ISSUE No. 346 THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Through the second of the seco

LUNMINTHANG LUPHENG KUM 30

ANALTING JUSTICE



LUNMINTHANG LUPHENG (30 YEARS)

H/O VEINEINIENG LUPHENG ADDRESS: S. BOLKOT, LAMKA DATE OF DEATH: 27TH JULY, 2023 PLACE OF DEATH: KANGVAI, LAMKA CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS

ISSUE No. 346 THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Thingkho Le Malcha



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 11.09.2024







200+ 7000+ NULLAGES BURNT



HOUSES 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.





KUKI-ZO COMMUNITY PROTESTS MANIPUR GOVERNMENT'S 'PERIODIC PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS,' URGES HOME MINISTER FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Braving heavy rain, thousands of Kuki-Zo people from across Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District, gathered for a massive protest rally at the Kangpokpi District Headquarters, voicing their opposition to the alleged "periodic propaganda campaigns" by the Manipur Government and the majority Meitei community. The protesters called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take immediate action to address what they claim as part of an "ethno-centric" campaign against them.

The rally, organized by the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), saw participants march from Nute Kailhang in downtown Kangpokpi, chanting slogans, to the office of the Deputy Commissioner via National Highway 2. Upon arrival, a memorandum was submitted to Deputy Commissioner Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, outlining the community's grievances and calling for urgent intervention from the Union Government.

Key points of the memorandum submitted by the Kuki-Zo community to Home Minister Amit Shah are:

1. Protection of Security Institutions from Political Influence: The Kuki-Zo community urges the protection of the Security Advisor and the Inter-Agency Unified Command from political pressure exerted by the Manipur state government, which is dominated by the Meitei community.

2. False Propaganda Against Kuki-Zo: The memorandum accuses the Meitei-majority government of spreading false narratives through local media, branding the Kuki-Zo as "narco-terrorists," "poppy planters," and "illegal immigrants" to incite hatred and drive them out of the Imphal valley.

3. Security Advisor's Allegation on Kuki Influx: The community condemns Security Advisor Kuldiep Singh's statement about 900 Kukis from Myanmar allegedly preparing to attack Meitei villages, calling it a continuation of the ethnocentric narrative against them.



4. Meitei Secessionist Discourse in the Manipur State Assembly: The memorandum calls for a reconsideration of the constitutional validity of the Manipur State Assembly, highlighting the significance of the upcoming 28th of September 2024. It emphasizes that the assembly has subscribed to the secessionist intent of the majority Meitei community to uphold the resolution of the 4th sitting of the 3rd session of the first Manipur state legislative assembly, which sought to relinquish the merger agreement with the Government of India on the 28th of September 1949.

5. Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs): The community raises alarms over valley-based insurgent groups such as KCP, KYKL, and UNLF, which they allege are working with Myanmar's military junta to pursue an independent Kangleipak Kingdom, thereby threatening India's national security.

6. Compliance and Cooperation with the Union Government: The Kuki-Zo community highlights their cooperation with the Union Government's requests during the conflict:

- Accepted the relocation of burial sites at Lamka (Churachandpur).

- Lifted the economic blockade on National Highway 2 in Kangpokpi, despite the wishes of the people.

Contd.







- Resorted to defensive security measures as requested by the Centre.

- Accepted the relocation of Assam Rifles battalions, despite security concerns.

7. Urgency of Suspension of Operations (SoO) Negotiations: The memorandum urges the central government to expedite SoO negotiations with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups to prevent further victimization of the community and facilitate peace in the region.

8. Call for Neutrality in Security Operations: The Kuki-Zo community calls for the Security Advisor to maintain neutrality in handling the ethnic conflict, ensuring that no community is unjustly targeted in security operations.

9. Appeal for National Attention on Secessionist Movements: The memorandum warns that the involvement of insurgent groups and the secessionist rhetoric promoted by certain factions within the Meitei community represent a transnational conspiracy against the Republic of India, requiring urgent national-level intervention.

10. Request for Immediate Action from the Union Government: The community seeks prompt action from the central government to ensure the safety of the Kuki-Zo, preserve India's national security, and resolve the ethnic tensions in Manipur.

