

Thingkho *Le* Malecha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



THENMINLAL HAOKIP (30 YEARS)

S/O (L) ONKHOGIN HAOKIP

ADDRESS: DOPKON, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 5TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.06.2024



186
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.

COTU TO STAGE DEMONSTRATIONS ON JUNE 24 FOR EXPEDITING POLITICAL SOLUTION

Following the joint unanimous decision of various top Kuki tribal bodies, the Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District is all prepared to organize a Mass Rally on June 24 demanding to expedite the Kuki Political Solution.

The decision was adopted during a joint meeting of all civil society organisations of Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District including Kuki Inpi, and all tribe based organisations at CoTU's office at Kangpokpi Town.

The mega Mass Rally will kick off at Nute Kailhang on June 24 and proceed towards DC Office Kangpokpi where a memorandum will be submitted to the Union Home Minister through DC Kangpokpi.

As per the schedule, there will a speech from various organisations leaders before the mass rally at Nute Kailhang.

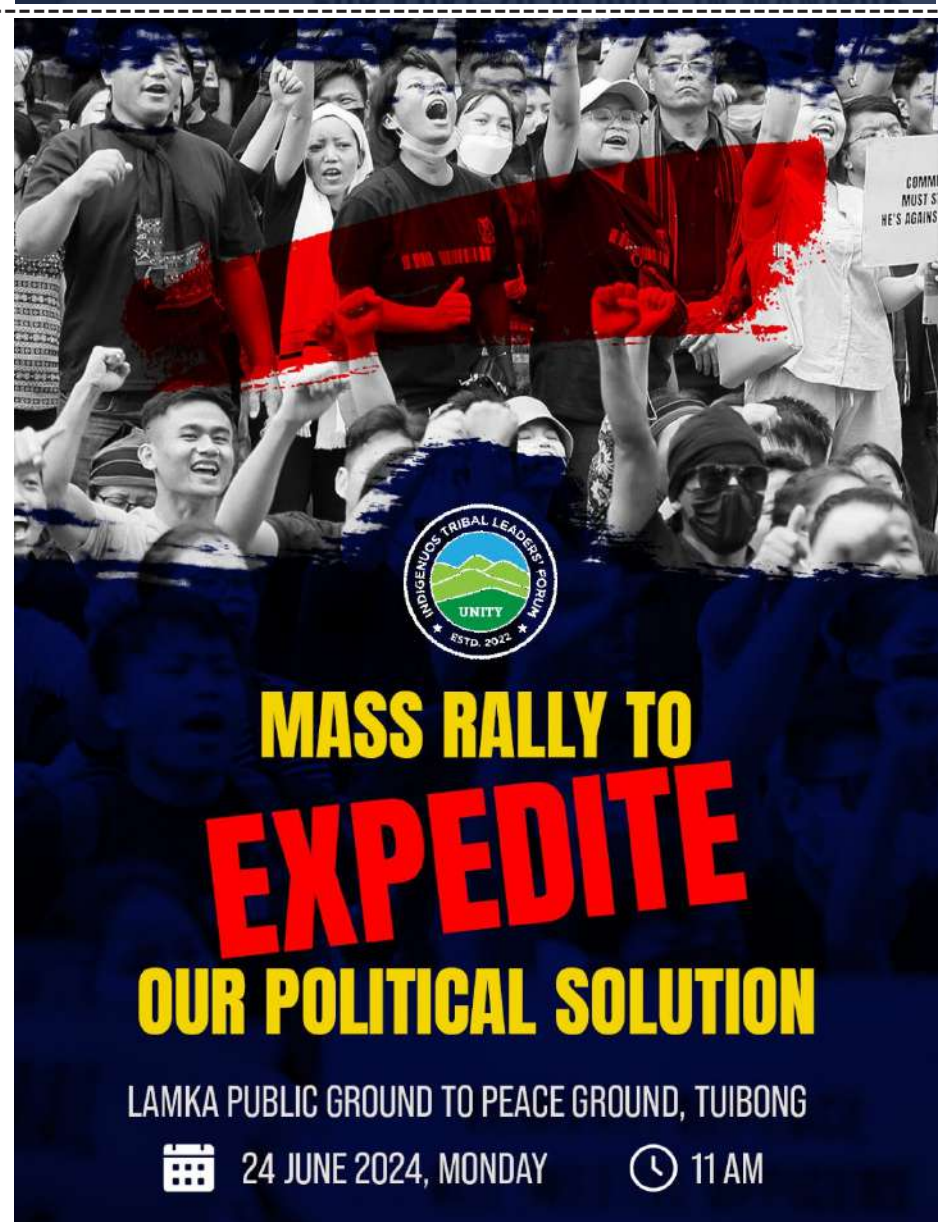
Total Shutdown will be imposed from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on June 24.

