

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Geljang RELIEF CENTRE

Geljang Village, Lamka

Managed by
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi
General Headquarters (KKL-GHQ)

Total Inmates Registered: 158*

■ Male: 72	■ Female: 86
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*As on 17th August, 2023



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 10.01.2024



158
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.

STUDENTS AND STAFF OF VARIOUS SCHOOLS IN LAMKA AND KANGGUI HOLDS MASS RALLY IN PROTEST AGAINST DISAFFILIATION OF 25 SCHOOLS, SUSPENSION OF 3 ZEO OFFICIALS AND THE RECENT BURNING OF SCHOOLS IN MOREH

LAMKA: Spearheaded by the Joint Students' Body Lamka and Kuki Students Organisation Churachandpur, students and staff of schools in Churachandpur district took to a mass rally against the disaffiliation of 25 schools in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts from Central Board of Secondary Education. Volunteers of the student bodies, students and staff of different schools under Churachandpur district gathered at Public ground, Hiangtam and marched towards Peace Ground, Tuibong on Thursday, protesting against the disaffiliation of 25 Schools by CBSE and suspension of 3 ZEO officials.

The students can be seen holding placards such as 'Reverse Unjust CBSE Disaffiliation', 'Revoke the Suspension of 3 ZEO officials', 'No CBSE No Rest' and many more.

Briefing the media after concluding the rally at Peace Ground Tuibong, Joint Secretary of the Joint Students Body Lamka, Samuel Taithul, said that the rally is a mark of protest against the unjust disaffiliation of 25 schools from Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts from Central Board of Secondary Education.

Alleging that the said schools were disaffiliated because of the pressure and influence by the state government, Samuel added that highest officials of CBSE and some officials of the central government have already approved for the affiliation of the 25 schools under CBSE.

The General Secretary JSB Lamka added that the rally is also a protest against the recent burning of 3 schools in Moreh under Tengnoupal district by the state forces and also the unjust suspension of 3 ZEO officials on the ground that they were not the competent authority to issue NOC for the schools.

As per the CBSE affiliation by laws of 2018, the district educational officer is a competent authority. However, despite that, the disaffiliation took place because of the influence by the state government, he added. Samuel further said that the JSB Lamka has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur district.

Advisor of Lamka Private Schools and Colleges Association, MV Haokip, appealed to the central government especially the CBSE to revoke the disaffiliation and re-affiliate the



schools once again. He said the affiliation process were applied legally according to by laws of affiliation. Haokip said that the lives of the students are at stake since they schools cannot approach Imphal valley for educational purposes.

Haokip further said, "The hills and the valley are separated geographically and emotionally in all areas. Therefore there is no way for us to come back again to Imphal for our education matters. We plead to the CBSE officials, education department of the state and the Centre to give us back our right of education through CBSE affiliation".

The JSB also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India through the Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur.

In the memorandum, the JSB stated that 25 schools were de-affiliated on the grounds that affiliation was granted on the basis of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued without the consent of the State government and by officials deemed as not the competent authorities to do so.

However, as per official procedures contained in Chapter 1.3.25 of the CBSE Affiliation bye-law, 2018, it is provided that 'an NOC means a letter issued by the Education Department of the State or Union Territory in respect of a school situated in the State

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or Union Territory for affiliation of the school to the CBSE’.

Hence, in this regard, the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) is the authorized functionary of the State Government in respect of the concerned district. Thus, the de-affiliation on the pretext that NOCs were not issued by the competent authorities is legally and procedurally erroneous, the latter added.

This blatant de-affiliation of 25 schools in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi is only a politically motivated move on the part of the State government to deprive tribals of a fair educational system, which the CBSE can provide, it stated. Most importantly, Chapter 13.14 of the Affiliation by-laws, 2018 of the CBSE states that, ‘The future and welfare of the students studying in the school will be kept in mind while imposing a penalty on the school.’ However, the de-affiliation on the malicious pretext that NOC was not issued by a competent authority when in this time of conflict and enmity, and where physical and virtual intimidation of the State Government cannot be made, is a grievous overriding of the rationale of the students’ welfare, JSB added.