CoTU spokesperson Ng. Lun Kipgen asserted that the false intelligence reports regarding the influx of 900 Kuki militants from Myanmar are part of the periodic propaganda campaigns by the Manipur government and the majority community while urging the Centre not to subscribe to or engage with such narratives.

He also expressed the Kuki-Zo community's hope that the Union Home Minister will respond positively to the memorandum.

SANGAIKOT CHIEFS CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST MANIPUR Government official for bypassing security protocols

The Sangaikot Sub-Division Chiefs' Association (SSDCA) has expressed strong condemnation regarding recent actions by N. Geoffrey, IAS, Secretary to the Chief Minister of Manipur, following his alleged role in disseminating false information about the supposed entry of 900 Kuki militants from Myanmar. This misinformation was circulated on September 16, 2024, leading to heightened tensions between the Kuki and Meitei communities.

In a joint press release issued on September 25, 2024, the Security Adviser and Director General of Police of Manipur acknowledged the baseless nature of these claims. The SSDCA welcomed this clarification but demanded that the Government of India hold N. Geoffrey accountable for his actions, which they argue have severely damaged the reputation of the Kuki-Zo community and exacerbated existing communal strife.

protocols by issuing unfounded statements without consulting relevant security forces, calling this a violation of constitutional norms and an unbecoming action for a government servant. They emphasized the gravity of his alleged misconduct, urging the Ministry of Personnel and Training to impose immediate disciplinary measures.

If no action is taken against him, the SSDCA stated that they would be compelled to seek judicial intervention for what they described as gross violations of constitutional mandates.

Furthermore, the SSDCA alerted Central Security Forces and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) to remain vigilant, warning of potential attacks from Meitei militants on Kuki-Zo areas, which may involve sophisticated weaponry.



The SSDCA criticized N. Geoffrey for bypassing security



Thingkho Le Malcha

DIVERSIONARY TACTICS OF N. BIREN SINGH BACKFIRE: INDIGENOUS TRIBAL LEADERS' FORUM

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum condemned Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's recent actions, labeling them as a failed attempt to distract from his involvement in violence against the Kuki-Zo community. This statement follows the emergence of leaked audio tapes implicating him in these events.

A controversial intelligence report from the Chief Minister's office alleged that over 900 Kuki militants had infiltrated Manipur from Myanmar—a claim dismissed as implausible. The Indian Army has since clarified that it was unaware of any such militant influx, casting further doubt on the report's credibility.

Despite this, Manipur's security advisor, Kuldiep Singh, publicly supported the CMO's claims, exacerbating tensions between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. Meitei groups have begun preparing for potential "counterattacks," while tribal organizations fear an escalation of violence against them.

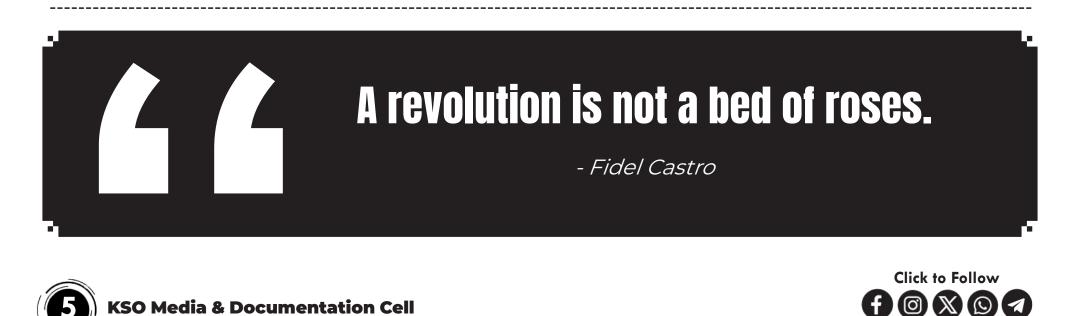
Although the state government later retracted its assertions, advising the public not to worry, the damage was already done. Tensions have escalated in buffer zones, leading Kuki-Zo organizations to issue advisories for school closures, movement restrictions, and heightened vigilance among village volunteers, especially with September 28 cited as a potential date for attacks.

ksomediacell@gmail.com



The forum emphasized that if any violence ensues due to this misinformation, the Chief Minister and the security advisor must be held accountable for spreading false intelligence. They criticized the Manipur government for its perceived unreliability and potential to incite violence through misleading reports, warning that such actions could lead to catastrophic consequences for the communities involved.