In light of the mega Mass Rally, and the total shutdown, there will be specific exemptions and closures to ensure the smooth conduct of the rally and the safety of the participants.

Students appearing for their semester examinations, Media personnel, Emergency services will exempted from the purview of the total shutdown.

However, all government offices and institutions, including banks, private institutions and business establishments will be closed while no vehicular movement will be allowed on the day.

These measures are taken to prioritize the interests of the student community and ensure the rally proceeds without disruptions, informed CoTU.



ITLF CONDEMNS ATTACK ON BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION CONVOY IN OUTER MANIPUR

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has condemned the torching of Bharat Infra Project Limited (BIPL) trucks by unknown miscreants on June 15, 2024. The incident occurred in broad daylight at Tronglaobi Village, Bishnupur District, resulting in the destruction of crucial bridge construction materials intended for the Churachandpur-Tuivai Road section of NH-102.

According to the statement issued by ITLF, the attack took place despite the presence of a significant security force deployment. The mobs managed to burn two out of four trucks with minimal resistance from the police, forcing the convoy to return to Imphal with the remaining materials.

In a press release issued on June 22, the ITLF expressed their frustration and disappointment over the incident. They highlighted the Kuki-Zo people's adherence to the Ministry of Home Affairs' appeal for peaceful settlement and refraining from blockades on national highways since July 2023. Despite this, miscreants continue to disrupt the movement of essential goods to hill districts such as Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Tengnoupal and Chandel.

"The patience and tolerance of the Kuki-Zo people should not be mistaken for weakness and incompetence," the ITLF stated, calling for immediate intervention from the Government of India to ensure the uninterrupted flow of essential commodities to the hill districts



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

File No: ITLF-PR-202491

Friday, 22 June 2024

PRESS RELEASE

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) condemns the June 15, 2024, daylight torching of Bharat Infra Project Limited (BIPL) trucks carrying bridge construction materials at Tronglaobi Village, under Moirang Police Station, Bishnupur District, by Meitei mobs led by the notorious Meira Paibi groups (Meitei Womenfolk).

The construction material was reportedly meant to be used for the development of the Churachandpur-Tuivai Road (NH-102 B) section of NH-102 road. Despite the heavy deployment of security forces, it is unfortunate that the mobs managed to burn two out of four trucks with minimal resistance from the police. This incident is a serious blow to the efforts to ensure security and also an utter humiliation for the security forces, as the trucks were made to take a U-turn along with the remnants of the construction materials back to Imphal.

Since July 2023, the Kuki-Zo people have refrained from any form of blockade on national highways as appealed and assured by the Ministry of Home Affairs for peaceful settlement to the political demand of the Kuki-Zo. Though the Kuki-Zo people in the northern and western parts of the state allow free passage, Meitei groups from the valley districts continue to impede the movement of necessary goods intended for hill districts like Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Tengnoupal, Chandel, etc.

The patience and tolerance of the Kuki-Zo people should not be mistaken for weakness and incompetence. The Government of India must intervene promptly to ensure the uninterrupted flow of essential commodities to the Hill districts before the situation deteriorates further.

