle of the house between India and Myanmar. As a result, the economic survival in those border villages were suffering as their main economic survival

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border in both the states of Mizoram and Nagaland would divide the Zo ethnic (Chin-Kuki-Mizo) groups living in India, Burma, Bangladesh and Nagas residing in India and Burma.

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In the MoU, the two bodies stated that the 1935 Government of India Act was enforced, and Burma was made 'colony' on April 1, 1937. Since then, the Chin-Kuki-Mizo boundary in Mizoram side and the Nagaland side was enforced while maintaining the FMR continues with 40 Km distance from each side even after India got independence in 1947 and so also when Burma got independence in 1948."

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The tribal bodies stated that they witnessed the negative reinforcement of scrapping the FMR and its consequent Border Fencing between Mizoram and Bangladesh, where Mizoram lost 15 villages completely and 21 villages partially, all cultivable land by the river side as well as the river itself. Also, the house of the Angh of Longwa village in Nagaland's Mon District has been divided in the middle of the house between India and Myanmar. As a result, the economic survival in those border villages were suffering as their main economic survival is at stake because of the border fencing, the MoU added.

The MoU stated that the Border Security Forces were instructed to monitor in the most unfriendly manner where the villagers were arrested, ultimately peace was at risk. The FMR regime played a crucial role in allowing the Zo and Nagas to seamlessly traverse borders without being constantly reminded of the political divisions, it said. If the government decides to abolish FMR, the Zo and Nagas would be compelled to obtain passports and apply for visas to visit their relatives or attend funeral services, significantly impacting their traditional and daily lives.

The livelihood of the two communities/tribes and economic survival will be at stake as they will lose

their rivers and its resources, mountains and lands where they draw economic sustenance. The market economy of the two communities/tribes will be at stake because of the international boundary and exchange of goods where the local villagers make a living in headload transportation and otherwise.

The MoU further stated that Mizoram and Nagaland have witnessed the economic blessings, wherein the two enjoyed throughout from time immemorial from the border exchange of goods and marketing.

Stating that the two agrarian communities' economic survival depends on the land and products, the MoU added that the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) 2023 would result in losing several square miles of land which is a daily economic sustenance of the two communities. As such they cannot accept the FCA to surrender their ancestral land for their survival.

The Citizenship Amendment Act is closely related to FMR and Border Fencing where the political history of Zos and Nagas, before the British colonisation and after the colonisation, has different nature and methods. "The CAA will destroy our sibling connectivity and will make further division by possible influx of illegal migrant," the statement said, and mentioned that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is also a grave concern for the tribal people of the North East India because their customs and traditions that govern their holistic well-being and functioning will be destroyed. The tribal people of Northeast cannot accept such an act to surrender the ancestral practices of their culture and traditions.

Regarding the Armed Forces Special Power Act 1958, the two bodies added that the act was enacted racially against the people of North East India. "It is a law that obliterates all rules of law in the area where it is applied. It is high time the government of India rescind this act. The Indigenous peoples of the North East were, are and will always be against such inhuman and draconian law," the MoU added.

MHRC VISIT TO KAMJONG DISTRICT UNDERScores SIGNIFICANCE OF KSO COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Chairperson of Manipur Human Rights Commission (MHRC) Justice UB Saha visited refugees camps sheltering Myanmar nationals in Kamjong district on Saturday. The Chairperson was accompanied by Under Secretary MHRC Md Zaiur Rahman, along with ADC Kamjong HL Jain, SDC Kamjong, Addl SP Kamjong, and OC of Chassad police station.

The MHRC team visited Phaikoh and Sangalok (Kheroram) and took stock of these two camps where around 2,000 Myanmar nationals who had entered India due to Myanmar are currently sheltered in makeshift camps. During his maiden visit to Kamjong sub-division, Justice Saha also interacted with Myanmar refugees, local leaders, village chiefs and leaders from various civil society organisations in the area.

During the interaction, the Chairperson assured that efforts would be undertaken to improve basic amenities, including medical facilities and sanitation. Emphasising on the need for children education, he also called for provisions of learning centres at the camps for children.

