

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Dongsum RELIEF CENTRE

Dongsum Community Hall,
Lhungtin Sub-Division, Sadar Hills

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 463



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13.03.2024



167
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.

KUKI-ZO MLAS APPEAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA TO MAKE VOTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPLACED KUK-ZO VOTERS OUTSIDE MANIPUR

The ten Kuki-Zo MLAs of Manipur have appealed to the Election Commission of India to make voting arrangements for displaced Kuki-Zomi-Hmar voters who are taking shelters in different parts/states of India for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Election Commissioner on March 25, the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs urged the Commission to pass directions to the States and Union Territories of the Union of India to identify such displaced people immediately. They also appealed to the Chief Election Commissioner to notify special polling stations wherever needed for the internally displaced people of the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar community from Manipur, and to allow the said displaced eligible voters of the community to cast their votes using Aadhar Cards and other valid documents, as many of them would have lost their voter identity cards.

“Following the communal conflict since May 3, 2023 in Manipur, many of the Kuki-Zo have fled Imphal valley after their houses, properties and churches have been looted, burnt and destroyed by the Meitei militia groups of Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and Meitei mobs,” the letter stated.

The communal violence has resulted so far in deaths of over 160 innocent Kuki-Zo civilians; burning and destruction of over 360 churches, over 205 villages and over 7,000 houses in the Imphal valley and different hill districts.

The MLAs also said that as a solution to the conflict remains elusive and with the situation still volatile, none of the displaced Kuki-Zo people are in a position to return to the Imphal valley and their villages compelling



them to take shelter in different parts of the country, including Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Delhi and several other cities.

“This suffering of Kuki-Zo, which is among the few human tragedies witnessed by independent India, should not be allowed to turn into a classic case of denial of the universal adult franchise guaranteed under Article 326 of the Indian constitution,” the MLAs said in the letter.

Stating that the ECI had notified arrangements to enable the displaced people currently lodged at relief camps in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts of Manipur to cast their votes, the Kuki-Zo MLAs added that many Kuki-Zo genuine voters would be deprived of their constitutional rights to exercise their franchises as provided under the constitution, if similar or suitable arrangements are not made for the displaced people taking shelter in different parts of the country.

ISSUING ORDERS FOR SUBMISSION OF LICENSED ARMS WILL INVITE MORE INSECURITY TO KUKI-ZO PEOPLE: ITLF

Urging every Kuki-Zo man and woman, village volunteers not to comply with the State government's orders for submission of Licensed guns, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has said that such orders would only invite more controversy and insecurity that will rightly offend the Kuki-Zo people.

In a public notice issued on Tuesday, the Kuki-Zo tribal body stated that the state government attempts to view the current dispensation based solely on election related matters and thus issuing order for submission of weapons to arms license holders at jurisdictional police stations may not serve appropriately, considering the plight and uncertainty the community is facing.

Pertinently noting through their past experience that licensed guns that were submitted in 2023 have not been returned till today, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum asserted that the Kuki-Zo people need every available weapon to defend their 'right to life' and their land from the nefarious intent of the majority Meitei community, who are hell-bent on killing and driving the Kuki-Zo out of their homes.

The Indigenous Tribal Leader's Forum (ITLF), therefore, requested every Kuki-Zo man and woman, village volunteers not to comply with the perverse and hateful ideologies of radical Meiteis' administration.

Mention may be made that the ITLF Presidential Council in consultation with its constituent member



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

File No:GAD-03-2024/ITLF-PN/01

Tuesday, 26 March 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The state government attempt to view the current dispensation based solely on election related matter and thus issuing order for submission of weapons to arms license holders at jurisdictional police station may not serve appropriate considering the plight and uncertainty we are facing. This will only invite more controversy and insecurity that will rightly offend the Kuki-Zo people.

We need every available weapon to defend our 'right to life' and our land from the nefarious intent of the majority Meitei community, which is hell-bent on killing and driving us out of our homes. It is pertinent to note through our past experience that licensed guns that were submitted in 2023 have not been returned till today.

Therefore, Indigenous Tribal Leader's Forum (ITLF) request every Kuki-Zo man and woman, village volunteers should not comply with the perverse and hateful ideologies of radical Meitei's administration.

PAGIN HAOKIP,
Chairman,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

MUAN TOMBING
Secretary,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

tribes had earlier agreed that no member from the Kuki-Zo community should file nomination for the upcoming Lok Sabha Election, considering the plight that they are facing.

However, the Forum advised the Kuki-Zo community members to exercise their right to franchise by voting in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election 2024 but abstain from contesting for the Outer Manipur Member of Parliament seat.