Additionally, should the radical Meitei groups and the N. Biren Singh-led communal state government persist in their unfair treatment of the Kuki-Zo people by withholding our basic requirements, the Kuki-Zo people might reconsider our stance on the economic blockade.

Issued by –

Department of Media & Publicity,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

————— To authenticate ITLF's official releases, please refer to our website <https://itlfmediacell.com> —————

Additionally, should the radical Meitei groups and the N. Biren Singh-led communal state government persist in their unfair treatment of the Kuki-Zo people by withholding our basic requirements, the Kuki-Zo people might reconsider our stance on the economic blockade, ITLF warned.

MEITEI ARMED RADICAL GROUPS LAUNCH FRESH ATTACK ON KUKI AREAS

A day after Chief Minister N. Biren Singh announced that peace and normalcy has returned to the state, Kuki settlements in Twichin-Phaimol area under Saikul Sub-Division in Kangpokpi district came under attack by the Meitei armed radical groups.

As per reports received from the ground, a combined team of Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and Valley Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) carried out fresh attack at around 10:40 pm. The Meitei armed radical groups came from Sanasabi Yaingangpokpi in Imphal East and launched gunfire attack at Kuki villages of Twichin-Phaimol area late this evening. The armed attack was retaliated by Kuki village volunteers of the area, thereby a fierce gun battle ensued, which lasted for more than an hour.

However, till the filing of this report, no casualty has

been reported from both sides.

Notably, Chief Minister N Biren Singh, on June 21, said that incidents of violence in the state have reduced, noting that out of the 14 months during which incidents were recorded, the actual crisis occurred only in 6-7 months further hinting that an optimistic solution will be achieved within 2-3 months.

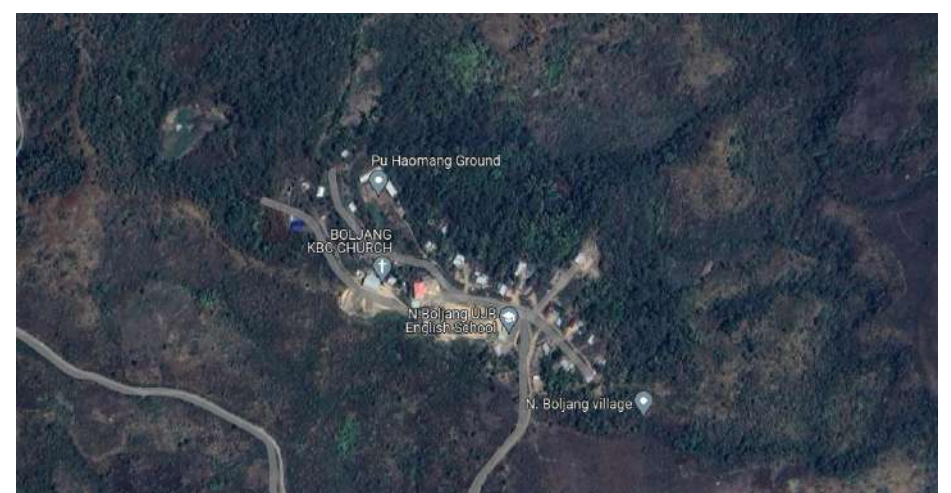
Despite the Chief Minister insisting that peace has gradually returned to the state, the ground conditions in peripheral areas has been contradictory to what he claimed. The Chief Minister's assurance of achieving optimistic solution within 2-3 months seems fluke as his private militia group – Arambai Tenggol continues to carry out their attack on Kuki areas.

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: JUNE 22, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON JUNE 22, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

At approximately 3:30 AM in the early morning, a radical Meitei group launched an attack on the village of Natop Boljang in the New Keithelmabi Area of Kangpokpi District. Assam Rifles (AR) personnel stationed at the JB School within the village responded defensively when the Meitei assailants initiated the attack. During the confrontation, two AR personnel sustained injuries, and remarkably, they managed to capture five members of the Arambai Tenggol group alive.