Meanwhile, local CSOs leaders voiced their concern on the need for economic avenues and expressed the need for trade centre in the area to boost livelihood means.

It should be noted here that Kamjong district is among the regions affected by the ongoing violence in Myanmar. Due to the persecution in Myanmar, many



individuals have sought refuge in Manipur, leading to homelessness and jeopardizing the education of many.

Recognizing the importance of providing continuous education to children affected by conflict, the Kuki Students' Organization in Kamjong district has established a Community School in Phaikoh, a border village in Kamjong district. This initiative serves as a ray of hope for displaced Kuki students who have been forced to flee the unrest in their region. With 560 students already enrolled, the school is poised to make a significant impact on the lives of these young individuals as they strive for a better future.



To command is to serve, nothing more and nothing less.

– Andre Malraux

MEITEIS FUME OVER SSC (GD) CONSTABLE RESULTS AS CHUNK OF KUKIS GET THROUGH

The final result for the post of 259 for Constable (GD) in CAPFs, SSF, Rifleman (GD) in AR & Sepoy in NCB EXAM., 2022, which was declared by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) on 15 March 2024, went viral in the social media particularly among the Meiteis for a very laughable reason. Whereas some Meitei social media handles suspected the SSC favouring the Kukis at the cost of the Meiteis, some other blamed the Kuki IPS officers who were transferred to various positions in the CAPFs following the outbreak of the ethnic crisis on May 3, 2023.

However, blaming such a national recruiting agency for favouring a particular community, or for that matter, the few Kuki officers for the result, is particularly laughable. But considering the way in which the Meiteis' minds have been trained to hate the Kukis, it is not surprising that they shed crocodile tears over the result. Well, this further expose what type of community the Meiteis are as they are hell-bent on manufacturing and dissemination of fabricated news with an intention to demonise the Kukis. The unfortunate part is, while targeting the Kuki community, they ended up tarnishing the image of the largest national recruiting agency in the country!

Since the beginning of the current ethnic turmoil, nobody took their news seriously as they only spread lies and fake propaganda. Their social media handles are much worse. In fact, they are partly responsible for the rape and murder of Kuki women in Imphal as many of them had spread fake news about the alleged rape of a Meitei woman in Churachandpur on the first day of the violence itself. Some of them even make videos in which they attempted to incite the youths to take revenge for the alleged rape and murder of a Meitei woman. The claim was later denied by the father of the alleged victim, but it was too late to control the mobs



KANGLEI EMA GI MASAIKOL

Robinson Sorokhaibam · 13h · 🌐

BREAKING | SSC GD Exam Manipur state quota Kuki na loina loukhre maramdi Manipur cadre Kuki IPS Officer loina handaki violence ta centre deputation CRPF/ITBP/ CISF/BSF ta DIG/IG oina loina chatkhre aduna khudongchaba magi magi community da pikhre. Masi yengsinba matam oire. Aduga meitei su ST List ta chanba matam oire natradi meitei minai oihourani. Centre su state su Kuki michang loina oikhramane.

#NoStNoVote



Manipuri By Blood

1m · 🌐



in Imphal. Anyway, this was not about random guys posting random videos in social media but it was a well-orchestrated strategy to attack the Kukis in Imphal and the periphery areas!

Now, let's analyse what actually happens with the SSC Constable (GD) result that was declared on 15 March 2024.

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The final result for the SSC's Constable (GD) Exam. 2022 for the rest of India, except for the 597 post meant for the troubled state of Manipur, was declared in August 2023. As Manipur was hit with unprecedented violence, candidates hailing from the state were treated differently thanks to the SSC for understanding the ground situation. On 15 March, only 259 (including 27 women) were recommended for various posts against vacancies meant for candidates belonging to Manipur. Out of the 27 women candidates recommended for final selection, 6 (22.22%) are from the Meitei community, 8 (29.62%) from the Nagas, and 12 (44.44%) from the Kuki community. Among the 232 shortlisted male candidates (excluding one whose result was withheld), it appeared that only one Meitei was included though two-third of them belong to the Kuki-Zo community. However, just that there are fewer Meiteis among the male candidates cannot be a reason to blame the SCC for being pro-Kuki, or anti-Meitei.