JSB also highlights issues in connection with unjust suspension of 3 ZEO officials and past instances of discriminatory practices of Manipur University towards Zo (Zomi- Kuki-Hmar-Mizo) students:

JSB also draws the attention of the Prime Minister to establish a central university in Lamka(Churachandpur) district so that students may get equal opportunities and access to higher education and that colleges affiliated under the university will have access to a fair and just system that is free from Meitei encroachment.

KANGGUI: Thousands of students across the Kuki-Zo-dominated Kangpokpi district held a massive rally today drawing the attention of the Prime Minister over the CBSE affiliation row.

The massive rally kicked off at Nute Kailhang in downtown Kangpokpi and proceeded toward Deputy Commissioner Kangpokpi’s office via the National Highway-2.

Traffic flow was disrupted during the rally while Kangpokpi police were on high alert monitoring the movement of the rally to avoid any unwanted incidents.

The student protesters who shouted the slogans, “Revoke the three education officials’ suspension orders”, “Free Education from Politics”, and “We Want Justice”, etc. also held placards that read, “Re-officiate the 25 tribal schools”, “Neglecting education is a crime against the



future”, “Empower minds, promote fair and accessible education, not political agendas”, “We need equal access to education”, “We cannot tolerate a politically motivated and unjust de-affiliation of our sacred portal of learning”, “Keep your dirty hands off our right to education, no room for political games”, “Manipur Government against the right to education”, etc.

The massive student rally led by the Kuki Students’ Organization Sadar Hills submitted a four-page representation to the Prime Minister through DC Kangpokpi calling immediate attention to the alleged deplorable state of education in Kuki-Zo districts of Manipur.

The Kuki-Zo student’s representation to the Prime Minister highlighted the alleged politically motivated de-affiliation of 25 schools in the tribal areas with the CBSE; the alleged unjust suspension of three ZEO officials; and the past instances of alleged discriminatory practices of Manipur University towards the Kuki-Zo students while demanding re-affiliating the 25 schools, revoke the suspension order of the three ZEO officials, and establish a Central University in Lamka(Churachandpur) district.

On the sideline of the rally, KSO Sadar Hills General Secretary, Thangtinlen Haokip said that the massive protest rally is in continuation of demand for a fair share of justice in the education sector in the state of Manipur.

He recalled that the Kuki Students Organizations had publicly appealed for the revocation of the suspension order of three of our Kuki-Zo Officials, who were wrongfully charged by the Meitei majoritarian administration and had served an

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ultimatum of 48 hours which has already lapsed.

“This willful and wanton exercise of power especially in the field of education will have a resounding impact on the future careers of our generation”, he asserted.

He further said that Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his cohorts are appealed yet again to retract from their ill-conceived and ill-advised political discourse which has shamed the people of Manipur.

Meanwhile, the Sadar Hills Private Schools Association, or the SHIPS, while staunchly refuting the suspension of the three dedicated officials, urged Manipur’s Education Department to consider its decision and ensure immediate revocation of the suspended three officials for the good of all.

The Zonal Education Officer of Churachandpur, Jangkhohao Haokip, the Zonal Education Officer of Kangpokpi, Lhingtinneng Singsit, and the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Samulamlan Block, L. Taithul were suspended with effect on January 12, purportedly based on the issuance of No Objection Certificates, or the NOC, to 25 schools in the strife-torn Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts for their affiliation to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the only national level school education board.

Vehemently condemning the suspension of the three officials, SHIPS demanded a few actions from the state Government and the Education Department sooner than later.

Firstly, the top educational body of Sadar Hills challenged the state’s Education Department to provide or produce the specific standing or pertinent legislation that prohibits Zonal Education Officers from issuing NOCs and urged the department to make the legislation accessible to the public.

Secondly, it demanded the publication of the issued NOCs or the immediate release of all NOCs issued to private schools in the valley districts accompanied by an official statement affirming that no NOCs have been issued by ZEOs of the valley district as transparency is crucial to establish the veracity of the accusations against the suspended officials.

Thirdly, SHIPS called for the issuance of public notification on NOC fees or outlining the fees to be paid and the expected number of days to be waited to obtain an NOC, stating that clear guidelines will help dispel any ambiguity and ensure fair practices in the NOC issuance process.