However, the situation took a turn when the Meira Paibis, a local women's organization, intervened and forcefully rescued the five captured Arambal Tenggol members while they were being transported to the Army base camp. The attack persisted for more than two hours, leading to a prolonged and intense standoff.



Additionally, an INSAS Light Machine Gun (LMG) was discovered a few meters away from the UJB School within the village, further underscoring the gravity of the situation.

CENTRE ASSURES MIZORAM OF RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR MANIPUR IDPS & REFUGEES FROM MYANMAR, BANGLADESH

The Centre has promised to give assistance to the Mizoram government to provide relief to refugees from Myanmar, Bangladesh and internally displaced people from Manipur, who are taking shelter in the northeastern state, an official statement said.

During a meeting with chief minister Lalduhoma in Delhi on Thursday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured that the Centre would provide relief to the refugees taking shelter in Mizoram, it said.

According to the state home department, a total of 33,835 Myanmar nationals, including 12,901 children, are currently taking shelter in different parts of Mizoram with Champhai district hosting the highest number of Myanmar refugees at 14,212.

10,552 people live in 111 relief camps spread across six districts and the rest live outside relief camps by joining relatives or friends as well as staying in rented houses, it said.

More than 1,800 Bangladeshi nationals are also taking shelter in southernmost Mizoram's Lawngtlai district, it said.

Besides, 1,872 internally displaced people from Manipur are also currently taking shelter in Mizoram, the home department said.

Lalduhoma also presented a memorandum to Shah detailing the extensive damage caused by Cyclone Remal in Mizoram.



The memorandum sought urgent central assistance to address the aftermath of the cyclone, including compensatory funds for relief and rehabilitation.

In response, Shah told the visiting chief minister that the Centre will send a team to inspect and assess the damage caused by recent cyclone Remal in Mizoram.

He also assured to provide necessary compensatory funds when the Centre team submit its report.

Recently, 30 people died and several houses damaged due to landslides triggered by heavy rain as a fallout of cyclone Remal in Mizoram capital Aizawl region and other parts of the state in May.

Officials said that four people are still missing.

Both the leaders also discussed a wide range of issues, including shifting of Assam Rifles base from the heart of Aizawl to the designated headquarters at Zokhawsang about 15 km from the state capital. (NENow)



True patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else.

- Clarence Darrow

**FEATURED ARTICLE****Hindutva Resistance, New Faces, Cong gains:
Reading the Northeast Mandate****Manoranjan Pegu, Suraj Gogoi, Angshuman Choudhary**

The Lok Sabha poll results from the Northeast, which is electorally small with 25 Lok Sabha seats but territorially significant, have found little space in the mainstream media. The region, however, saw significant shifts in political narratives, with the BJP-led NDA losing some of its fort in the region.

Fighting the polls under the shadow of the CAA implementation and the Manipur violence, the NDA, or regionally NEDA, witnessed a decline in its vote shares across Northeast, except a 1.6 percent rise in Assam and a 17.7 percent increase in Tripura. The largest fall in its vote share was in Manipur – by 23.4 percent – where it lost both the Lok Sabha seats ostensibly owing to the Manipur violence. It lost two other seats in Nagaland and Meghalaya, and secured both the seats in Arunachal Pradesh but recorded an 18 percent decline in vote share. Mizo National Front (MNF), which contested on its own but is a part of the NDA, was defeated in the single-constituency state of Mizoram.

The INDIA Alliance, particularly Congress, made strong gains – with a rise in vote share across Northeast, except in Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The party added three more seats to its 2019 tally, making the most dramatic return in both the Lok Sabha seats of Manipur with a vote share of 47.59 percent. In Tripura, where the two Lok Sabha seats were won by the BJP, the Congress fought alongside the CPIM and saw a 1.4 percent dip in vote share.

The Congress's vote share slipped by 28.13 percent in Mizoram – where voters supported the Zoram People's Movement over national parties and regional heavyweight MNF, much like its assembly elections last year. Meanwhile, Sikkim re-elected its regional party Sikkim Krantikari Morcha MP Dr. Indra Hang Subba with 42.7 percent of votes.

