



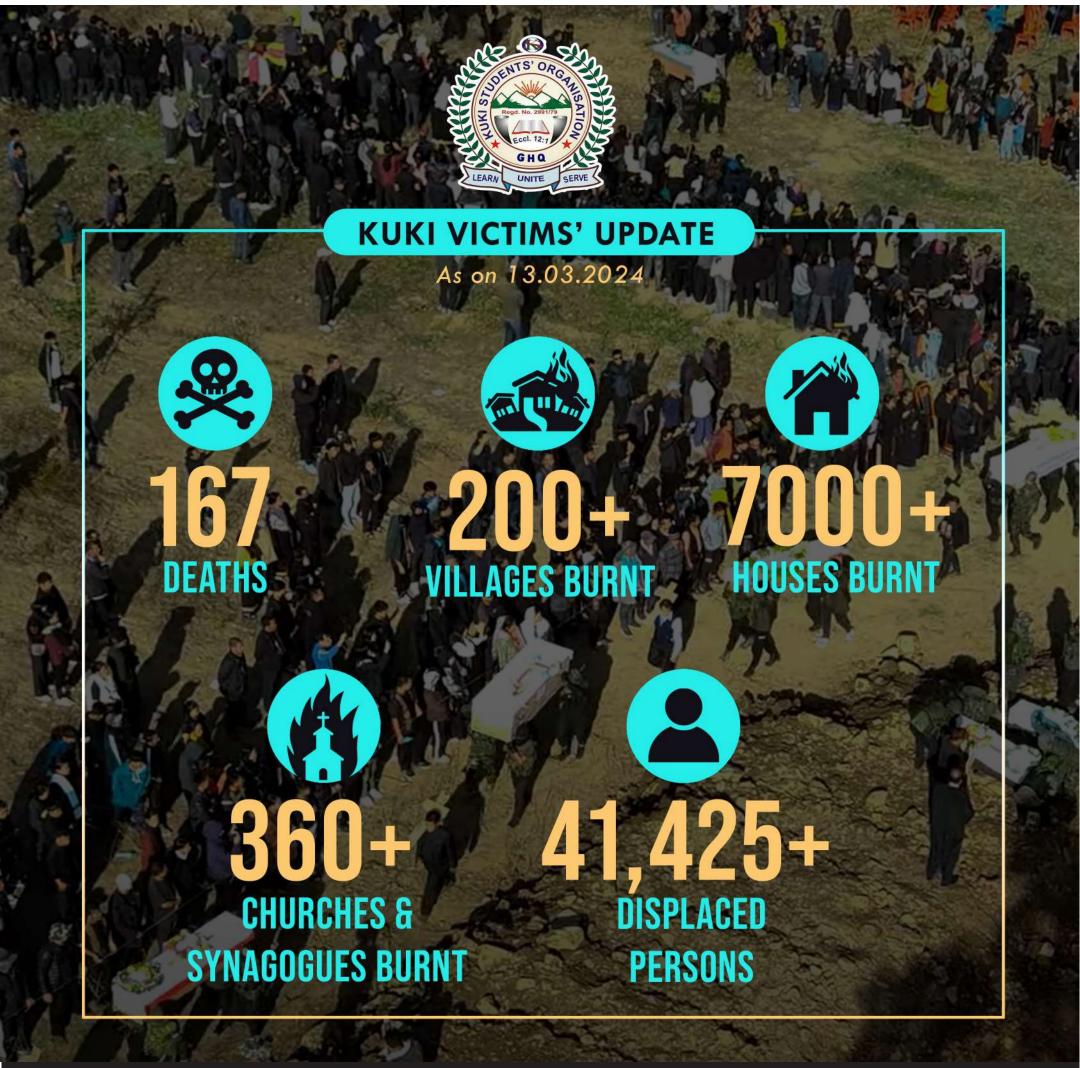
Tingkai Khullen RELIEF CENTRE

Tingkai Khullen Community Hall, Bungte Sub-Division, Sadar Hills

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 309





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.



