

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell





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.

MASS RALLIES HELD ACROSS KUKI-ZO DOMINATED AREAS TO EXPEDITE LONG-PENDING POLITICAL SOLUTION

Strategically timed to coincide with the commencement of the 18th Lok Sabha Parliamentary Session, the Kuki-Zo community in the strife-riven Manipur hills, aiming to draw the attention of the first Parliamentary Session under the Modi 3.0 Government, organized a significant “Non-Violence Mass Rally” today, conveying the community’s demands for an expedited resolution to the Kuki-Zo Political Solution.

The peaceful demonstration underscores the community’s desire for a non-violent approach to address their political concerns and seek support from the national legislative body.

The “Non-Violence Mass” Rally in Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District, was organized under the aegis of the Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District, following a unanimous decision adopted in a joint meeting of all CSOs in Sadar Hills, including tribe-based civil bodies and Inpis, on June 22.

The mass rally kicked off at Nute Kailhang in downtown Kangpokpi and proceeded towards DC Office Kangpokpi via the National Highway 2 with the rallyists holding placards which read, “End the Delay: Secure Kuki-Zo’s Future Now”, “No More Waiting: Fast-Track Kuki-Zo’s Political Solution”, “Time for Change: Expedite the Kuki-Zo Political Solution Now”, “Justice for Kuki-Zo, Expedite the Political Solution”, etc.

A three hour total shutdown was also imposed in the entire Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All Government offices and institutions, including banks, private institutions and business establishments were closed during the total shutdown while vehicular movement was also restricted.

However, students appearing for their semester examinations, media personnel, and emergency services were exempted from the purview of the total shutdown.

Dr. Rev. Satkai Chongloi delivered a message for the Separate Administration movement before the rally,



led by CoTU’s Women Wing, kicked off from Nute Kailhang.

A five-page memorandum was submitted to Union Home Minister Amit Shah through the Deputy Commissioner of Kangpokpi by leaders of CoTU and various other Kuki-Zo CSO leaders at the DC office in Kangpokpi.

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), in its Memorandum, has drawn attention to the enduring hardships faced by the Kuki-Zo community due to relentless atrocities and subjugation by the majoritarian community in Manipur over the past 14 months while expressing deep appreciation to the Union Home Minister for initiating renewed efforts to address the ongoing crisis in the state.

While rekindling the nation and the Union Home Minister’s awareness of the significant contributions of the Kuki-Zo to India’s nation-building efforts,

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CoTU highlighted the Kuki-Zo's historical resistance against the Imperialist Britishers during the Anglo-Kuki War from 1917 to 1919. CoTU also proudly noted the Kuki-Zo participation alongside Subhas Chandra Bose in the Indian National Army (INA), where the majority of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the nation were Kuki-Zo from the North Eastern contingent.

However, to our dismay, our patriotism towards our mother India has been challenged time and again. Efforts are being made to completely erase us from the history books, as evidenced by the present genocide pogrom aimed at annihilating us from the state of Manipur by the majoritarian community. Unlike other deprived communities, the Kuki-Zo have never challenged the Union Government of India to concede to our demands for any political solution but have been consistently belittled by successive state governments and across the political spectrum, it stated.

The infamous incident of violence on May 3, 2024, engineered and orchestrated to annihilate the entire Kuki-Zo community from the soils of India, was inconceivable and unacceptable to the voiceless minority. The Kuki-Zo had to defend their Right to Live with Dignity and have sustained this effort for the past 14 months against relentless physical aggressions in their land and villages by the secessionist Meitei terrorist groups (VBIGs) and civil militants (Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun). The inaction of the incumbent state government to prevent such extremism against the Kuki-Zo minority has led to the demand for Separate Administration to liberate themselves from the oppression and subjugation by the Meitei majoritarian-led biased state administration, CoTU further stated.

Drawing the attention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the plight of the Kuki-Zo community, CoTU beseeches the immediate expedition of the long-pending political solution for the Kuki-Zo in the form of a Union Territory (UT) with a legislature, as envisaged under Article 239(A) of the Constitution of India. This includes considering security aspects, streamlining all Kuki-Zo Village Volunteer Forces into a proper military unit (e.g., Kuki-Zo Regiment), and addressing health care, economy, education, and employment.