The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

– Martin Luther King Jr.

TANGKHUL FRONTAL ORGANISATIONS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVE TO SUPPORT NPF CANDIDATE FOR OUTER MANIPUR LOK SABHA SEAT

The Tangkhul frontal organisations have unanimously resolved to support Naga People’s Front (NPF) candidate Kachui Timothy Zimik for the Outer Manipur parliamentary constituency in the forthcoming 18th Lok Sabha elections.

The organisations included Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL), Tangkhul Naga Wungnao Long (TNWL), Tangkhul Shanao Long (TSL), Tangkhul Katamnao Saklong (TKS) and Tangkhul Mayar Ngala Long (TMNL).

In a joint notification issued on March 25, the Tangkhul bodies stated that a joint meeting of the Naga frontal organizations and all the Naga civil society organisations held on March 16 took cognizance of the NPF’s Constitution and manifestos to fight for the rights of the Nagas, thereby unanimously resolved to support the NPF candidate in the forthcoming Lok Sabha Election.

The notification stated that the forthcoming 18th Lok Sabha elections for II - Outer Manipur (MP) Parliamentary constituency is of critical importance as the delimitation exercise is on the table. It is wise and imperative that a Naga MP is represented in the Parliament to represent their interest, it stated.

In view of the necessity to elect a Naga MP to represent the voice of the Nagas in the Parliament, the Presidential Council Meeting of the United Naga Council on October 27, 2023, unanimously resolved to send one consensus candidate for the parliamentary election, 2024.

“As the Lok Sabha election draws near, the UNC convened a joint meeting of all the intending MP candidates and Naga CSOs on February 27, 2024. In the meeting, the members unanimously agreed and gave their signature to support one consensus candidate for the bigger interest of the Nagas and the necessity of sending a Naga representative


NOTIFICATION

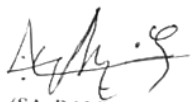
Ukhrul, the 25th March 2024


The forthcoming 18th Lok Sabha II outer Manipur (MP) Parliamentary constituency is of critical importance as the delimitation exercise is on the table. Therefore, it is wise and imperative that a Naga MP is represented in the parliament to represent our interest. For which the Naga People’s process and the agreement thereof under the aegis of the United Naga Council (UNC) for the upcoming 18th Lok Sabha II Outer Manipur (MP) Parliamentary Constituency Election, 2024 is stated below:


1. In view of the necessity to elect a Naga MP to represent the voice of the Nagas in the Parliament, the Presidential Council Meeting of the UNC dated 27th October, 2023, unanimously resolved to send one consensus candidate for the Parliamentary Election, 2024.
2. As the Lok Sabha election draws near, the UNC convened a joint meeting of all the intending MP candidates and Naga CSOs on 27th February, 2024. In the meeting, for the bigger interest of the Nagas and the necessity of sending our representative in the parliament, the members unanimously agreed and gave their signature to support one consensus candidate. Further, it was agreed that all Nagas will support the consensus candidate chosen by the UNC, and that the consensus candidate should also represent the interest and rights of the Nagas in the parliament.
3. In consonance with the decisions above, a joint meeting of the Naga Frontal Organization and all the Naga CSOs, held on 16th March, 2024, took cognizance of the NPF’s Constitution and Manifestos to fight for the rights of the Nagas, thereby unanimously resolved to support the NPF candidate in the forthcoming Lok Sabha Election.


In view of the necessities stated above, the Tangkhul Naga Long and all the Tangkhul Frontal Organization in its joint meeting held on 25th March, 2024, unanimously resolved to support Mr. Kachui Timothy Zimik, to represent the outer Manipur constituency in the parliament. Hence every individual must consolidate our efforts and support this collective decision.


(RS. JOLLYSON)
President In-charge,
Tangkhul Naga Long


(SA. RAMNGANING)
President,
Tangkhul Naga Wungnao Long.


(THINGREIPHI LUNGHARWOSHI)
President,
Tangkhul Shanao Long
(TSL)


(RAMREICHAN KEISHING)
President,
Tangkhul Katamnao Saklong
(TKS)


(THEMMASO FALLANAO)
President,
Tangkhul Mayar Ngala Long
Tangkhul Youth Council

in the parliament,” the organisations said.

It was also agreed that all Nagas would support the consensus candidate chosen by the United Naga Council (apex body of Manipur Nagas) and that the consensus candidate should also represent the interest and rights of the Nagas in the Parliament.

The Tangkhul frontal organisations have appealed to every Tangkhul individual to support the collective decision of the civil bodies.