Fourthly, the association insisted on the presentation of

the state Government Gazette notification containing the prescribed procedure and legislation for obtaining NOC for affiliation to CBSE as it will provide a comprehensive understanding of the established norms and rules governing the affiliation process.

Fifthly, SHIPS demanded justification from the Manipur Government and the Meitei communities as to why the Kuki-Zo community should not disassociate themselves from them and be separate from the Manipur Meitei Government that executed ethnic cleansing and complete practical separation.

It also stated that the targeted community, the Kuki-Zo, in Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Chandel, and Tengnoupal Districts can and will never have any more trust in the institutions and machineries of the state Government of Manipur under the Meitei majoritarianism.

“This has been bluntly and comprehensively shown by the ethnic cleansing pogrom executed by the Meitei radicals under state patronage that has been taking place since May 3, 2023, till date”, it stated.

SHIPS also emphasized that the suspended officials were merely fulfilling their duty and responsibilities as the rightful authorities at the district level.

It maintained that the withdrawal of affiliation by CBSE, allegedly under political pressure, should have been a sufficient punishment for the officials.

“Withdrawing all the affiliations and then suspending the officials is tantamount to double punishment and injustice meted to the communities living in the affected districts”, it added.

SHIPS further stated that the State Government should rather appreciate the initiative of the Union Government for quality education as per NEP 2020 and NCF 2023 to be spearheaded by CBSE, which is the highest school-level education body.

While urging the state Education Department to reconsider its decision and ensure immediate revocation of the suspensions, it stated that SHIPS stands united in its commitment to upholding the integrity of the education system and advocates for a just resolution to this issue and immediate revocation of the suspended officials and affiliation for the good of all.

STATE GOVT HAS MILITARISED MOREH BY SENDING MORE MANIPUR POLICE COMMANDOS SAYS KUKI CHIEFS ASSOCIATION TENGNOUNPAL

The Kuki Chiefs' Association (KCA) Tengenoupal has stated that the State Government has militarised Moreh by sending more Manipur police commando personnels instead of heeding to appeals to remove them from Moreh.

KCA stated that Manipur Police Commandos wreaked havoc at Moreh and incidents of their atrocities including harassment and killing of innocent civilians are aplenty.

KCA issued a release on Thursday in connection with the burning down of several houses, schools and a Church on January 17 at Moreh in Tengenoupal District by miscreants in Manipur Police Commando uniform.

KCA Tengenoupal also appealed to the Government of India to prevail upon the State Government to remove the communal Manipur State forces from Moreh so as to ensure peace.

KCA stated that the burning down of houses belonging to the Kuki-Zo community on wednesday at Moreh by the Commandos was another glaring evidence that these so-called commandos are untrustworthy and their continued deployment is only deepening the distrust.

As a vanguard of the State, the Manipur Commandos are supposed to protect the lives and properties of citizens of the State without any partiality. However, contrary to this, the Manipur Commandos are used as tools to achieve the communal agenda of N Biren Singh and their bias conduct is too well-known by all and sundry, stated the release.

The involvement of Manipur commandos in burning houses was unbecoming of trained personnels, KCA stated while adding that the association is equally disturbed to learn that armed radical Meitei militias and surrendered Valley-Based Insurgent Groups are allowed to mix freely with the Manipur Police Commandos.

Wearing police uniforms, the radical elements are helping the Meitei Commandos in terrorising the Kuki-Zo people at Moreh, it added.

Claiming that the trained Special Commandos are sent to terrorise the civil populace at Moreh, KCA demanded that the State's police chief should review the conduct



Ref. No..... **Press Release** Date.....
18th January, 2024

Kuki Chiefs' Association (KCA), Tengenoupal District is utterly shocked to learn the burning down of several houses, schools and Church on 17 th January, 2024 at Moreh in Tengenoupal District by miscreants in Manipur Police Commando uniform.