To understand what stood out in the Northeast in these polls, a look at some takeaways from a 'spaces' discussion held with journalists, activists and political analysts of the region, organised by the Reading Northeast India Collective on its X account.

Manipur: Violence, resistance to Hindutva, INDIA's Meitei hardliner

The Congress swept the two Lok Sabha seats in Manipur. The party's Inner Manipur candidate and former JNU professor Bimol Akoijam – widely regarded as a community leader and intellectual in the state's public sphere – was a new face in electoral politics and his nomination came as a shocker for many.

However, Akoijam has been far from neutral, said journalist Makepeace Sitlhou. The professor-turned-

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politician's hardline Meitei position was evident in his speeches and "not many from the Kuki Zo community were thrilled with Akoijam's nomination, particularly because he was representing the INDIA bloc".

Makepeace said that despite contesting on a Congress ticket, Bimol went out of the party line to push the NRC agenda. "This was likely to reassure his electorates that the perceived problem of illegal immigration and the Myanmar refugee crisis will be handled if he was to be voted to power. His victory, therefore, is also not entirely surprising. If he had run a more secular or 'neutral' campaign, it would have cost him heavily in the Valley. Entering into politics so late in the day, it would have been difficult for him had he not taken a Meitei-centric position."

She also said that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra "was well-timed and made a difference in Manipur".

On the role of religion in the NDA's defeat in Manipur, Makepeace said that the religiosity of the Manipur conflict is "undeniable for the Christian tribals of the region". "The attack on churches brought a strong sense of insecurity among the Christians tribals, who so far had lived with a sense of security and protection from religious conflicts."

She said that with the churches' considerable sway in politics, "the return of the Congress in power can be attributed to the religiosity of the conflict to an extent".

In the Northeast, regional and ethnic nationalism has been dominant. While Hindutva nationalism has made inroads, parties with ethnic nationalism ideology have claimed the electoral space, especially in Mizoram and Meghalaya.

Makepeace said that the "resurgence" of ethnic nationalism is a response to the juggernaut of Hindutva politics in the region. "Both ZPM in Mizoram and VoTTP in Meghalaya have been on the rise. The ZPM made historic wins in the last assembly polls in Mizoram and the VoTTP opened its account in Meghalaya. To a great extent, I would attribute this resurgence of ethnic nationalism to the onslaught of Hindutva in the region. It has enveloped Assam. For the tribal Christians, this

was triggered by what happened in Manipur. It became clear that the region is not immune to that sort of divisive politics."

On the NDA's "dismal" performance in the Northeast, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said that a "particular religion" which earlier did not get involved in politics, went against the NDA. He was purportedly hinting at the Christian community in an ironic speech even as the BJP's poll campaign was largely driven by the Hindutva narrative.

Assam: CAA implementation, Muslim votes for BJP, Cong resurgence

With the CAA Rules notified in March, weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the issue of the settlement of the Chakma people in Arunachal Pradesh and the question of citizenship in Assam resurfaced.

These concerns were covered by regional media outlets. However, the prior implementation of the NRC in Assam purportedly pacified the people in the northeast. Nine of Assam's 14 Lok Sabha seats were won by the BJP, two others by its allies – UPPL and AGP, while the Congress secured three victories.

One participant was of the view that going into elections, the CAA was a significant political issue but did not become a significant factor for voting as its "cumbersome rules made it all very complicated" and so it did not play out as expected in the Barak Valley – resulting in the BJP's victory in Silchar.

It is understood that the Maiman (Muslim) community, belonging to the marginalised caste, supported the BJP in Karimganj, as they were promised indigenous status and reservation of two percent in government jobs. This secured the saffron party's seat in Silchar, where the Congress had recorded fissures within its local cadre with its leader Sushmita Dev's exit from the party. "At many places, the Congress fielded weak candidates despite the fact that there was an anti-BJP wave."

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Meanwhile, the BJP's stance, bolstered by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's statements, shifted throughout the polling. Sarma started his campaign with a purported anti-Muslim rhetoric and initially said in a public meeting that the BJP does "not need Muslim votes".