The general perception of the Meitei populace in regards to just a mere constable job exposed their hypocrisy and false narratives they have propagated in connection with their demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. When the tribals have been opposing the demand of Meiteis for enlisting in ST list, the defenders of Meitei's ST demand said that the demand was for protection of Meitei's identity and existence. However, their reaction to all recruitment related process reveals their inner motive – which is to grab all the ST quotas in job placement, besides the thirst for land and a more political power.

In this situation, the TLM can only congratulate the 190+ Kuki-Zo, including 178 male and 12 female, for making it to the final list overcoming innumerable hardships our community endured in this trying times.

LOK SABHA ELECTION: MANIPUR TO VOTE IN 2 PHASES ON APRIL 19 AND 26

Manipur, which has been rocked by ethnic clashes since last year, will be voting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in two phases — on April 19 and 26.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar also said that voters living in camps in Manipur will also be allowed to vote from their respective places.

In a statement, the EC said: “The Commission has reviewed the ground situation of Manipur and has noted that a large number of electors registered in different constituencies of Manipur were displaced from their native places during recent conflicts. They are now residing in relief camps in various districts of Manipur. The Commission, after due consultation

with various stake holders, has decided that special polling stations shall be set up at/near the camps where such electors, who opt for such facility, will be able to register their votes in EVMs. It added: “In this regard, a detail scheme for internally displaced persons of Manipur to vote in relief camps has been issued by the Commission on 29th February, 2024.”

Intermittent violence — emerging from an ethnic conflict between Meitei and Kuki communities — has continued to keep the state on the boil, claiming over 200 lives and injuring more than 1,000. Tens of thousands have fled their homes, and some have taken shelter in government-run camps.



MANIPUR GOVT DULY INFORMED ABOUT ARREST OF UNLF (P) LEADERS WHILE CM FEIGNS IGNORANCE

Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh had reportedly stated that the arrest of Sidabamapu, “chief of army” of UNLF (P), Ingba, “chief of intelligence” and “corporal” Landaba “was made without the state government’s knowledge”.

The chief minister also appealed to the Union Government for the unconditional release of the three Pambei-led United National Liberation Front (UNLF) leaders “if they are not guilty of any wrongdoing”. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has remanded the three persons to 10-day custody from March 13 to March 23, 2024.

On the arrest of the UNLF (P) leaders, N Biren Singh had reportedly stated that the state government was not officially intimated about the arrest. However, it has come to light that the NIA on March 13, the day the three were arrested, had officially informed the Superintendent of Police (SP), Imphal West about the arrest in NIA Case No. RC 23/2023/NIA Delhi-reg. The intimation letter to the SP Imphal West also asked him to inform the family members of the three accused.

The NIA letter to SP confirmed the arrest of Thokchom Shyamjai Singh @ Thokchom Gyaneshor @ Thoiba @ Zatawn, @ Zaw Tun @ Shidabamapu, aged 45, son of (late) Th Ibotombi, resident of Mayang Imphal, Imphal West; Laimayum Anand Sharma @ Ingba, aged 50, son of (late) L Indreshwar Sharma, resident of Yaiskul Hiruhanba Leikai, Imphal West; and Salam Ibomcha Meitei @ Landaba, aged 38, son of Lokeswar Meitei, resident of Salam Keikhu Langjing, Imphal West. The NIA court granted the remand plea on March 13.

As per reports, Thoiba alias Sidabamapu is the “chief of army” of UNLF (P) while Ingba was the “chief intelligence” and another cadre named Landaba was a “corporal” of the outfit.

The three Pambei-led UNLF cadres were taken into



custody in connection with case number RC 23/2023/NIA/DLI by NIA, New Delhi. The case is related to a “transnational conspiracy by Myanmar based leadership of militant outfits to wage war against the government of India by exploiting the current ethnic unrest in Manipur.” The three were charged under section 120 B, 121 A, 122 of the IPC and sec 18 (B),39 of the UAPA 1967.