Considering the present situation, CoTU also urged the Union Home Minister to table their demands in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament so that the Kuki-Zo in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi (Kanggui), Tegnoupal (Moreh), Chandel, and Churachandpur (Lamka) can live free from subjugation and oppression.

It also urged the Union Home Minister's office to recognize that forced assimilation between communities in the Northeastern parts of the country would be a grave political miscalculation if the idea of one nation is to fructify.

It stated that the tribes in the Northeast are not a homogeneous race; they differ in all aspects of life, including culture, tradition, custom, language, and especially administration. The Kuki-Zo have a distinct administrative system known as the Chieftainship Institutions, which is not well understood by many, including the Government of India.

The Kukis were historically known as a tribe of "Small Republics" who have willingly accepted governance solely by the Union of India and nothing less. Therefore, the demand for Separate Administration in the form of a Union Territory with a legislature by the minority Kuki-Zo community is well justified. The majority-led administration of Manipur has failed to uphold our faith and confidence in the institutions. Only the Union Government can ensure the revival of our trust in the democratic system of governance in the country, CoTU's memorandum stated.

Similarly, thousands of protesters from the Kuki-Zo tribal community marched through the streets in Lamka (Churachandpur) on Monday demanding a political solution to end the yearlong ethnic violence in Manipur.

The rally, organized by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), kicked off at Lamka Public Ground in the center of town at 11 am and ended

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at the Wall of Remembrance, a memorial for almost 200 tribals killed during the violence.

Protesters held placards like “No Political Solution, No Peace”, “Union Territory for the Kuki-Zo People Right Now!”, “Forced Union With Meiteis Will Not Last”, and “We Want UT Under Article 239A”.

ITLF Chairman Pagine Haokip delivered the keynote address at the rally. Other speakers include MLA Paolienlal Haokip, Zo United Secretary Rev. VL Ngakthang, Zomi Council General Secretary Pauneihlal and Kuki Inpi Manipur Vice President Jangmang Haokip, ITLF General Secretary Muan Tombing read out the content of the memorandum submitted to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The peaceful rally was organized to demand that the central government expedite the process of finding a political solution to the violence in Manipur.

“Tribals want the creation of a Union Territory with legislature under article 239A of the constitution”, stated ITLF.

Similar rallies were also held in Tengnoupal and Pherzawl districts.

ITLF, an umbrella group for tribal bodies, stated that the government should accelerate the process of finding a political solution considering the following points.

Firstly, after more than a year of killings and displacements, there is no improvement in the security situation, with citizens at risk of being killed every day. In the past few weeks, two tribals were killed by Meitei miscreants in Jiribam district. Another was abducted, and his whereabouts are still unknown.

Secondly, homes and properties of tribals are still being burned and destroyed, one year after the start of the conflict. To date, almost 200 tribals have been killed and more than 7,000 homes destroyed. In the recent flare up of violence in Jiribam, around 50 homes and shops belonging to tribals were burned down.

Thirdly, for more than a year, supplies of all goods, including essential items, have been blocked from entering tribal areas. Even basic hospital items like cotton swabs often run out. This has severely affected the quality of life for tribals.

Fourthly, all development activities, including maintenance and repair of public infrastructure, have grinded to a halt for the past year in tribal areas, while all Meitei-controlled valley areas enjoy state patronage.

Fifthly, the valley-based population even resorts to destroying public utilities like electricity, denying us our basic rights.

Sixthly, with tribals unable to travel to the state capital, the Meitei-controlled state government is using the opportunity to conduct mass job recruitment, knowing fully well that tribals will not be able to avail themselves of the opportunity. Many job opportunities have already been lost for tribal youths, showing that the state government is openly partisan.

Seventhly, tribal students have also been adversely affected, especially those in technical lines, as all major centers of learning and all head offices are located in the capital.

Eighth, as a minority community with fewer numbers and even fewer resources to protect ourselves, we are under constant threat of being attacked by militant groups like Arambai Tenggol and the proscribed UNLF, who have access to a large arsenal of weapons bought from across the border or looted from state armories. They have openly stated that their aim is to either kill all of us or drive us out of our lands.