In the middle of the polls as the BJP realised that there would be a serious tussle between Hindu and Muslim voters in certain areas, Sarma began seeking Muslim votes over welfare schemes. As the results were announced on June 4, Sarma gloated that "despite 40 percent of Assam's population being minority, the BJP secured a victory".

The Congress too registered significant wins in Assam. But the post-poll claims that Muslims had voted en-bloc for the Congress and that it was a Muslim party is an inadequate explanation for its rise. The case in point is Congress's Rokibul Hussain's win in Dhubri constituency, which he secured against AIUDF chief and three-time MP Badaruddin Ajmal, with a margin of over 10 lakh votes. A similar scenario was witnessed after the Assam Movement in late 1980s, when Assam Gana Parishad won elections in many constituencies with the support of the Muslim community.

Journalist Rokibuz Zaman said that the big margin for Hussain's victory was also because of the huge number of voters. "Dhubri now has 26.6 lakh voters and the polling percent was almost 92 percent, which means almost 24 lakh people voted. And 80-90 percent of voters here are Muslims. Dhubri Lok Sabha is close to the border district of Nalbari. And the region is majorly Muslim inhabited. Traditionally, before AIUDF was formed, the locals here are Congress voters."

Rokibuz said the main reasons for the locals' support to Hussain were anti-incumbency, Congress's allegation that the AIUDF is the BJP's B team, and Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra which passed through the area. "I think Muslims voted in a larger context that they need to defeat the BJP at the national level."

Abhishek Saha, journalist and author from Assam, said that the delimitation exercise has changed the

boundaries of the constituencies in a strategic manner to reduce representation of Muslims in total seats. "Certain constituencies have been very clearly and surgically divided on religious lines by the delimitation exercise, especially in lower Assam districts of Barpeta and Dhubri. Muslim areas of Barpeta have been attached to the Dhubri constituency, although the nearby Hindu area is in Barpeta constituency. It's quite striking how these lines have been drawn. It had quite an effect on electoral representation."

On Ajmal's defeat, Saha said that the AIUDF's political future "seems uncertain now". "There's very pronounced doubt on where the party will go from here. There's the question of whether there will be a vacuum created within the Bengali Muslim community – if Ajmal declines, who comes to claim that space?"

Among the Congress's other big wins was Gaurav Gogoi's victory in Jorhat, where CM Sarma had intensely campaigned for the BJP.

One participant said that the loss in Jorhat seat is also "going to sting the BJP". She said the poll eventually took the form of "a very personalised contest between Sarma and Gogoi. There is a history between them and Sarma treats the relationship as a personal rivalry. Sarma had become the face of the BJP campaign. So, it is being seen as a personal loss for him, especially because Gogoi was contesting from the seat for the first time."

This was despite several obstacles faced by the Congress, including many of its leaders jumping ship to the BJP. "The Congress feels it has achieved some kind of a victory and improvement in its morale since last time, while the Assam BJP is not at all happy with this outcome here," the participant said.

10 uncontested wins in Arunachal assembly polls, young voters

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There is a history of uncontested wins in some northeastern states, particularly Arunachal Pradesh. In the assembly polls this year, which coincided with the Lok Sabha polls, the state witnessed 10 uncontested wins, including incumbent Chief Minister Pema Khandu's victory from Tawang.

In 2014, 11 seats were won uncontested. The lack of opposition denies the electorate a chance to choose and is adverse to democracy.

On the reasons for uncontested wins, journalist and activist Tongam Rina had earlier written that unless one is born into political families, people "spend years cultivating electorates, so withdrawal at the last moment usually involves enticement, cash, and lots of promises and pacts. Sometimes, standing for elections also has the same motivation of pacts and enticements."

Rina added that the turnout of young voters in Arunachal Pradesh was significant in both assembly and Lok Sabha polls. In the West Lok Sabha constituency, BJP minister Kiren Rijiju, who is locally popular among the youth and women, won against former Congress CM Nabam Tuki with over one lakh vote margin. She said that while the BJP "wasn't confident, it strategised well".