BJP FIELDS TH BASANTAKUMAR SINGH AS CANDIDATE FOR INNER MANIPUR LOK SABHA SEAT

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided to field Manipur education minister Thounaojam Basantakumar Singh as a candidate for the Inner Manipur parliamentary constituency for Lok Sabha elections, scheduled to go to polls on April 19.

Thounaojam Basantakumar Singh, a retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and the son of former union minister Th Chaoba Singh, currently is an MLA from the Nambol assembly constituency in Imphal West district of Manipur.

In the forthcoming battle for the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha seat, Thounaojam Basantakumar is set to engage in a multi-cornered contest.

His opponents include Congress candidate Dr Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, a professor at the JNU in New Delhi,



Maheshwar Thounaojam, general secretary of the Republican Party of India (Athawale), and Rajkumar Somorendro, also known as Kaiku, representing the Manipur People's Party (MPP).

The election commission of India (ECI) has set March 27 as the deadline for the filing of nominations, marking a crucial phase in the electoral process.

ARMS, AMMOS RECOVERED FROM VBIGS HIDEOUT

A joint team of the Manipur police commandos and Maha Regiment column two busted a base camp of a valley-based insurgent group and recovered a cache of arms, ammo, and explosives in the southern part of Manipur during the past 24 hours.

Acting on specific intelligence on the presence of arms and ammunition, the combined team launched operations at Bishnupur district's Laingoubi areas — Wangoo, and Wangjing, according to a police report issued on Tuesday.

During the search operations, the following items were recovered: one .303 Rifle (modified), one Carbine with an empty magazine, four Number 36 HE Hand Grenade with Tube Launching, one Country Pistol, Ten BP Helmet, 19 Pairs of shoes, 20 Belt, three BP Jacket, five P-Cap, one Bag, two mattresses, Dangri and Camouflage dress (nine shirts, 17 pants and one jacket) and two Carton Boxes of Medical items from Bishnupur District.

The recovered items were later handed over to the concerned Police station, the police added.



This has further exacerbated the nuance attitude of law enforcing agencies in handling the affairs of armed radical group – Arambai Tenggol, who nonchalantly flaunts weapons in full combat gear, harassing, intimidating and making monetary demands to local people. The unchecked activities of Arambai Tenggol has emboldened many esque inimical elements to imitate their behaviours, thereby increasing crime rate in the Imphal valley. If the law enforcing agency has been vigilant against the radical group too – many crime related activities in the valley could be avoided. They are the main protagonist who want to sustained violence in the state of Manipur. Their motive is to gain relevance by taking maximum advantage from this violence.

ARUNACHAL AND MANIPUR MPS WORST PERFORMERS IN 17TH LOK SABHA: ADR

This bit of news might want you to think twice before you go and vote for your candidates this Lok Sabha polls.

According to a report compiled by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), on the performance of MPs in the 17th Lok Sabha, the two MPs from Arunachal Pradesh had the least attendance in the 17th Lok Sabha. On an average they attended 127 of the total 273 sittings.

The two MPs from Tripura attended 173 sittings and are ranked 21st with Arunachal Pradesh MPs at the bottom of the least at No 28. The two Manipur MPs attended 206 sittings and are ranked eighth, as per the ADR report.

The attendance of the 14 MPs from Assam was 215 of the 273 sittings. The Assam MPs are ranked third in the least of MPs attending maximum sittings. The two MPs from Meghalaya are ranked fifth. They attended 212 sittings.

11 MPs from Chhattisgarh and 26 MPs from Gujarat have the highest average attendance in the 17th Lok Sabha. On an average they have attended 216 out of 273 sittings.

As far as asking questions in the Lower House goes, there too the MPs from the Northeast fared poorly, particularly the two MPs from Manipur. They asked the least number of questions. On an average they asked 25 questions while MPs from Assam asked 148 questions, MPs from Arunachal asked 51 questions. The maximum number of 315 questions were asked by 49 MPs from Maharashtra, the ADR report said.

From the Northeast, MP from Assam's Dibrugarh and Minister of State for Petroleum, Rameswar Teli did not ask a single question. His attendance in the Lok Sabha was 90.5 per cent attending 247 of the 273 sittings.



Among the MPs from Northeast, Congress MP from Assam's Nagaon asked the maximum number at 323, his average attendance in the Lower House stood at 81.3 per cent which is 223 sittings. Another Congress MP, Gaurav Gogoi from Kaliabor (contesting from Jorhat this time) asked 221 questions. His attendance was 75.8% attending 207 sittings in the 17th Lok Sabha.