The rally was concluded with the submission of a memorandum to the Union Home Minister through the Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur, Manipur by ITLF leaders led by the Chairman and General Secretary.

ASSAM MP GAURAV GOGOI CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO MANIPUR UNREST

Gaurav Gogoi, Deputy Leader of the Indian National Congress in the Lok Sabha and a prominent Member of Parliament from Assam posted on X to express deep concerns regarding the ongoing situation in Manipur.

Gogoi tweeted, "The recent statements of Chief Justice Siddharth Mridul of the Manipur High Court reconfirm the grave situation in Manipur", shedding light on the seriousness of the issues plaguing the state. He pointed out that prolonged ethnic tensions have disrupted daily life, leading to a widening trust deficit among communities and posing numerous challenges to the general administration.

He further added, "The prolonged ethnic tensions in the region are disrupting daily life. The widening trust deficit amongst communities continues to present several challenges to the general administration. Safety concerns of posting judicial officers in conflict areas, delays in approving appointments, lack of infrastructure, natural calamities like the floods are just a few of the many challenges."

Gogoi, expressed dissatisfaction with the current approach to governance in Manipur stating, "The state



government's handling of the situation continues to be indecisive and ineffective. While it remains unclear who amongst the state-center is actually making decisions, the current reality in Manipur is far from normal and people continue to suffer".

As discussions and debates unfold regarding Manipur's future and the steps needed to address its challenges, only time can tell if Manipur attains peace and harmony again.

Source: [India Today NE](#)

KUKI CHRISTIAN LEADERS APPEAL TO AMIT SHAH FOR URGENT RESOLUTION

The Kuki Christian Leaders' Fellowship (KCLF), an umbrella of Kuki churches in India, has written a heartfelt appeal to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging the Ministry of Home Affairs to swiftly address the prolonged violence in Manipur.

The letter emphasizes the dire situation, with over 250 deaths, extensive damage to churches and institutions, and displacement of around 60,000 people since May 3, 2023. They highlight the closure of essential services and the impact on the local economy and education.

The KCLF underscores the peaceful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections in 2024 as evidence that resolution

of the violence is feasible. The KCLF stresses the urgency of protecting the Kuki-Zo ethnic minority and their culture, citing the destruction of homes, artifacts, and historical documents, along with the loss of elderly individuals who hold traditional knowledge.

In conclusion, the KCLF passionately appeals to the Government of India to expedite a peaceful solution to the Manipur violence, asserting the community's rightful place as Indian citizens deserving of equal rights and dignity. They express gratitude in advance for any intervention to safeguard their land and cultural heritage.

MEITEI MILITANTS, INCLUDING MINOR, ARRESTED FOR SUSPECTED EXTORTION ACTIVITIES

Security forces arrested three individuals, including a teenager, suspected to be active cadres of the outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP-Apunba City Meitei), during an operation in Manipur's Imphal West district on Saturday.

Officials informed that a combined team of central and state forces, acting on specific intelligence, conducted a cordon and search operation under the supervision of Imphal West SP Ksh. Sivakanta. The operation led to the successful apprehension of three individuals at a hideout within the district.

Police suspect the arrested individuals were planning extortion activities. They have been identified as Akoijam Robinson Singh (31), Phijam Tomba Singh (50), and Lourembam Sadananda Singh (18).

A four-wheeler vehicle allegedly used for criminal activities and incriminating documents were also seized during the operation.

The arrested individuals and recovered items have been transferred to Imphal West Police Station for further investigation. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the law, officials added.

This operation comes on the heels of another successful arrest in early June 2024, where three KCP-CM cadres were apprehended in the southern part of the state. Police recovered three pistols, ammunition, mobile phones, and a vehicle during that operation. (NENow).



Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robert



Problems cannot be solved with the same mindset that created them. - Albert Einstein

(Public rallies today at Ccpur, Kpi, Tpl, etc. demanding the expedition of a political solution for Kuki-Zo).