It may be recalled that Moirangthem Anand along with four others were arrested by a team of NIA in connection with the same case number 23 of 2023 of NIA, New Delhi on September 21, 2023. It is under the same case that the three UNLF (P) members were arrested.

Moirangthem Anand was airlifted to New Delhi and he is now lodged in Tihar Jail. Whereas, the four others were released on bail. The NIA has registered the case as suo-moto on July 19, 2023 with case number 23 of 2023 NIA, New Delhi. It now remains to be seen how UNLF (P) leaders are actually related to the case mentioned. UNLF (P) is currently under a “peace agreement” with the Government of India.

What exactly is NIA Case No. RC-23/2023/NIA/DLI?

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NIA Case No. RC-23/2023/NIA/DLI is also known as the “Transnational Conspiracy by Myanmar Based Outfits Case”. The chargesheet filed under section 173 Cr. PC in the Court of Special Judge, NIA Patiala House, New Delhi in the Union of India Versus Hangshi Tangkhul and others, states that:

“The central government had received credible inputs in respect of a transnational conspiracy hatched by Myanmar based leadership of terror outfits operationally active in the North Eastern Indian states to exploit the current ethnic unrest in the state of Manipur to wage a war against the Government of India and execute terrorist attacks thereby exacerbating the current security situation in Manipur.”

The chargesheet dispatched on 07-03-2023 says that “China-Myanmar module of NSCN (I-M) based in Myanmar under the leadership of Hangshi Tangkhul and Absolom Tangkhul” have decided to extend support to proscribed organisations, Kanglei Yawol Kanba Lup (KYKL) and People’s Liberation Army (PLA) to “infiltrate their cadres into the Indian territory” for carrying out attacks inside the country. For this purpose, the NSCN (I-M) leaders promised “a safe passage along with arms, ammunition, explosives and other terrorist hardware” to Manipur based outfits and proscribed organisations.

“In addition, these outfits have also been tasked to identify, recruit and train impressionable youths and get then involved in the ongoing violence with the larger goal of destabilizing the security situation in Manipur and to further wage a war against the Government of India”, said the same chargesheet.

Hence, a case was registered on 19-07-2023 by the NIA in compliance of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Codes and The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UA(P) Act 1967).

Subsequently on 16-09-2023, Moirangthem Anand along with four others were arrested by a team of NIA in connection with the same case number 23 of 2023 of NIA, New Delhi on September 21, 2023.

Transnational Conspiracy by Myanmar Based Outfits Case and armed groups in Northeast

NIA Case No. RC-23/2023/NIA/DLI or “Transnational Conspiracy by Myanmar Based Outfits Case” in the chargesheet submitted earlier clearly makes an attempt to establish how groups like National Socialist Council of Nagalim – NSCN (I-M), KYKL and PLA extended support to each other. However, how the leaders of the Pambei-led UNLF are related to the “conspiracy” is one big question being asked by political watchers and observers in Manipur.

“The centre, particularly the Ministry of Home Affairs seems to be working on a grand plan to implicate as many armed political groups operating in Manipur and across the Indo-Myanmar border irrespective of whether they are in different stages of political engagements with New Delhi. Hence, we see even the NSCN (I-M) has also been linked with KYKL or PLA and now even UNLF (P) in the NIA’s “Transnational Conspiracy by Myanmar Based Outfits Case”. All these apparently pertain to those armed groups who supposedly waging a war against India”, opines a political observer who does not want to be identified.

There had been valley-wide protests launched by several civil society organisations on the arrest of the three leaders. One common refrain that can be heard from the public is “How can leaders or cadres of an outfit under peace agreement with the Government of India be arrested by NIA randomly?” or “What impact would such arrests being made with the official green signal from the Ministry of Home Affairs have on the way how the peace-agreement unfolds?”. As protests over the arrest of UNLF (P) leaders continue, the would definitely be some form of strategized operations to keep the proscribed armed groups in Manipur and the Northeast India under the control of New Delhi while observers are kept on tenterhooks.