MANIPUR CONGRESS ANNOUNCES CANDIDATES FOR 18TH LOK SABHA ELECTIONS; BJP FINDS NO PLACE IN TRIBAL HILL AREAS

While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has found no candidate of its own in the Hill Areas of Manipur, the Indian National Congress (INC) has declared the names of the two candidates who will be contesting the upcoming 18th Lok Sabha elections in the strifetorn state of Manipur.

JNU Professor Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, a Meitei, has been nominated as the candidate for the Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, while former MLA from Ukhrul, Alfred K Arthur- a Tangkhul Naga tribal, has been set to take the battle for Outer Manipur Parliamentary seat. In the absence of BJP's candidate in Outer Manipur, he has to take on the NPF party.

It is worth mentioning that the Naga People's Front (NPF), a regional party, had officially awarded the party ticket to K Timothy Zimik, Retd. IRS, who is also a Tangkhul-Naga tribal, for the Outer Manipur Lok Sabha Constituency two days back.

It is interesting to note that the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency constitutes voters mainly from Naga and Kuki-Zo communities. In some segments of the valley districts of Thoubal and Kakching, the Scheduled Caste/ Other Backward Class Meiteis have the right to vote but not the right to contest in the reserved ST seat.

The selection of Prof. A. Bimol Akoijam as the Congress party's candidate for the Inner Manipur polls has drawn attention due to his experience in academic background. Although he possesses a superior mindset and hatred towards the minority Kuki community in the wake of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom perpetrated by the communal Meiteis, Prof. Bimol Akoijam is expected to bring rational thoughts amongst the youth amidst radicalisation and talibanization of the Meitei populace.



On the other hand, Alfred K. Arthur's candidacy for the Outer Manipur Parliamentary seat could bolster Congress' presence in the hill districts as the former MLA from 44-Ukhrul Assembly Constituency has a well-experienced political career in the hill areas. His concerns for development of the tribal hill areas, as a whole, has been a good step, making him a suitable candidate in the upcoming elections. However, before the official announcement of his candidacy a few days back, Alfred's public meetings were disrupted by armed miscreants on two occasions by firing gunshots in Ukhrul and Kamjong districts.

Interestingly, even after much limbo over the party's ticket distribution, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) could not find a candidate of its own for contesting in the Hill Areas of Manipur. Amid rumours of the incumbent Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, contesting the election for Inner Manipur Constituency, the BJP has declared that it would extend support to the NPF's candidate in the Outer Manipur parliamentary constituency.

The BJP's failure to field its own candidate for Outer Manipur ST seat comes amid the ongoing

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devastating ethnic cleansing pogrom perpetrated on the minority Kukis by the communal Meiteis, which is allegedly sponsored and patronised by the BJP-led government under N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts such as Leisemba Sanajaoba, member Rajya Sabha. As the deep divide between the two warring communities and the total separation is in existence since 3rd of May, 2023, the ruling BJP has lost its moral responsibility, integrity and credibility; thus, failing to field its own candidate for the tribal hill areas. The Central leadership of the BJP has now to acknowledge that the Party's diminishing presence in the tribal hill areas is a result of N. Biren Singh's handiwork and he has to be given an exemplary punishment within the Party.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), BJP Spokesperson Sambit Patra has informed that the BJP would extend its support to NPF in Outer Manipur Constituency.

"As per the instructions of the Hon'ble National President of @BJP4India, Shri @JPNadda ji, I am pleased to inform

that BJP will extend its support to Lok Sabha Candidates of NPP in both the seats of Meghalaya (Shillong and Tura), to NPF in the Outer Manipur Constituency and to NDPP in Nagaland in the ensuing Parliamentary elections 2024," Sambit said.

As per India Today NE, the Central government wanted to field Manipur CM Biren Singh in the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha polls but he refused. The BJP is now eyeing to field incumbent MP Rajkumar Ranjan Singh or MLA Rajkumar Imo Singh who is also the son-in-law of the chief minister for the Inner Manipur Constituency.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) is yet to take a call in matters related to the 18th Lok Sabha elections. As the land and its people are devastated by the genocidal ethnic strife orchestrated by N. Biren Singh and his private militia groups, the Kuki-Zo community have to take unanimous bold decisions to meet the people's aspirations.