BJP's alliances with tribal parties

The BJP has formed alliances with regional tribal parties across the Northeast to cement its presence in tribal areas. In Assam, its ally the UPPL, known as the party of the Bodos, secured the Kokrajhar seat. The tribals, on the other hand, look at it as a marriage of convenience, vying for sixth-schedule protection or separate administration.

However, Makepeace emphasised that while these alliances bring some benefits, they may not be able to fulfil all social and political aspirations of the tribals.

In the case of Tripura, Rokibuzz said that the Tipra Motha Party, "appears to have surrendered to the BJP". "All the demands of TIPRA Motha, like the demand for a separate state, Greater Tipraland, are not there in the

one-page agreement signed by the two parties," he said.

He added that the agreement also does not touch upon the demand for the Kokborok language's inclusion in the eighth schedule, financial autonomy, directing funding from the centre to the ADC to boost tribal economy, and increasing tribal Assembly Sabha seats in the hills.

Meanwhile, even as TIPRA chief Pradyot Manikya has insisted that there is more to the BJP-TIPRA deal, the strengthened presence of the BJP in the state has meant that his own sister Kriti Devi Debbarmam contested from a BJP ticket in Tripura East and won with a thumping majority.

The BJP's tribal alliances also provide the RSS with opportunities to expand its reach and agenda among the tribals. In Assam, several tribal communities, backed by the RSS, have called for the delisting of converted tribals from the ST category, mostly Christians.

Many among the tribals resist such interventions. But Rina said that she doesn't see it as an ideological penetration of the Hindutva in Arunachal, and the election result is also driven by "pragmatic alliances" rather than Hindutva ideology.

She added that the RSS has been in Arunachal Pradesh since the early 1960s and their attempts have brought about "profound changes in tribal culture and belief systems".

But with defeat to the AIUDF and the BJP's rhetoric targeting Muslims, what turn will the electoral politics take for the minorities in the region? Will ethnic-nationalism continue to rise? Or will its modest win serve as a wake up call to the BJP? It is to be seen.

First published by [News Laundry](#)

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Lt Gen P R Shankar (R)
@palepurshankar

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What's the most important lesson from the burning down of 145000 books in Manipur in 2005? Selective logic is rarely productive.



Sanjeev Sanyal @sanjeevsanyal · 20h

The most important lesson from the history of Nalanda is this - a library without an army is condemned to be burned.

7:04 pm · 22 Jun 24 · 1,683 Views



BhaiPal
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9 Para Commando K H Ratan Singh and his associates make a controversial statement against the #Indian Army and political leaders,

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Will any action be taken against them?

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Arijit Kuki and 9 others

9:09 pm · 22 Jun 24 · 392 Views



THE MAN WHO FED ON RELIEF FUNDS





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THE FORGOTTEN LIGHT; AN ODE TO MARK HAOKIP

- Myn Hemswort



I saw a ship sailed in deep dark-
ness, with no land in sight
No man of calibre to step forward and
hard the starboard the night
In this midst of chaos and confusion,-
came forth a beacon of light
A brave soul with steadfast resolve to
lead the endless fight

Locked away in shackles, in prison wall
his dream confined
Yet he sigh no remorse for the will of
Mark will forever shine
Though bars may hold his body, his spirit
soars graceful and divine
In solitary he fights, for in his heart his
cause defined

His is a story of sacrifice and allegiance to
his inheritance
Ancestral land his birthright, he swerved
the board with swagger and cadence
Truth and wisdom is his mantle, he be-
witched the enemy in suspense
"All hands on deck" said he, as he led the
tribe to war in defence

So let us pay homage to Mark, for his
light rekindles the wavering heart
Like Moses in the wilderness, he hath
freed us from the dirt
Let us cherish this forgotten hero, whose
life is a marvel of art
Anywhere he may be, for there my
prayer will depart