Source: [The Frontier Manipur](#)

BJP'S POPULARITY OF 2022 DOWN POST ETHNIC STRIFE – A SWOT ANALYSIS OF MANIPUR PARTIES

The popularity the BJP had seen in 2022 when it won 32 seats in the 60-member assembly has been sliding after ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities broke out in the state on May 3 last year, leading to the death of over 200 people.

As the strife hit national headlines, especially after a video of two women being paraded naked surfaced, the BJP-led government at the Centre have taken several measures seeking to bring back people's confidence in the administration.

The Centre has announced erecting fencing on the Indo-Myanmar border and cancellation of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) to address the issue of illegal immigration from the neighbouring country.

The steps may have some positive electoral effects for the BJP in the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha constituency comprising assembly segments of the Imphal valley.

These measures are likely to adversely affect the saffron camp in the other seat of the northeastern state, Outer Manipur, which covers the hill districts, home to Naga and Kuki community people who are against those moves by the BJP government.

The opposition Congress, which lost power in the state in 2017, is also not on a strong pitch as it has been plagued with internal bickering over selection of party candidates. Rajiv Gandhi's visit after the ethnic strife began, however, might help the party in the elections.

Inner and Outer Manipur seats are held by the BJP and Naga People's Front (NPF) respectively.

The elections will be held in the state in two phases on April 19 and 26.



Following is a SWOT (Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of the BJP and Congress in the state.

STRENGTHS

*Cancellation of FMR and announcement for erecting border Fencing by the BJP government are points to appeal to the voters of Inner Manipur seat.

*Distribution of monetary compensation for more than 3000 farmers affected by violence both in the hills and valley districts will help the BJP.

*The government's "inability" to protect lives and properties of the people is likely to help the Congress.

*Congress will also highlight Rahul Gandhi's two-day visit to the state weeks after the violence broke out. He also began his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra from the state this year.

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WEAKNESS

*BJP MP faced criticism from different quarters for not being vocal in Parliament and at the national level over the violence in the state.

*The BJP government's inability to establish permanent peace even though 10 months have passed after the violence began.

*The Suspension of Operations agreement with Kuki militant organizations was signed in 2008 when Congress ruled the state. A section of the people wants the pact to be discontinued.

*The Congress is facing allegations that it did not effectively tackle the border issues as the BJP has claimed illegal immigration from Myanmar is the root cause of the ethnic violence.

OPPORTUNITIES

*BJP's opportunity is the absence of a strong and popular candidate in Congress.

Congress will highlight the inability of the BJP to protect people's lives and property during the ethnic strife.

THREATS

*Any fresh violence or steps taken against village volunteers by security forces would hit the BJP hard.

*Infighting in the Congress about the selection of candidates.

Source: PTI



Makepeace Sitlhou
@makesyoucakes



No press freedom but at least there's government sponsored junkets.

Impact TV @ImpactTvManipur · 5h

CM Biren flags off AMWJU journalists tour to Andaman Islands under the aegis of DIPR, GoM. The team will visit #mountmanipur and other sites. Centre officially renamed Mt. Harriet as Mt. Manipur on 17 Oct 2021 as tribute to freedom fighters of Manipur. @NBirenSingh ...



4:43 pm · 16 Mar 24 · 1,094 Views



Chandru
@iChanShekhar

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Someone tell this teleprompter jumla that he didn't visit or utter a word about Manipur since #ManipurViolence burst. #SHAMELESS

IndiaToday @IndiaToday · 42m

North-East was ignored by past governments but we prioritised the region. I have visited North-East more than all PMs combined: PM @narendramodi at India Today Conclave 2024
#IndiaTodayConclave24 #ModiAtIndiaToday



9:49 pm · 16 Mar 24 · 14 Views

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OPINION

Consult Residents Before Abolition of Hereditary Chieftainship in Manipur

Ngaranmi Shimray

The Chief Minister of Manipur stated in the Assembly on the 4th of March 2024 that the state government will consult and take appropriate steps for implementation of the Manipur Hill Areas (Acquisition of Chiefs' Rights) Act, 1967.