CAMPAIGN IS A DEMOCRATIC RIGHT AND SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXERCISE DEMOCRATICALLY, SAYS TANGKHUL NAGA BAPTIST CONVENTION

The Tangkhul Naga Baptist Convention has stated that election campaign or holding meetings in a democratic set up is one's democratic right and should be allowed to exercise democratically.

The Tangkhul Naga Baptist Convention made a public appeal on friday following the attacks on public meetings of Alfred Kangam Arthur lately.

The TNBC stated that the ordained ministers of the Tangkhul Naga Baptist Convention (TNBC) in its Get-Together at Chingjaroi BC on March 21 collectively expressed serious concern over the firing incidents at TK Woodland near Phangrei on the 18March and LM Block Ukhrul District on the 19March, during

public meetings of Alfred Kanngam Arthur in relation to the upcoming Lok Sabha election

Cautioning that such incidents might cause irreparable damage to the peaceful atmosphere in the society in the coming days, TNBC appealed to all Tangkhul brothers and sisters to refrain from any action that would lead to violence specially in the upcoming general election.

"Differences if any should be resolved over the table in dialogues in the spirit of love and forgiveness rather than suppressive force," TNBC added.





KANGPOKPI DISTRICT SETS RECORD WITH HIGHEST "SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS" FOR DISPLACED VOTERS

In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Election in 2024, Kangpokpi District has emerged as a frontrunner, setting a record with the highest number of "Special Polling Stations" for Displaced Voters across the state.

This significant development was highlighted by Kangpokpi District's Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer, Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, during a media briefing at his office today.

Chaudhari emphasized the meticulous planning and rigorous training conducted over the past week following the election announcement by the Election Commission of India. Security assessments, particularly focusing on vulnerable and critical polling stations, are underway in the district to ensure a smooth electoral process.

In a notable move to facilitate voting for displaced individuals, the Election Commission of India has authorized the establishment of special polling stations. Kangpokpi District leads the state with 24 such stations, catering to voters who have been displaced from various villages.

Highlighting the district's electoral infrastructure, Chaudhari revealed that Kangpokpi also hosts 166 normal polling stations, underscoring the comprehensive arrangements made to accommodate voters across the region.



Furthermore, Chaudhari elucidated that the electoral preparations include the randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) devices, scheduled for March 23. Additionally, the first round of training for polling personnel is set to commence on March 25 at the district headquarters.

The Election Commission's decision to allow for four updates to the Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls (SSR) underscores the commitment to ensuring an inclusive and transparent electoral process in Kangpokpi District and beyond. As the Lok Sabha Election approaches, Kangpokpi sets a precedent in prioritizing the enfranchisement of all eligible voters, especially those facing displacement, reaffirming the democratic principles upheld by the electoral authorities.

MOBILE INTERNET FULLY RESTORED IN ALL DISTRICTS

In a significant development, mobile internet has been restored in all the districts in Manipur as the situation with law and order is improving.

The development comes ahead of the Lok Sabha elections which are slated to be held from April 19 to April 26 in the state.

According to an order from Manipur Chief Secretary Dr. Vineet Joshi, mobile internet services have been restored in a two-kilometer radius along the areas between the districts of Chandel and Kakching, Churachandpur

and Bishnupur, Churachandpur and Kakching, Kangpokpi and Imphal West, Kangpokpi and Imphal East, Kangpokpi and Thoubal, and Tengnopual and Kakching.

The suspensions were carried out according to Rule 2 of the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.

It also urges all internet users to avoid activities that could lead to situations requiring the suspension of internet services in the future.



MISCREANTS PLACE BOMB AT CAF&PD JOINT SECRETARY'S RESIDENCE

Armed miscreants today placed a bomb at the residential gate of CAF&PD Joint Secretary Robertson Asem, once again highlighting the state of lawlessness in Imphal valley.

The placing of bomb at the residential gate of CAF&PD Joint Secretary is linked with an incident on 18 March 2024, wherein some armed men suspected to be UNLF cadres threatened NFSA Rice Transporters and unloaded rice meant for Tamenglong and Noney districts. The incident occurred at FCI Godown at Sangaiprou which was heavily guraded by CRPF personnel.