Instead of heeding to appeals to remove Manipur Police Commandos from Moreh, the State Government has militarised Moreh by sending more personnel. As anticipated, Manipur Police Commandos wreaked havoc at Moreh and incidents of their atrocities including harassment and killing of innocent civilians are aplenty. The burning down of houses belonging to the Kuki-Zo community yesterday at Moreh by these Commandos was another glaring evidence that these so-called commandos are untrustworthy and their continued deployment is only deepening the distrust.

As a vanguard of the State, the Manipur Commandos are supposed to protect the lives and properties of citizens of the State without any partiality. However, contrary to this, the Manipur Commandos are used as tools to achieve the communal agenda of N Biren Singh and their bias conduct is too well-known by all and sundry. Their involvement in burning houses was telling and unbecoming of trained personnel.

KCA Tengenoupal District is equally disturbed to learn that armed radical Meitei militias and surrendered Valley-Based Insurgent Groups are allowed to mix freely with the Manipur Police Commandos. Wearing Police uniforms, these radical elements are helping the Meitei Commandos in terrorising the Kuki-Zo people at Moreh.

As things turned out of late, these trained Special Commandos are sent to terrorise the civil populace at Moreh. The State's police chief should review the conduct of his men and do damage control exercise as they become a blot on the entire State Police Force.

KCA Tengenoupal District and Kuki-Zo people of Tengenoupal district would never be cowed down by the terror tactic to grab their ancestral land. We are firmly determined to defend our land and rights till the last man standing.

KCA Tengenoupal District warns of an immediate release of the unconstitutional arrest of Mr Philip Khaikholal Khongsai, President of Moreh Youth Club and Hemkholal Mate, the chief of K Mousang village and finance secretary of the Mate Tribe Union. As such unwarranted arrest of innocents will escalate tension in Moreh border town.

The Government of India is once again appeal to prevail upon the State Government to remove communal Manipur State force from Moreh so as to ensure peace.

Issued by:
Information & Publicity Department
kuki Chiefs' Association, Tengenoupal District

of his men and do damage control exercise as they are becoming a blot on the entire State Police Force.

KCA stated that they along with Kuki-Zo people of Tengenoupal district would never be cowed down by the terror tactic to grab Kuki-Zo ancestral lands and that they are firmly determined to defend their land and rights till the last man standing.

KCA Tengenoupal further demands immediate release of Philip Khaikholal Khongsai, President of Moreh Youth Club and Hemkholal Mate, the chief of K Mousang village and finance secretary of the Mate Tribe Union and added that such unwarranted arrest of innocents will escalate tension in Moreh border town.

RESTORATION OF NORMALCY WOULD NOW DEPEND ONLY ON THE COMPLETE REMOVAL OF MANIPUR STATE POLICE COMMANDOS FROM MOREH SAYS HTC MOREH

The Hill Tribal Council, Moreh has stated that restoration of normalcy would now depend only on the complete removal of Manipur State Police Commandos from Moreh.

In a release issued on Thursday, HTC stated that appraisals and appeals have been made repeatedly to the Central Government through concerned officials ranging up to the Union Home Minister on the detrimental intention of the Manipur Government in its deployment of State Commandos in Moreh border town seeking its removal.

It also pointed out that the appeals were not without reason but with sufficient evidence exposing excesses such as extortion and arson to killings committed by the brute communal force which disturbs peace and normalcy.

“Repeated negligence of the appeals by the concerned authority has now led to chaos in the once-thriving border town of Moreh”, it stated.

Recalling the various incidents, the Hill Tribal Council stated that on December 30, 2023, at Lhangkichoi locality in Moreh, State commandos burnt down four civilians’ houses and went on a rampage, and fired indiscriminately, assaulting civilians severely including a private school teacher.

On January 2, 2024, at Chavangphai Moreh, the state commandos thrashed two locals leaving them unconscious probably to die while all these victims were still recuperating in a hospital outside Moreh.

On January 16, 2024, the state police commandos manhandled and indiscriminately fired upon the womenfolk who were in a democratic protest against the construction of a commando outpost at Chikim village in which one of the protesting women was shot while several others got injured stated the release.

Subsequently, the Manipur police commandos waylaid and abducted two innocent civil society organisation

leaders which created heightened tension and unrest in the border town leading to the violent situation.