This episode also shows that the Manipur government is highly unreliable and partisan, with no qualms about falsifying and publicizing sensitive intelligence reports, which could ignite violence and lead to a bloodbath.



Thingkho Le Malcha

MEITEI ATROCITIES ON TRIBAL CONTINUES UNABATED; Liangmai naga thrashed by unlf cadres

The Liangmai Naga Council, Eastern Zone (LNC-EZ), has issued a strong condemnation of ongoing violence against tribal communities in Manipur, highlighting a recent brutal attack on a local resident. The council reported that on September 25, 2024, Wilubou Marenmai, a truck driver for Thomson Gas Agency from Khunkhu Naga village, was violently assaulted by two individuals claiming to be members of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF). The attackers accused him of supplying arms to Kuki militants, leaving him severely injured.

This incident, the council asserts, is part of a troubling pattern of violence against the Naga community since unrest erupted in the state on May 3, 2023. The LNC-EZ emphasized that the Naga people, who have historically maintained a neutral stance, have faced harassment, extortion, and physical attacks from extremist factions, particularly in the Imphal region and along National Highway 2.

"The neutrality and commitment to peace of our community are being exploited," stated the LNC-EZ, condemning the "cowardly attack" and warning that such acts threaten the safety and security of the Liangmai Naga people. The council urged unity among Naga citizens against these violent forces and called on militant groups like the UNLF to cease their unlawful activities.

In light of the ongoing violence, the LNC-EZ has also called on the state government to implement effective protective measures for unarmed civilians and demanded swift action from law enforcement to apprehend the assailants responsible for Marenmai's attack. They insisted that prompt legal action is crucial



for restoring public confidence and maintaining peace in the region.

The Liangmai Naga Council reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for the rights and safety of the Naga people, pledging to continue its efforts toward justice and peace in the face of escalating violence.







PM TRYING TO BROKER PEACE IN UKRAINE, BUT WHAT ABOUT Manipur, ASKS Gaurav Gogoi

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi on Thursday expressed frustration over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on global diplomacy while neglecting the unrest in the northeastern state of Manipur. He questioned that while PM Modi is engaging in diplomatic efforts to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine, why isn't the same energy being directed toward resolving the ethnic conflict in Manipur.

Speaking at the India Today Mumbai Conclave session, Gogoi said that a hands-on approach is needed from the Prime Minister to resolve the ethnic conflict plaguing Manipur since May last year.

"In recent times and over the last few days, all of us have talked about how Prime Minister Modi has gone to New York and is trying to broker a solution between Russia and Ukraine. He is talking to the US President, to Russian President Vladimir Putin, to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Why is the prime minister not putting the same effort in speaking to the Meiteis and the Kukis and telling them to come together?" questioned Gogoi.

He criticised PM Modi for "flying all across the world to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine" while failing to make a trip to Manipur to address the ongoing violence.

Gogoi lamented the breakdown of ethnic harmony in the region, recalling how he witnessed the positive role politics played in bridging divides in Assam.

"It breaks my heart that here in the northeast, we have created an environment where people can't live side by side with each other... and there is visceral hate," he said.

Calls for PM to Take Charge

Gogoi further emphasised that the responsibility of fostering peace in Manipur cannot be outsourced to others.

"What is Prime Minister Modi doing in Ukraine? He needs to be a hands-on prime minister. The issue of



bringing about peace can't be outsourced to the Union Home Minister or some National Security Advisor. PM needs to play the role of healer, statesperson, and bridger," he urged.

Gogoi stated that such intervention would be welcomed and appreciated by the people of the northeast: "I think the people of northeast would thank him. I would thank him if he brings about peace in Manipur and brokers an understanding and a path of reconciliation between the Meiteis and Kukis."

Northeast's Geopolitical Importance

Touching on the broader geopolitical context, Gaurav Gogoi remarked on the northeast's pivotal role in national security. He noted how issues in neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar directly impact the region, saying, "The northeast is pivotal, not only to our unity and sense of integrity, but also to our national security."

He called for more focus on foreign policies that address India's neighbourhood, including Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, alongside the prime minister's global engagements.