Vehemently reacting against the unloading of rice meant for their district, the Rongmei Naga Council Manipur (RNCM), in consultation with all its concerned federal units, issued an ultimatum of 24 hours, with effect from 12:00 noon, March 19, to the concerned authority to station the allocated FCI ration at the designated place; failing which, it warned, the people would resort to mass agitation howsoever deemed fit necessary.

After which, the Joint Secretary of CAF&PD, Robertson Asem issued a notice informing all the transport contractors appointed for lifting of NFSA rice in the state they are to resume lifting of allocated quota of NFSA rice in coordination with respective district officials within one day of date of issue of this notice, failing which their appointment orders for transportation of rice would be cancelled without further notice.

After the issuance of official notice for immediate lifting of NFSA rice, the UNLF had started threatening the District FSC officials, FCI official and the NFSA transporters of dire consequences if the NFSA rice are lifted. The NFSA quota of rice demanded by UNLF (both factions) are said to be very high which will affect the public distribution and public not getting the allotted quota. Thus they have banned the transportation of NFSA rice since the last 5/6 months leading to high



price of superfine rice reaching staggering Rs 2400/50 kg bag in the market.

The transporters of NFSA and officials of FCS & FCI are now in heavy stress as they are getting constant threats calls. It is now up to Manipur Police to protect them and ensure that the poor people of the state get their deserved quota of rice during this hard time.

It is common knowledge that Valley Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) have been deducting PDS rice allotted to various hill districts of Manipur for the past many years, which in turn affect the poor people as they no longer receive the allotted quota of rice meant for them. This has been one of the oppressive actions of the majority Meitei community in depriving the minority tribals from receiving their rightful share.



MODI GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES ARE PART OF HINDU NATIONALIST AGENDA, SAYS NSCN/GPRN

NSCN/GPRN's president Yung Aung issued an urgent address regarding the escalating political crisis in neighboring Myanmar. Aung's speech highlights the critical need for Nagas to stand united in the face of adversity.

Aung reaffirmed NSCN/GPRN's commitment to maintaining a stance of non-interference in Myanmar's internal conflicts. However, recent developments, including Myanmar's attempt to enforce mandatory conscription laws in Naga territories, have compelled Aung to speak out.

"The recent declaration by the Myanmar government is unacceptable," declared Aung. "We will not tolerate any attempts to infringe upon our sovereignty or undermine our rights as a people."

Aung stated the shared ideals and beliefs that unite the Nagas with their ethnic brethren in Myanmar. "We stand in solidarity with all oppressed peoples," he said. "Our struggle for freedom is intertwined with theirs."

Aung's speech also addressed the ongoing challenges faced by the Nagaland people, particularly in light of India's policies and actions. He called the Modi-led government's action as Hindu nationalist agenda and condemned the government citing examples of communal violence and discriminatory legislation.



"Our struggle is not just against external oppressors but against internal injustices as well," asserted Aung. "We will not allow India or any other power to dictate our future."

In a rallying cry to his fellow Nagas, Aung expressed unwavering confidence in the ultimate triumph of their cause. "We are a sovereign nation, proud and unyielding," he declared. "Together, we will reclaim our birthright and secure our place in history."

Aung invoked the traditional Naga blessing of "Kuknalim," urging his people to remain steadfast in their resolve. "May God bless Nagaland," he proclaimed.

Source: India Today NE

T ARMSTRONG CHANGSAN MADE NEXT AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO REPUBLIC OF CUBA

1997 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer T Armstrong Changsan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cuba.

He is currently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). He is expected to take up the new assignment soon.

"Shri T. Armstrong Changsan (IFS: 1997), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cuba," the MEA said in an official press release.









DICTATOR OR PEOPLE'S GOVT, IT'S YOUR CHOICE: IBOBI TELLS PUBLIC

Former chief minister of Manipur Okram Ibobi Singh on Friday urged the people to choose the right party during the forthcoming Lok Sabha election if they want to live freely in a democratic country.

"There's a fear and apprehension in the public that the country is slowly turning towards a nation ruled by a dictator," the veteran Congress leader said. Even the media, which is considered to be the Fourth Pillar of Democracy, is not able to freely give their opinion, whether it's a simple observation, constructive suggestion, or comments in this country, the Congress leader said.