The next day on January 17, 2024, the state commandos driving recklessly ran over a woman causing severe injury and later burnt down three school buildings, and fourteen civilians’ houses at Canan Veng and Phaicham Veng in Moreh, HTC stated

While committing all these crimes they were in full combat dresses and equipments, it stated.

It wondered as to how one justifies the burning down of civilian houses including school buildings by the men in uniform.

It maintained that the evil mindset and intention of the Manipur Government led by its communal Chief Minister, perpetrating arson through its so-called state force on innocent civilians is being confirmed and exposed beyond any doubt.

While strongly condemning the alleged unlawful activities committed by the state government, the Hill Tribal Council prays for the direct intervention of the Union Government of India. Seeking the attention of the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, the Hill Tribal Council stated that going by the Home Minister’s word, isn’t the situation in the Hills to be taken care of under the HM himself?

“Why have you still allowed the draconian Manipur State Forces to go on a rampage in Moreh Border Hill Town!? Why not direct the CM to stop radical elements and surrendered militants roaming freely around Imphal Valley with looted sophisticated arms from the state armory?” it asked.

KWUHR, MOREH CONDEMNS THE ATROCITIES OF THE COMMUNAL STATE POLICE COMMANDOS UPON INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT MOREH

The Kuki Women Union and Human Rights, Moreh, in a release has stated that inspite of many appeals and repeated petitions to the Central Government and the concerned authorities on the inhumane atrocities of the communal state police commandos upon the innocent women and children, the authorities have not taken any real step to bring peace in Moreh.

On January 16 when women held a democratic protest against the construction of a Police CDO post at Chikim Village, they were manhandled, kicked and dragged by their hair by the state Police CDO, despite the central forces being present there. One young woman, Lhingbem Simte, was shot in the knee from the indiscriminate firing by the Police CDO towards the women and many others were injured while trying to save their lives, KWUHR stated.

On January 17, the state commando recklessly and openly ran over an old lady, Vahneilam Mate (61), using Casper vehicle causing a serious injury. Many other women also sustained bullet injuries from the indiscriminate firing. They then openly fired on the civilian population at Phaichamveng and Cananveng and burned down several civilians' houses including 1 (One) Church at Canan Veng and also razed three (3) schools namely, Bethsaida School, Dr. Colvin School and Mount Moreh Public School to the ground, stated the release.

The Kuki Women Union and Human Rights further stated that they will not stand idle to watch women and children's lives being threatened.

MEITEI INSURGENTS TORCH KUKI-ZO HOUSES AT MAPHOU KUKI VILLAGE, CONTINUES ATTACK IN OTHER AREAS

In their relentless acts to annihilate the Kuki-Zo in Manipur, Meitei insurgents torched at least five houses belonging to the Kuki-Zo near BSF camp at Maphou Kuki village located under Island block under Kangpokpi district on Thursday evening.

Earlier, the Meitei insurgents had also burnt down several houses belonging to the Kuki-Zo in Maphou area. Since then the villagers have fled from the village leaving behind only a few village volunteers.

As the news of the incident spread, many had been raising questions as to how the Meitei insurgents could have torched the house despite the presence of the BSF camp nearby. Despite the presence of BSF troops in close proximity, they remained inactive as the Meitei



militants discharged multiple rounds of gunfire and proceeded to set ablaze the deserted village.

There are also reports of Meitei insurgents firing several shots towards Kuki-inhabited Chingphei area, Kangchup and Leimakhong areas as well.

NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF MYANMAR MILITANTS' INVOLVEMENT IN MOREH INCIDENT SAYS KULDIEP SINGH

Security advisor Manipur Kuldiep Singh said that there are no concrete evidences of Myanmar militants being involved in the Moreh firings.

The security advisor made the statement while briefing the media in Imphal on Thursday. Kuldiep said that there had been intelligence reports that armed groups from Myanmar are likely to attack the state forces in Moreh.

However, there has been no concrete evidence regarding the presence of Myanmar militants in attacking the state forces, he added.

In connection with demands made by the Meiteis for his resignation, Kuldiep said he will resign as chairman of unified command if he considers that he has failed in performing his duties. At present, Kuldiep said he is looking after the deployment and coordination of security forces for almost 24 hours.