Political Polarisation

When asked about the increasing polarisation in Indian politics, Gogoi warned that failure to address real issues could lead to political consequences, much like what happened in Sri Lanka.

"If the Congress and the BJP and the major political parties continue to fight without finding solutions, the people would just punish us," he cautioned.(IT)





Thingkho Le Malcha



Mr. Robert Naorem's decision to withdraw the People's Choice Best National Costume award in the recently held Miss Universe India pageant to express the sentiments of the people from his state on Miss Danube Kangjam's failure to secure the top 20 spot in the contest is childish, irrational, jingoistic, disrespectful and betrays his sense of entitlement as if the world owes him something for the entry itself. Through his actions and the sentiments he claims to represent, he and his community have made miss Danube Kangjam a representative of only Manipur and not a contestant selected from Manipur to represent India, contrary to the essential qualities which a Miss India Universe and a Miss Universe should necessarily possess - inclusiveness - thus justifying the panel's decision to knock her out from the top 20.

The fact that Mr. Naorem could secure the People's Choice Award at a national costume competition category is telling of the fact that people are voting the online polls based on their taste and choices and not based on where the contestant and the designer hail from. Thus his decision is disrespectful to those innocents voters who voted for him, and his action is also disrespectful to those who voted for other contestants than Miss Danube Kangjam as he made them feel that they are obligated to vote for her only. The award which his costume got awarded for and the

award Miss Kangjam has to win to enter into the top 20 spot are two different categories and people of India have the freedom to vote for whoever they like, they don't come with combo pack. Mr. Naorem must remember this is India and not Manipur where people can have choice beyond what Meiteis want, need, or feel entitled to.

There were 30 contestants in the contest, and Miss Danube Kangjam was not the lone contestant to be dropped from the Top 20. And we see no foul cry from other states, but why from Manipur? The People's Choice award winners secure only one spot in the top 20 and the rest 19 spots are determined by the contestants overall performance throughout the preliminary rounds and merit events. So how is it unfair for her and the people of Manipur? She, like other contestants, is given a fair share and opportunity to be in the top 20. Is it then the Indians' fault that Manipur sent a contestant who failed to secure top 20 on her own capabilities, skills and intelligence and is it Indians' fault that other contestants performed better?

Why doesn't he consider the restructuring of

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the selection process in his state rather than cry foul after losing? After all it is his "Robert Naorem Studio Academy" the organisation which organised the Femina Miss Manipur event. He could have maintained higher standards so that a more qualified candidate got the spot on merit and not based on one's community. Through his actions Mr. Naorem is promoting a divisive and communal politics which is a threat to the integrity and unity of India. He has invented two types of Indian women - Indian women from Manipur and Indian women from other states just like he created two types of women in the Femina Miss Manipur contest - women belonging to that community who can represent Manipur and others who cannot, like the tribals from the state.

Like all abusive individuals, Meiteis took out their outrage and anger on their victims the Kukis yet again with some local celebrities even trolling the Kukis who didn't even have a representative in the pageant. It makes one wonder whether we import candidates from other countries to represent us. Thus, what can be concluded from the entire drama is that Mr. Naorem is exposing himself and his community to be the type of people and Indians they are - petty-minded, communal, jingoistic and exclusive. It takes a village to raise a child, but if this type of people are the one that brings up the child, a Miss Universe India from Manipur will remain the unfulfilled dream in the near future too.





Late night statements attributed to #Manipur Govt & Manipur DGP & adviser Kuldiep Singh say reports of 900 Kuki militants entering from Myanmar "could not be substantiated". Huge Walk-back, if true, given Singhs assertion that intel was "100 percent right unless proven wrong"



Last edited 0:15 · 26 Sept 24



Rajan Chaudhary 🤣 @EditorRajan

Intel of 900 Kuki militants entering from Myanmar couldn't be substantiated: Manipur security adviser, DGP 🚨

You can guess from this fact how the image of the Kuki community is being tarnished. It is also clear who all are involved in this

The Manipur government in a press release clarified that recent reports of the infiltration of 900 trained Kuki militants from Myanmar, allegedly to carry out attacks on Meiteis on September 28, could not be substantiated.