9:04 pm · 24 Jun 24 · 166 Views



Greeshma Kuthar
@jeegujja

Follow

Rallies were organised across Kuki-Zo districts in Manipur demanding that the central government bring an end to the ethnic violence. At the centre was the demand for union territory which leaders said is the only option left for the community, which is facing state-supported



8:46 pm · 24 Jun 24 · 645 Views



KUKI INPI SADAR HILLS REFUTES FALSE ALLEGATIONS OF REVENGE PLOT

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills has strongly condemned and refuted baseless allegations circulating through WhatsApp groups, accusing the organization of planning revenge against the Naga community.

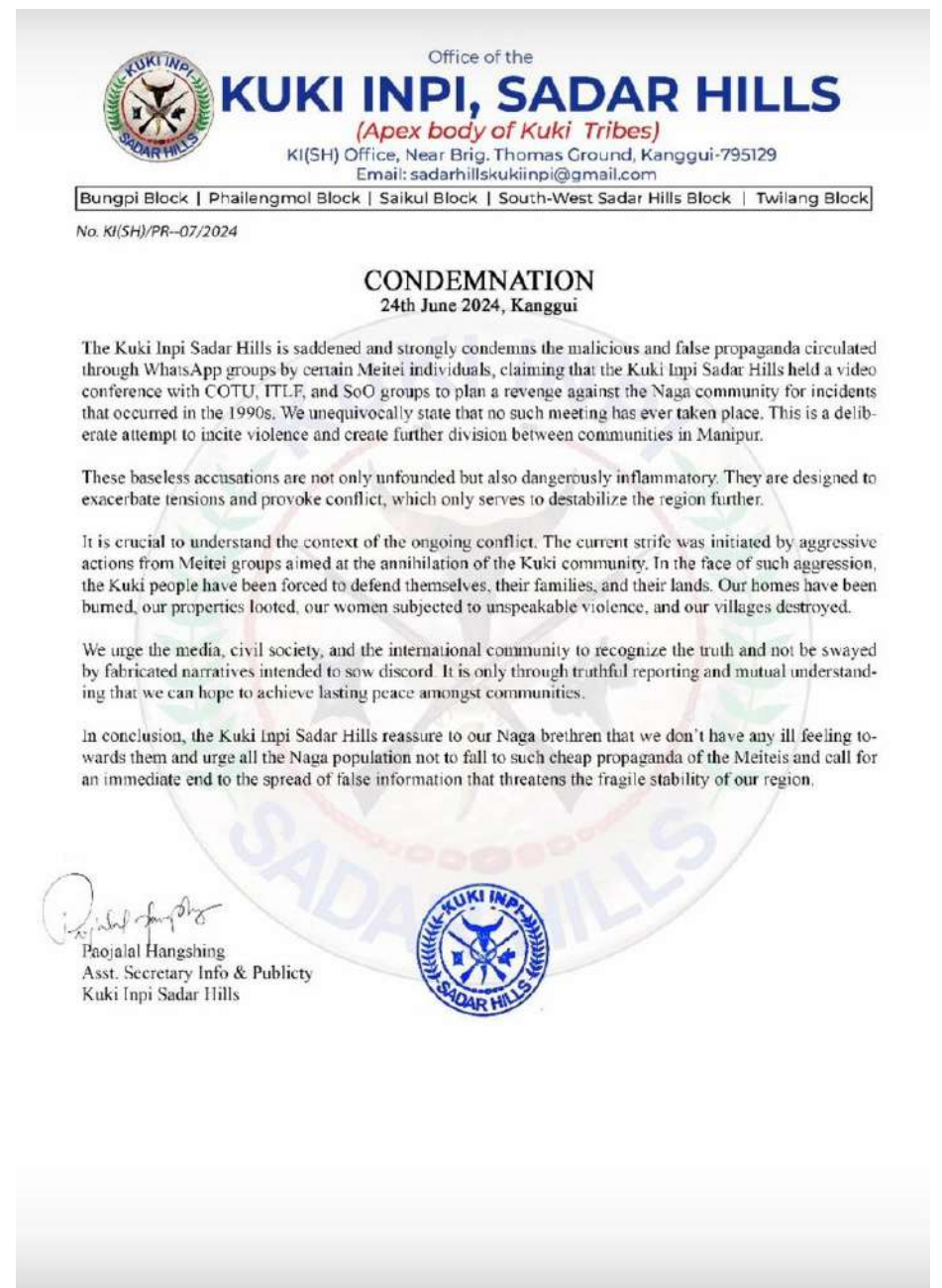
In a statement released today, the Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills clarified that no such meeting with COTU, ITI.F, and SoO groups ever occurred, dismissing the claims as malicious and aimed at inciting violence.