The security advisor said, "If whoever has deputed me in Manipur decided that I am not doing my duty correctly, they will definitely ask me to resign or they will remove me".

Kuldiep said joint operations have been identified and four casper vehicles have been sent to Moreh.



Meanwhile, tension erupted in Imphal demanding removal of Kuldiep Singh as Chairman of the Unified Command. Later, the womenfolk of Ima Keithel also meet Kuldiep Singh.

After meeting Kuldiep Singh one of the women, A. Nirmala, said they were told by Kuldiep Singh that he was given the post as chairman of unified command by the Chief Minister and he only works under the instructions of the Chief Minister.



**It is easier to resist at the beginning
than at the end.**

— *Leonardo da Vinci*

THERE IS A CIVIL WAR-LIKE SITUATION IN MANIPUR: RAHUL GANDHI

On January 18, 2024, the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, spearheaded by Rahul Gandhi, is poised to traverse into districts of Assam, marking a significant phase of its journey.

Addressing a gathering in Sivasagar, Rahul Gandhi said, "We've added the word 'Nyay' to the name of this Yatra because we think that BJP-RSS is doing injustice in every state. There is a civil war-like situation in Manipur, but till today the PM has not visited the state."

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi says, "This journey has become a journey of excitement, enthusiasm and coordination for the people of Assam. The people here are upset because the government here is not the government of the poor and the farmers but of the coal and stone mafia. At this moment there is frustration among the people that Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra and Rahul Gandhi have been able to remove..."

Notably, the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra resumed from Shivasagar, Assam on the fifth day of its journey.

This initiative, led by the Congress party, aims to address



critical national issues such as unemployment, price rise, and social justice.

The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, flagged off by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, is not just a political statement but a movement that seeks to cover an extensive route through the heart of India.

It will pass through 100 Lok Sabha segments across 15 states, covering 110 districts, 100 Lok Sabha seats, and 337 assembly segments over a period of 67 days.

3 BSF PERSONNEL INJURED AS MOB TRIES TO BREACH POLICE HQ IN MANIPUR

Three Border Security Force (BSF) personnel were injured in Manipur on Wednesday night during mob attacks on police establishments in Thoubal district, hours after the killing of two police personnel in the border town of Moreh in the morning.

Manipur was gripped by a wave of unrest and tension on Wednesday following the killing of the two Meitei police personnel. In the evening, large numbers of women in Imphal and other parts of the valley took to the streets, protesting the killings, and demanded more state security forces in Moreh.

In Thoubal, a district in the valley, the unrest escalated into mobs targeting security establishments. In the past too, violent incidents in sites of the conflict have been followed by attempts to breach security establishments

with the intent to loot arms and ammunition.

On Wednesday night, a mob targeted the 3rd Indian Reserve Battalion in Khangabok, Thoubal where they were pushed back by security forces. It also targeted the Thoubal Police Headquarters where the police said the mob tried to "breach" the premises. When security forces pushed them back, armed people from among the mob fired at them, the police said, as a result of which three BSF personnel sustained bullet injuries. The three personnel – constable Gaurav Kumar and Assistant Sub Inspectors Sobram Singh and Ramji – have been evacuated to a private hospital in Imphal for treatment.

MIZORAM: ZORAMTHANGA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE POLITICS

President of the Mizo National Front (MNF) and three-time Chief Minister, Zoramthanga, declared his intention to retire from active politics soon. Speaking at a party meeting held in Aizawl, Zoramthanga cited his age, having crossed 80, as the primary reason for stepping back from the political arena.

During the party gathering, the former Chief Minister revealed that he had discussed his retirement plans with the former Deputy Chief Minister, Tawnluia. Both leaders have mutually agreed that, given their age, it is time for them to make way for new leadership. Zoramthanga expressed, "We have discussed the matter, and we agreed that the party should continue without our presence as both of us have crossed 80. We have also informed our party leaders about our retirement."

Zoramthanga, who has been at the helm of the MNF since 1990, made this decision public during the inauguration of the party's office in Aizawl for the new year.