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9:27 · 26 Sept 24 · 4,608 Views





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Thingkho Le Malcha



In the Next Episode of Biren's Drama Productions...

On 16 September 2024, the troubled state of Manipur and subsequently the entire nation was shook by the release of an unofficial note (UO) by the Secretary to the Chief Minister claiming that reports had been recieved that over 900 Kuki militants, newly trained in use of drone-based bombs, projectiles, missiles and jungle warfare had entered Manipur from Myanmar. The state's Security Advisor Mr. Kuldiep Singh later held a press conference on the issue, and upon being asked about the veracity of the report, he replied that unless proven otherwise, it had to be taken as 100 percent correct.

Note that the keywords used in the UO, terms such as "drone-based bombs", "projectiles" "missiles" "...from Myanmar" all follow a pattern of narrative adopted by the Manipur state machinery and ever more so since the first week of September when fresh round of violence broke out in the state following the explosive revelation of the existence of an audiotape wherein a voice said to be of the Chief Minister is heard boasting about his role in initiating the war on the Kukis, his authorisation of the use of bombs and mortars by the state forces on said Kukis, among other things. The state police used the fresh violence to plant bombs, rockets and missiles in the hands of Kukis, thus intending to mitigate the state's use of bombs and mortars.

National media immediately picked up the state's narrative, amplifying the alleged use of drone bombs by Kukis and heavily insinuating a 'foreign hand', with Arnab Goswani on his Republic TV channel even showing purported vidoes of Kukis using rockets and other projectiles. In this instance, the foreign hand turned out to be literally that foreign - as those videos he showed were verified to be from Gaza and from fights between the pro-democracy and Junta forces in Burma, all of which had no connection to the war in Manipur. But the damage was done. The Kuki community were vilified and the news of the leaked confessions of the state chief minister got drowned out and erased from public discourse.

As such, when this UO from the Chief Minister's Office got to the public, the entire Kuki community immediately contested the claims made in the CMO's UO, calling it propaganda and another attempt to demonise and villify the Kuki community once again while also keeping national attention away from the leaked confessions. The Indian Army was also caught unawares as it immediately sought details of the sources of the report on which the CMO's UO was made. One would presume that an

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intelligence of such magnitude involving trans-border transgression would have been collected first by the Army.

The Army later deleted its post on X for reasons we can only speculate. But even if they hadn't, they wouldn't have got any answer as later, late in the evening on the 25th of September, the state security advisor and the Director General of Police issued a joint Press Release clarifying that the input (for the UO) was verified from different quarters (other intelligence agencies, in all likelihood) but could not be substantiated on ground, assuring all communities of their safety and advising them not to believe in any rumours or unverified information. But in this instance too, the damage was already done.

The oddly specific and intentionally exaggerated "900" caught national headlines once again, painting the whole community in bad light, of using drone bombs and having foreign connections, entering enmasse illegally from across the border. This served the state's narrative well once again as the Kukis have been accused of being illegal immigrants and the perpetrators of the current violence and not the victims by the state under its chief minister Biren Singh in order to justify his genocide. The suspiciously indicated date, 28th September also turned out to coincide with a significant day in Manipur history as it was on thay day in 1949 that the first sitting of the Manipur State Legislative Assembly abrogated the Manipur Merger Agreement signed only a week prior, thereby refusing its merger into the Indian Union, and hence a day when Manipur's secessionist idea can be rightly said to have been born.

Ever distrustful of the Manipur government's intentions ever since the 3rd of May 2023 when it perpetrated ethnic cleansing upon them, the Kukis saw the day as ominous, suspecting it to be another pre-planned justification to carry out more atrocities on the Kuki community. Remember, the state had just acquired several 7.62mm medium machine guns (MMGs) - a weapon not allowed to be used even by the Army in internal security situations. Hence several civil society organisations within the Kuki community called for an alert, to be on the watch for whatever the state may have had planned for that day. It included measures like the closure of borders, the closure of educational institutions and businesses, the restriction of travel and beefing up of security measures along buffer zones.

On the Meitei side, an organisation called Ima Leibak Kanba Lup issued a public notification based on the security advisor's press conference, calling for a preemptive strike on Kuki areas and preparation for an all-out war, mobilizing all concealed weapons of the Meitei revolutionary outfits to completely eradicate the Kukis from Manipur. Even the leader of the Arambai Tenggol put in his 2 cents, posting on his Facebook page that he couldn't wait for the 28th.