Ibobi was adding to the statements of resentment of Congress leaders that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was stifling democracy and 'crippling' the Congress by freezing its bank accounts in a tax dispute ahead of the general elections.

Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee chief Keisham Meghachandra also broached the issue. He stated that the ruling party wants only the saffron party to engage in election activities.

According to Section 13 (a) of the Income Tax Act, Meghachandra said, many people and well-wishers donated money into the accounts of the political parties; the funds are being utilized for political activities including by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress. Moreover, there is tax exemption to this.



According to section 234 F of the same Act, the Congress leader said, if a party or person does not file ITR forms or if there is any irregularity in accounting and balanced sheets within the prescribed time limit, late fees or taxable and chargeable amount were to be given at INR 10,000 in a year.

But in the present case against the Congress, the late fee was to the tune of INR 210 crore, which is 'unimaginable,' Meghachandra said. The Congress chief said it means that the ruling BJP government does not want the Congress to participate in the election. The Congress leader wondered how the party would be able to conduct an election if the government had frozen its accounts.

Source: Hornbill TV



If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

- Desmond Tutu





EASTERN NAGALAND PUBLIC EMERGENCY RESTRICTS ELECTION ACTIVITIES AMID FRONTIER NAGALAND TERRITORY DEMAND

Even as the Eastern Nagaland Legislators' Union appealed to the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) to suspend the ongoing 'public emergency' for the greater interest of the Frontier Nagaland Territory, the control room of the 'eastern Nagaland public emergency' on Friday directed all tribal bodies in eastern Nagaland not to take part in any electioneering activities such as appointment of polling agents of different political parties, any election-related training etc.

A notification issued by the eastern Nagaland public emergency also asked the tribal bodies not to participate in any government inauguration function till the proposed eastern Nagaland public meeting slated for March 28.

The notification said the directive has been issued given the public emergency all over eastern Nagaland and its subsequent public resolution not to participate in any central and state election and refrain from casting a vote against non-fulfillment of the government of India's offer for the creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory before the declaration of the model code of conduct for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

On March 5, the ENPO, along with the tribal bodies of eastern Nagaland, declared a public emergency in eastern Nagaland against the delay by the Centre to settle the offer for the creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory, comprising districts of eastern Nagaland Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Shamator and Noklak.

Meanwhile, the volunteers of tribal bodies, as per the directive of the ENPO, put up black flags atop houses and offices in all six districts of eastern Nagaland on Thursday as a sign of resentment against the delay.

Though offices, business establishments and schools are open, the ENPO said the public emergency would continue and that the black flags would continue to be hoisted across eastern Nagaland.

NEWS IN PICTURE

Jamngaihlun Fitton is a victim family of the statesponsored ethnic cleansing of the Kuki-Zo tribal community in Manipur.

Last week at the Human Rights Council 55th session Side Event in Geneva, organised by Rochun organisation, she shared her family's story, and brought to the attention of international audience the grievous human rights violations committed against her community calling for urgent need to intervene.

She also highlighted the plight of our internally displaced civilians sheltering in deplorable conditions in temporary relief camps in the Hill areas, and requested the involvement of UNICEF, Save the Children, WHO, MSF, and others to provide for the immediate and long-term needs.







On February 8, the Union Home Ministry suspended the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar with immediate effect. It has also urged the Ministry of External Affairs to terminate the FMR in consultation with its Myanmarese counterpart. The move to undo this unique arrangement perhaps has little to do with the unfolding humanitarian crisis resulting from the military junta-led coup d'etat three years ago. It has a more immediate domestic cause — the colossal failure of governments — both at the Centre and the state — to control the ethnic conflagration that broke out between the majority Meitei and minority Kuki-Jo ethnic communities in Manipur on May 3 last year. Put differently, the suspension of the FMR is an attempt to vindicate Chief Minister N Biren Singh's claim that the ongoing ethnic conflict is essentially due to the activities of "illegal immigrants" and "drugs and arms traffickers", all of whom could presumably enter the state from across the border in Myanmar. In a meeting with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah on September 23, 2023, Singh made a strong pitch for scrapping the FMR and fencing the 1,643 km-long border with Myanmar, which passes through Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km) and Mizoram (510 km). By suspending the FMR, Shah

has lent credence to Singh's claim of a "foreign hand" playing the lead role in the Manipur crisis. In addition, Shah has also promised to fence the entire stretch of the India-Myanmar border with a state-of-the-art hybrid surveillance system at a whopping cost of almost Rs 6,000 crore.