Having successfully contested elections in 1987, 1989, 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2018, Zoramthanga played a pivotal role in shaping the political landscape of Mizoram. In his address, he lauded the MNF party for its resilience,



emphasizing that, unlike other major parties, the MNF has stood strong for 63 years.

Reflecting on the party's history, Zoramthanga spoke of its unwavering commitment to state initiatives, notably on issues such as the Uniform Civil Code and boundary disputes. He shared, "In regards to the Uniform Civil Code and boundary issues, we stood strong for God and our land. Even when Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to me and suggested we reconsider our stance on the boundary, I told him I would resign rather than compromise our position." (Source: East Mojo)

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



#ManipurViolence

Something which both the #Kuki_Zo and #Meiteis in #Manipur can agree on - The utter and complete failure of #BJP for 9 months straight of continuous violence since 3rd May 2023, except for the #AndhBhakts and the #AndhMeiteis who still support #BJP Biren.



9:28 AM · Jan 18, 2024 · 3,822 Views



Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robort

On 1st December 2020, Sub-Inspector of BSF 59th Battalion Mr. Paotinsat Guite (Sasat) gave his life defending the country in Jammu. Today the people whom he defended from foreign aggression burnt the remaining houses of his village Maphou. How ungrateful we are to our soldiers.



9:36 PM · Jan 18, 2024 · 1,029 Views



EXPLAINED

WHY MEETEIS/MEITEIS SHOULD NOT GET SCHEDULED TRIBE STATUS?

1. Meiteis have 2000-year-old recorded history of kingship and kingdom starting from their first king Nongda Lairen Pakhangba who reigned in 33 AD.
2. Meiteis have unique Meitei script known as Meitei Mayek which dates back to 6th Century AD where it was engraved on coins. Meitei script is a curriculum in school syllabus. Starting from 2021, Meitei script (officially known as Meitei Mayek) was officially used by the Government of Manipur, along with the Bengali-Assamese script, to write the Meitei language, as per "The Manipur Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2021". All the vernacular newspapers are told to publish in Meitei script with effect from February 2023.
3. Meiteis have maintained a written history book called "Cheitharol Kumbaba" (Royal Chronicles of Manipur) that records the history of Meitei kings down the years.
4. Manipuri literature is included in the syllabus till University level and it is included as one of the Optionals in UPSC Mains exam.
5. Manipuri language is one of the 22 official languages of India, included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution which was inserted in the 71st Amendment Act in 1992.
6. Meiteis are already protected under OBC, SC and EBC.
7. Meiteis have their own way of reading days and follow a traditional calendar called Maliyaifam Palcha Kumsing which tribals don't have.
8. Despite being in General, OBC, SC & EBC categories, Meiteis get into IAS/IPS/IRS every year. They have been into top 11, 23, many within 100/200/300/400 in UPSC civil services exams every year. The latest one, in the just declared UPSC 2022 exam, one Meitei guy got into AIR 83. Most of the young DCs and SPs of Manipur are now Meiteis. Few years down the line, all the heads of the Departments will be Meiteis only. On the other hand, tribals in Manipur are no longer producing IAS/IPS anymore. Meiteis don't need to become ST to get into IAS/IPS or IIT/NIT or top medical colleges. They're at par with mainland Indians now. What if Meiteis become ST? They will grab all the IAS/IPS seats every year. Their only competition amongst the STs will be Meenas of Rajasthan. Rest of the tribals will only get into other allied services in UPSC civil services. The

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only way to get into IAS/IPS will be through state PCS exams, on the verge of retirement. Therefore, Meiteis entry into ST category is a threat to all the STs of India and needs to be resisted by all STs of India tooth and nail. Tribals of Assam have started raising their voices against Meiteis and other communities of Assam who are trying to get into ST fold. All tribals of others states in India should also know these facts and oppose the Meiteis demand for inclusion in the ST.