For nine days, the UO and its aftermath stretched the existing tension in the state to its limit until the evening of the 25th when the DGP and the security advisor released their joint statement. A bit long, but they seem to have taken the time to be sure that the CMO's UO was false before they came out public with it. It is hard to say whether this will deflate the tension as both communities have seemed to have chosen their stance - the Kuki community has chosen to hunker down tight and beef up security while the Meiteis have called for preemptive strikes and an all-out war. Only time will tell.

But what is fascinating here at the moment is the effect this whole charade orchestrated from the Chief Minister's Office seems to have on the reputation and image of the state security advisor when the brunt of the blame should have fallen on Biren and N. Geoffrey, his Secretary who issued that unofficial note, not based on any intelligence input but with a deeper nefarious intention behind it all.

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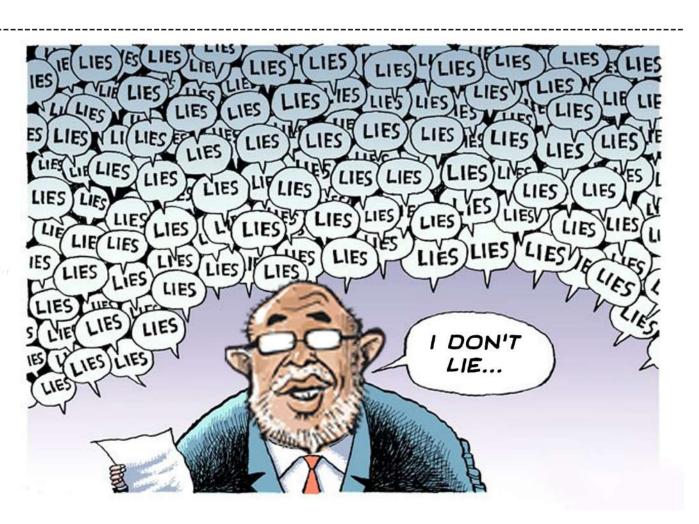
Consider this, the CMO chose to put out an unofficial note, knowing full well there was no intelligence behind it, and passed it to the security advisor while also leaking it to the public. This puts the security advisor in a spot. If he ignores it, the Biren drama machinery is well capable of orchestrating something on the 28th or any other day to put the blame on the security advisor for ignoring the UO. If he went public with it (which he chose to do) he would give it an air of legitimacy and Meitei groups could use the opportunity and amplify it (which they did).

It may be recalled that it was only recently, in the first week of this month that Biren Singh met the governor of the state twice to demand control of the Unified Command - a group of 12 top officials from governmental agencies and currently headed by none other than Kuldiep Singh who is also the Security Advisor. For this purpose, Biren's government declared a two-day holiday for all educational institutions within the state so that students could come out in the streets, echoing his demands of control of the Unified Command. The student protest turned violent, with them clashing with state and central security forces and leading to internet shutdowns and the governor fleeing from the state for his own safety. However, Biren did not get his way, and the control of the Unified Command remained with Kuldiep Singh.

The man whose position Biren wants to take over, a man whose image and reputation he targeted, a man whom the entire Meitei community united against in the first week is now being called out by the Kukis for his lending of legitimacy to the fabricated UO of the CMO. He is currently detested and pressured from both sides and it does not look good for him at all. One cannot help but think that Biren may have orchestrated this entire episode to weaken his position so that it would be easier to take over eventually. After all, when it was just him and his community against the security advisor, one could accuse him of being partisan but now that both sides have lined up against him, we have to ask ourselves - are we all acting in a play scripted by the Biren Drama Machinery?



THE UNDISPUTED LIAR









A FALLEN HOUSE

The walls are made of the wounded The doors are made of stone Where we were promised to live in The king makes the cut And watch as his people bleeds Taking a side to see tears of grief And cheers with his puppets With false accusation painted lips A young innocent who is to be Future pillar of the House Is made a martyr for the nation The house collapsed of the weight Due to the intractable he did start A stain that wouldn't be washed away

~ Lalgunsang Kipgen

Thingkho Le Malcha