The Centre's decision goes against the grain of the region's unique history. The current border alignment between India and Myanmar is a colonial legacy. Much of what presently constitutes India's Northeast was under the reign of the Burmese king until about the early 19th century. It was only after the defeat of the Burmese rulers at the hands of the British and the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826 that the present boundary came into existence. With it, the British cut through age-old ethnic and cultural ties. Communities with shared ethnicity, history and culture were spatially divided, forcing them to reside as subjects and, later, citizens of different countries. Among the affected groups are the Nagas of Nagaland and Manipur, and the Chin, Mizo and Kuki-Zo communities of Manipur and Mizoram. The absurdity of colonial cartography

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is evident in the fact that the border bisects several houses and villages. All this has led to a groundswell of resentment among the borderlanders, who not only reject such an artificial line but also assert their inherent right to maintain strong linkages with their kith and kin across the border.

FMR-like arrangements were first started by Burma (now Myanmar) under its Passport Rules of 1948. This allowed indigenous people of all the countries bordering Myanmar to travel to it without passports, provided they lived within 40 km of the border. India also reciprocated in 1950 by amending its passport rules to allow the members of the ethnic communities residing within 40 km of the border to come in and stay for up to 72 hours. However, the Indian government unilaterally introduced a permit system in 1968 for travelling across the border to contain the rise of insurgencies. The geographic limit of 40 km was reduced to 16 km in 2004. Finally, an Agreement on Land Border Crossing, more popularly known as the FMR, between the two countries came into effect in 2018, wherein the residents living within 16 km could go to the other side with just a border pass and stay for two weeks per visit. The BJP government touted the FMR as a part of its "Act East Policy".

Since its inception, the FMR became a lifeline and allowed both matrimonial alliances and much-needed farm and trade relations. It is against this backdrop that the governments in Mizoram and Nagaland lost no time in passing unanimous resolutions in their respective state assemblies strongly condemning the move to do away with the FMR and the proposal to seal the border. Moving the resolution, Mizoram Home Minister K Sapdanga, whose party Zoram People's Movement enjoys the backing of the BJP, was scathing: "The British geographically divided the Zo ethnic people who have inhabited (present-day) Mizoram and the Chin Hills of Myanmar for centuries together, once

under their own administration. We have been dreaming of reunification and cannot accept the India-Myanmar border imposed upon us." Rejecting the Union Home Minister's claim that the move was being undertaken "...to maintain the country's internal security and demographic structure of the Northeastern States...", Sapdanga said: "If the Centre is so concerned about national security, it should fence the international borders with Bhutan and Nepal" from where people visit India without travel documents. In Nagaland, the resolution was moved by its Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton, a key leader of the BJP, and a minor partner in the coalition headed by the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, who also reiterated that the Centre's move would disrupt age-old ties.

The Centre's decision has also invited sharp reactions from various civil society and political groups not only in Mizoram and Nagaland but also in violence-torn Manipur. The decision has not gone down well with the Nagas, Mizos, Chins, and Kuki-Jo communities who share strong ethnic and kinship ties with the people of Myanmar.

The central government would do well to pay heed to the sentiments of the people and reconsider its decision to withdraw the FMR and the proposed fencing of the border.

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The man should have been sacked 10 months ago. Why doesn't he talk about the 6,000 odd weapons from state armouries that are still with the majoritarian militia in the state?

Biren seeks ₹2,000 crore to tackle tax loss due to unrest

AMRITANAYAK DUTTA

MANIPURCM N BirenSingh has asked the Centre for a "special" financial grant of Rs 2,000 crore to offset the loss in tax revenue due to the unrest since last May the Indian Express has learnt. The Centre is likely to take a call on this shortly sources and

The Centre is likely to take a call on this shortly, sources said in a letter written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earlier this year Singh said that according to initial assessments the state was looking at a tax reverue loss of nancial year. This might go up when the actual figures are available, he said.

ment ornsiderably and may ip pede our developmental and curring goals. "Singh warte in letter. Saying that the state's nances were under "sew strain... not faced earlier" did the crisis, Singh told Stharan his government was working reduce expenditure in non-cical areas while exploring of avenues to increase reveue such as lifting the three-deci old probabilistion on licour.