9. It's only their greed for land that makes them clamor for ST status. Over the years, Meiteis have been trying to come up with different laws like Manipur Land Revenue & Land Reformation (MLR & LR) Act, 1960 and the infamous 'Three Bills'—all to enable them access to hill districts, but all failed. It's purely land issue. If they become ST, they will be able to buy land in hills and thrive everywhere. Since they are rich and

the prices of land are much cheaper in hills compared to valley, Meiteis will buy big lands easily and the tribals being poor will sell their lands to Meiteis for the 'high' prices. In this way, lands of the present tribals Kukis and Nagas will shrink easily by selling away the beautiful slopes and foothills to the Meiteis and they will move back to the jungles. Like Tripura, the tribals will go back to jungles and high terrains and the Meiteis will occupy all the beautiful valleys and gentle slopes. Therefore, all the tribals of India in general and Manipur in particular should join hands to fight this ST demand by Meiteis tooth and nail.

10. Is Meitei land small? No. Meiteis are dominant in 6 districts viz., Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching, Bishnupur and Jiribam. The size of Meitei land, often referred to as Manipur valley including Jiribam is 2232 sq. km which is much bigger than Delhi (1,483 sq. km). Delhi's 2023 population is estimated at 32,941,308 (Three crores twenty-nine lakhs, forty-one

thousand, three hundred and eight). Whereas, total population of Meiteis is around 20 lakhs only. Delhi is the fifth most populous city in the world and the largest city in India area-wise. The city has a population density of 29,259.12 people per square mile, which is one of the highest in the world. In comparison to Delhi, Manipur valley's population can grow more than 3 crores with the available land but it may not reach that number in the 21st century. There are so many unoccupied lands, hillocks, paddy fields, khas lands, etc. in the valley. Land is also not to be made an issue.

11. Meiteis are not homogenous community but a mixture of different ethnicities. Those with Sharma, Manoharmayum, Brahmacharimayum, etc. as their surnames are converts from Bengali Brahmins and are regarded as high caste people. They are called as "Bamons" (Brahmins) and addressed them with honorific title "Aigya". In all ceremonial occasions, Meiteis only eat foods cooked by these "Bamons". These high caste people are also against this ST demand by majority Meiteis. There are certain groups belonging to Scheduled Castes like Kakching, Phayeng, Sekmai, Andro, etc. who speak slightly different Manipuri dialect. Meiteis until recently called the tribals in a derogatory language "Hao" and despised the tribals as hillmen and considered impure. They didn't allow the tribals to enter their houses as that may bring pollution to the family. Any good and beautiful things are associated with Meiteis and the ugly and inedible things are tagged "Hao" which refers to tribals and is derogatory and backward. They often address the tribals as "lawai macha" (backward people) and called them "Haopang" (foolish backward people). Now,

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they want to enter into that 'foolish backward impure people' fold. What a downgrading move!

12. The game of polo was originated from Manipur and taken to the rest of the world by Britishers. Manipur is also known as the powerhouse of sports. Compared to other tribal states like Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur is very much ahead of them in all fields.

All these facts clearly established that Meiteis are highly civilized heterogenous community having all the characteristics of advanced communities. They do not have any characteristic feature to become ST. STs are those people who are having indications of primitive traits, living in geographical isolation,

having shyness of contact with community at large, backward, etc. Meiteis have been living in plain for two millennia and has never had any shyness of contact with anyone or never been isolated. Their recorded history writings, advanced literature with unique script and two millenia old history of kingship and kingdom

all prove that Meiteis are not backward but a highly civilized and advanced community. History is proof that Meiteis had strong kingdom with large armies on horses and chariots and had war with neighboring communities or countries and fought with everyone throughout history.



zabratwar

**MODI'S
MAUN
KI
BAAT**





Fight for Our Fatherland!

No one favours us!
We know that they
themselves are aware
of their one-sided
narratives.

No one can rescue us.
The centre is silent.
The media are well-fed by
the valley-based media,
which obviously will be
in their favour.

We are all alone.
Buckle your belt!
Tie your shoes!
Dress in the uniform of
bravery, dignity and
honour!
Fight for your land!
Fight for your mothers
and fathers!
Fight for your brothers
and sisters!
Fight for your people!
Fight for the defenceless!



We are alone.
Don't ask for help!
Don't seek help from
outside!
No body will come!

We have no option!
We fight or perish - It is
up to the hands of the
Almighty!

May God help us as we
fight together for our
survival!

~*Jamminthang Lhungdim,*
M. Songgel