“These allegations are completely false and malicious,” stated a spokesperson of the Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills. “There has been no video conference or any discussion regarding revenge against the Naga community. Such rumors are designed to create division and escalate tensions between communities in Manipur.”

The statement emphasized the context of ongoing conflicts, attributing recent strife to aggressive actions by certain Meitei groups targeting the Kuki community. The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills highlighted the devastating impact on their community, including burned homes, looted properties, and violence against women.

“We urge the media, civil society, and the international community to seek the truth and avoid spreading fabricated narratives,” continued the spokesperson. “It is essential for peace and stability that we reject false information and work towards understanding and reconciliation among all communities.”

Additionally, the Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills extended a message of solidarity to the Naga community, reaffirming that there are no hostilities towards them. They called upon all Naga individuals to resist falling



prey to divisive propaganda and joint efforts to uphold peace and stability in the region.

The organization concluded by urging authorities to investigate the origin of these false allegations and take appropriate action to prevent further misinformation from destabilizing the fragile peace in Manipur.

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

Is Chief Minister N. Biren Singh Losing Grip in His Home Turf?

The rise of Nongthombam Biren Singh from a military man, footballer, and local journalist to the state's leader has been nothing short of a fairytale. His journey began amidst the widespread protests in the valley against the NSCN-IM and the ceasefire agreement with the Indian government, marked by the tragic 'June uprising day' in Manipur. As the editor of 'Naharolgi Thoudang', his editorials criticizing the government's handling of the situation made him a hero among the Meiteis, even leading to his imprisonment. Upon release, he entered politics and secured a significant victory in the 2002 state assembly elections from Heingang Assembly Constituency.

Becoming Manipur's first BJP Chief Minister in 2017, he initially enjoyed the moniker 'People's CM'. However, his aggressive stance towards certain communities, particularly the Kuki, has polarized opinions. His administration's policies and social media presence reflect this division, which is uncharacteristic of a state leader. Despite this, he managed to cultivate a hero image among many Meiteis, albeit at the cost of promoting hate speech against the Kuki community.

Recently, however, his popularity has dwindled. Public faith in his leadership has waned amidst ongoing violence and perceived inaction. Critics now dismiss him as a 'Facebook hero' lacking substantial leadership qualities. The violence in Manipur has persisted for

over 14 months, and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh appears incapable of taking effective action beyond condemning criminals and making appeals for peace. No concrete measures have been observed in recent days, leading critics to label him a "Facebook hero" rather than a leader of substance. The women protesters have lost faith in Biren-led state government, viewing him as more concerned with retaining his position than with genuinely working to restore peace. Biren and other lawmakers are accused of issuing contradictory statements, creating confusion among the populace in an attempt to give the illusion of an active government.

Despite frequent trips to Delhi and other parts of the state, Biren's efforts have yielded no positive results. As people continue to die and protesters demand peace, he remains in his bungalow, protected by security forces. This detachment has only intensified the public's disillusionment. Never before in Manipur's history has a Chief Minister been so restricted, unable to enter many districts of the state. This unprecedented situation underscores the extent of the crisis and the perceived inadequacy of the current administration's response.

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Incidentally, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh reportedly cancelled his flight on Sunday to New Delhi to hold a high-level meeting on the situation in the state and to hammer out a concrete solution to the protracted crisis in Manipur.

As per the Imphal Free Press report, N Biren Singh arrived in Guwahati on Saturday and was scheduled to depart for Delhi on Sunday. However, N Biren Singh along with PHED Minister L. Susindro cancelled his visit to Delhi and returned to Imphal.

Sources said that N Biren Singh went to meet Assam Chief Minister and NEDA Convenor Himanta Biswa Sarma to arrange an appointment with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Sources further said that his request was reportedly declined.

As Chief Minister N Biren returned to Imphal, speculations are rife in Imphal about suspended animation of the Manipur legislative assembly and invocation of Presidents Rule in the state.