This is an Act that enables the abolition of the hereditary chieftainship. Incidentally, chieftainship was abolished in Mizoram by an Act called the Assam-Lushai District (Acquisition of Chief's Rights) Act, 1954 and its subsequent amendment in 1955.

The Chief Minister has rightly stated that the state government will consult and take appropriate steps for implementation of the Manipur Hill Areas (Acquisition of Chiefs' Rights) Act, 1967. The objective of doing so is clearly for abolition of hereditary chieftainship which is prevalent mainly among the Kuki-Zomi tribes.

Under Article 371-C, a committee known as the "Hill Areas Committee" (HAC) has been constituted consisting of all elected representatives from the "Hill Areas" of Manipur. This Committee has been given specific functions and subjects under the Presidential notification dated 20th June 1972 called the Manipur Legislative Assembly (Hill Areas Committee) Order, 1972 containing four Schedules. The Order itself contains various definitions and functions of the HAC. The "Hill

Areas" of Manipur have also been determined under the First Schedule". The "Scheduled Matters" falling under the HAC are listed in the Second Schedule. This Order notified the modification in the "Rules of Business of the Government of Manipur, 1972" under the Third Schedule. Modification in the "Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, 1964" was also made under the Fourth Schedule.

The state government should note that para 4 of the Order dated 20th June 1972 lays down one of the functions of the Hill Areas Committee as below:-

"(1) All Scheduled matters in so far as they relate to the Hill Areas shall be within the purview of the Hill Areas Committee."

The Scheduled Matters for the HAC, relevant to the proposal for abolition of chieftainship, has been laid down in the Second Schedule under para (9) as under:-

"(9) The appointment or succession of Chief or Head man."

Contd.

Contd.

In view of the specific functions and Scheduled Matters given to the HAC under the Presidential Order dated 20th June 1972 emanating from Article 371-C which provides for Special provision with respect to the State of Manipur, it is important that the state government follow the due process under the Constitution by referring the matter to the HAC as it relates to the "Hill Areas" and "Scheduled Matters". The Chairperson and members of the HAC should assert their rights to discharge their functions and duties as provided under the Constitution. They may also resort to taking up the matter with the Governor under para 9 of the Order dated 20th June 1972 in case the state government and the Speaker chose to ignore the HAC on this matter.

The state government has rightly stated it will consult and take appropriate steps for implementation of the Manipur Hill Areas (Acquisition of Chiefs' Rights) Act,

1967. Nevertheless, the mandatory requirement for the state government to refer matters to HAC and obtain its recommendation is pointed out, without going into the merits or demerits for abolition of the hereditary chieftainship.

The hope is that the HAC will not be by-passed by the state government in the decision-making process on the issue of abolition of hereditary chieftainship which is prevalent in the "Hill Areas" of Manipur among the Kuki-Zomi tribes.

First published by [East Mojo](#)

(The views expressed in the article are those of the authors and do not reflect in any way his affiliation to any organization or institution)





WE SHALL OVERCOME SOMEDAY

Beneath the weight of struggle,
Tahchap's stand strong,
Hope's ember flickers, a resilient song.
Through traits and tears, a promise we keep,
"We shall overcome," in our hearts, eternally deep.

Cold night's breeze, you passed on with might,
Duty embraced, under starry light.
Through shadows cast, a steadfast array,
Someday triumph awaits, guiding the way,
"We shall overcome," echoes awaits

Amidst the echoes of triumph,
Tahchapas unite,
Bearing courage and hope their spirits alight.
With unity's dance, under a promising sun,
"We shall overcome," the victory has begun.

With God as the guiding captain,
steadfast and true,
Comrades by our side, strength to imblue.
Beneath a mother's prayer, a shield of love,
Guiding steps forward, to skies above.
In her whispered hopes, the promise sung,
"We shall overcome," With each journey begun.

TO ALL TAHCHAPA KUKI CHAPA !

- *Gou Haokip*