Manipur CM N Biren Sing

months," he said, adding that in such a situation the "need of the hour is strong support from the Central government". He said the Centre has supported Manipur in terms of providing relief and by way of deploying central police forces in the state. Now, he said, the state requires a "Special Untied Grant for Revenue Loss and Economic Recovery" of Rs 2,000 crore.

to "revive the state's economy, er sure stability of the state's f nances, and enable the state go ernment to fulfilits commitmen of development and security" this critical juncture, Singh wrot Arleast 212 people have bee

for our government. The unit has greatly affected the state multiple ways," he said. In October last year, Singhi asked the Union Finance with the develution of the state is at in Central taxes for Novem December and January 2024.

8:45 am · 22 Mar 24 · 4,971 Views



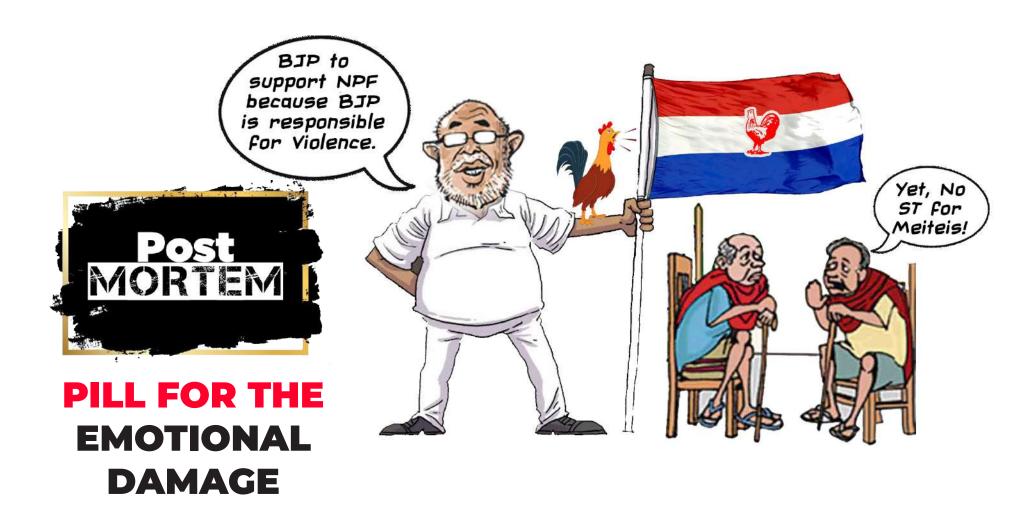


'I GOT A WEAPON DON'T BARGAIN'.

Manipur: A woman shopper bargained the high price of chicken but the seller confronted her by showing his pistol & warned her. Such is the lawlessness in Manipur Valley. Due to looting PS, even a shopkeeper owns weapon now.



4:04 pm · 22 Mar 24 · 2,122 Views





Mad Woman In The Attic

-Annie Boichong

(Our mad woman represents every woman who is a victim of the ethnic violence. They drove her mad to death, watch her rebel!)



In the middle of May, She turned mad with rage. Our mad woman is an eyesore: She reeks of insult and injustice.

So cage her in and swallow the key, Wash it down with blood and poetry.

They walked her into madness,
Paraded her to insanity.
Her skin bare, her thoughts suicidal.
When she made it out alive,
She took a kitchen knife to war
To kill the shame of an endless walk.

Mind you, the woman is mad. She paints her body red, And lurks behind tyrants Who causes bloodbath in the streets.

They took her to a room,
Her skin bare, her thoughts suicidal.
She never made it out alive,
While her parents wept:
"Olivia,Florence!"

Themis did witness the fate
Of our mad woman in the attic.
Let her speak and she'll bark,
Let her reason and she'll fight,
Free her and watch men die.