As Chief Minister N Biren returned to Imphal, speculations are rife in Imphal about suspended animation of the Manipur legislative assembly and

invocation of Presidents' Rule in the state.

Suspended animation of the assembly instead of dissolution means a new government could be brought about any time after normalisation of the conflict situation here in the state

Sources said, internal fissures within the BJP had widened in recent times with the defeat of BJP candidate in the Inner Manipur parliamentary constituency and BJP supported NPF candidate in Outer Manipur constituency.

Despite frequent visits and efforts, including a cancelled trip to Delhi for crisis talks, Biren Singh's leadership seems ineffective as Manipur remains engulfed in turmoil. Speculation about invoking President's Rule underscores the gravity of the situation, with internal BJP divisions further complicating matters after recent electoral setbacks.

In essence, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's once heroic image now faces severe scrutiny amid escalating challenges and eroding public support."



We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.

— Benjamin Franklin



FEATURED ARTICLE

‘Manipur Violence Unprecedented, Govt Complying With Court Orders Selectively’: Justice Mridul

The Wire Staff

In an elaborate interview to The Hindustan Times, Chief Justice of the Manipur high court, Siddharth Mridul, has called the scale of violence in the state “unprecedented”, and expressed dissatisfaction with the state government’s “selective compliance” with the court’s orders. Justice Mridul also expressed concerns over the overall inadequacy in addressing the judiciary’s security and infrastructural demands.

The 14-month long ethnic violence between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo people that broke out on May 3, 2023, Justice Mridul said, has had a serious bearing on the judicial appointments in the region. In the interview given to Utkarsh Anand of HT, Justice Mridul said, appointment of judicial officers from the majority community in disturbed areas like Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, or Morch is not possible. “This limits our options, meaning judicial officers only from Scheduled Tribes can be posted in those districts. Coupled with a shortage of judicial officers, this complicates matters,” Justice Mridul said in the interview.

The high court, Justice Mridul said, has conducted interviews for appointments and that the government’s assistance is needed to finalise these new appointments. Due to the restricted deployments, Justice Mridul said that most judicial officers end up juggling multiple

roles. “A district judge might also serve as a family court judge...,” he pointed out.

Along with these specific deputations of judges on the basis of their ethnicity, Justice Mridul in the interview claimed that infrastructure too remains a challenge.

Earlier this month, Manipur was hit by intense floods, killing four and stranding thousands of people. Justice Mridul said that the flood acted as a double whammy and further impacted judicial work.

Responding to a question on how the judiciary has taken care of security concerns of judges and other judicial staff, Justice Mridul said that security was the first concern he focussed on after his appointment [as the Chief Justice of Manipur high court] in October last year. “On the government response to it, I would say, our directions [for increased security] have been complied with selectively. Some decisions are still pending with them in view of the ‘prevailing situation’,” he said, adding that “...we talk to them

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[the state government] regularly and have given them a wishlist for the judiciary. There is a response from the government, but it would be over pitching to say that the response is satisfactory. It's not at the pace at which we want them to respond."

Manipur chief minister Nongthombam Biren Singh on June 21 claimed that "peace would return to his state in two or three months" because of the priority given to resolving the 14-month-long violence by the new National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre.

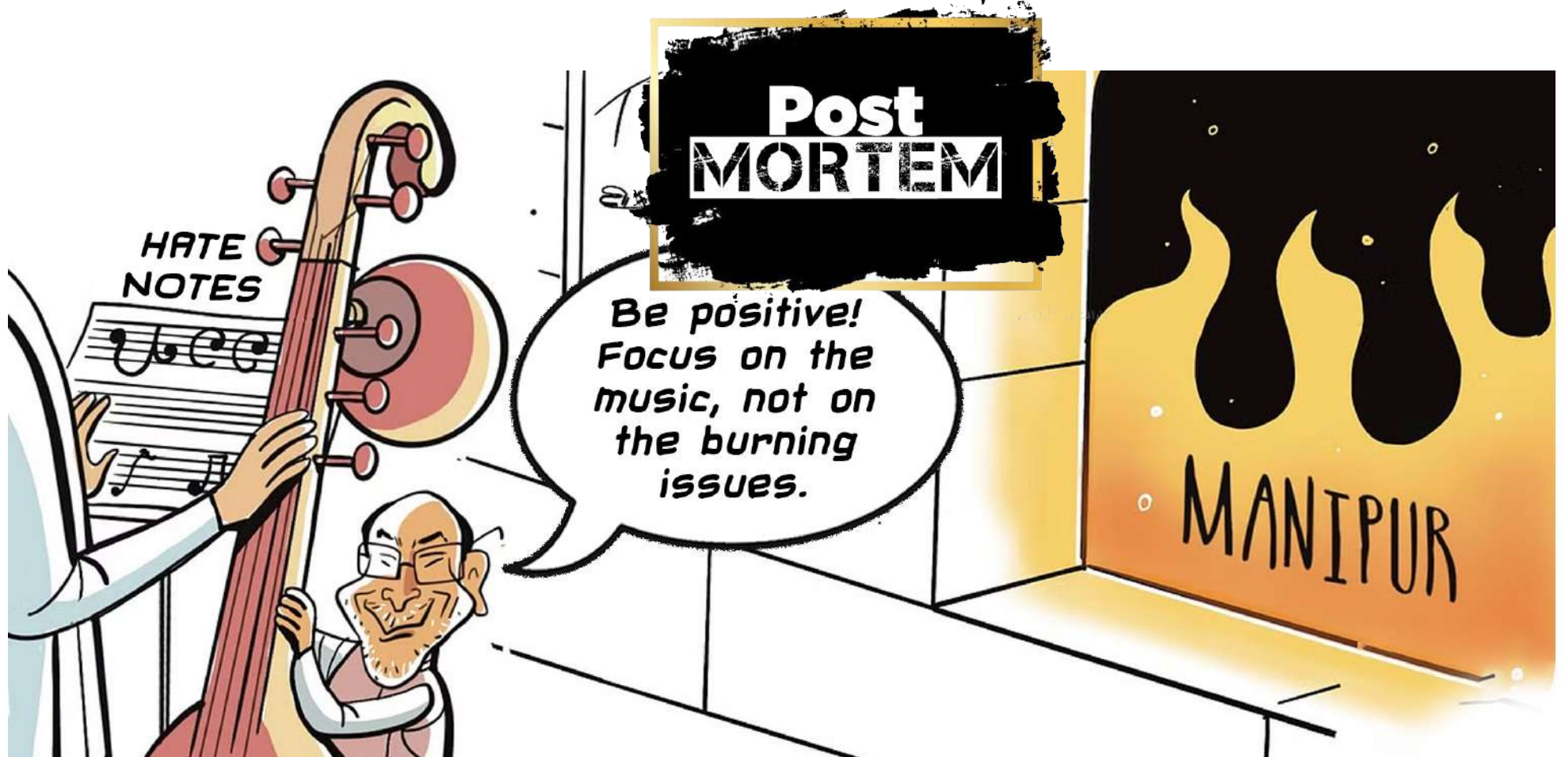
Singh, speaking to the press from the state capital Imphal, said, "Violence is everywhere, and it has reduced in Manipur. Although the State has been going

through a crisis for 14 months, the actual violence happened for half this period. This indicates there were seven months of peace with schools and business establishments reopening."

An action plan, Singh said, is being worked on following a high-security meeting chaired by Union home minister Amit Shah a few days ago.

In Justice Mridul's assessment, however, the efforts put in by Singh so far have not been to his "complete satisfaction".

Published by [The Wire](#)



Manipur's Nero strums off 'burning' issues



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The candle flame is about to DIE

Hillsman J. Tearsworth

The night is late! Yet, I couldn't sleep!
Thoughts of our people - young and old,
Who were slain, butchered, and maimed,
Are still very fresh in my memory!
There's no one else to share the pain,
The truest friend of a man is his teardrops!

Our stories will soon be forgotten,
They will be blown away by the winds of history,
Our blood on the ground will dry up,
Our bodies beneath the soil will decompose,
The traces of our afflictions will be wiped away!
In death or alive, humanity will betray us!

Lo! The candle flame is about to die,
All our hopes will be gone in the dark,
No one will ever stand on the podium,
To share about us to the world, and then,
Our stories will be buried alongwith our deaths,
And truth shall vanish forever!