Other Assam MPs - Kripanath Mallah, BJP MP from Karimganj asked 256 questions and attended 195 sittings and AIUDF supremo and party MP from Dhubri, Badruddin Ajmal asked 246 questions. But his attendance has been a poor 49.8% attending just 136 sittings.

Both Mallah and Ajmal are contesting the Lok Sabha polls this time.

Tripura East MP, Rebati Tripura of BJP asked 205 questions with an attendance of 90.5 per cent attending 247 of the 273 sittings.

Dr Lorho P Pfoze, the Outer Manipur MP asked 39 questions and his attendance in the House was 83.5 per cent attending 228 of the 273 sittings.

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The Inner Manipur MP, Dr Ranjan Singh Rajkumar asked 10 questions and his attendance was 67.4% attending 184 sittings.

Agatha Sangma, the NPP MP from Tura in Meghalaya asked 32 questions with an attendance of 75.8% attending 201 sittings. She is contesting for a third time as LS MP from Tura.

Sikkim's Lok Sabha MP Indra Hung Subba of SKM party asked 26 questions and attended 193 sittings with 70.7% attendance.

Mizo National Front MP C Lalrosanga asked 50 questions and attended 170 sittings, the ADR report said.

In 17th Lok Sabha, on an average, 559 MPs have asked 165 questions and attended 189 out of 273 sittings.

Among the political parties, 3 MPs from TDP have the highest average attendance in the 17th Lok Sabha.

On an average they have attended 229 out of 273 sittings.

Among the political parties, the least attendance has been recorded by 2 MPs from AAP. On an average they have attended 57 out of 273 sittings.

5 MPs from NCP have asked the highest number of questions in the 17th Lok Sabha. On an average they have asked 410 questions, the report said.

In the 17th Lok Sabha, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar from BJP, a MP from Balurghat, West Bengal has asked the highest number of questions, that is 596 questions.

ADR is an apolitical and non-partisan non-profit organisation in India.

Source: [NE Live](#)

NAGALAND: RPP BACKS CONGRESS CANDIDATE FOR LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

The Rising People's Party (RPP) has thrown its support behind Nagaland Congress candidate S Supongmeren Jamir for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections scheduled for April 19.

Encouraging the people of Nagaland, party members, and supporters to transcend partisan divides, the RPP urged them to elect a capable leader to represent the interests of the Nagas, endorsing Jamir as their candidate of choice.

In a statement, the RPP announced its decision to endorse the Nagaland Congress candidate, emphasizing the Congress's status as a nationwide party and its commitment, along with its allies, to uphold the core values of inclusivity and diversity, which are integral to the "Soul of India".

Despite its regional focus, the RPP in Nagaland aligns closely with the Congress in terms of its ideology and principles, particularly regarding inclusivity and ethical

conduct in politics.

The RPP expressed confidence in the Congress's ability to lead the ideological battle for the "Idea of India", especially during a period marked by uncertainty and disillusionment.

Asserting that the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections should signal the progressive mind-set of Naga voters, the party underscored the importance of prioritizing people-centric policies and competent leadership for the welfare of Nagaland and the nation. *(Source: NE Now)*



KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION DELHI & NCR FELICITATES DR. T. PHILIP THANGLIENMANG ON PROMOTION TO IAS

In a heartwarming ceremony held in Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi, the Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) Delhi & NCR bestowed honor upon Dr. T. Philip Thanglienmang for his recent elevation from the Delhi, Andaman, and Nicobar Island Civil Services (DANICS) cadre to the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS). The event, attended by a select gathering, served as a tribute to Dr. Thanglienmang's remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication to public service.

The felicitation program, held on March 23, 2024, witnessed an atmosphere of appreciation and admiration as speakers lauded Dr. Thanglienmang's exemplary leadership, professionalism, and commitment to serving the nation. Attendees, including members of the KSO and well-wishers, shared anecdotes illustrating Dr. Thanglienmang's contributions during his tenure in the civil services.

The KSO team extended their heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Thanglienmang, recognizing him as a source of inspiration for young Kuki professionals. They commended his stellar record and emphasized the significance of his promotion as a testament to his dedication and competence.

In a gesture of gratitude, the KSO presented Dr. T. Philip Thanglienmang with a memento symbolizing his outstanding achievements and commitment to public service. The memento, a tangible representation of the community's esteem, served as a token of appreciation for Dr. Thanglienmang's exemplary service to the nation.

The felicitation ceremony concluded with well wishes for Dr. Thanglienmang's continued success in his new role as an IAS officer. Attendees expressed confidence in his ability to excel further and serve as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring civil servants. Dr. Thanglienmang's journey exemplifies the values



of diligence, integrity, and dedication, inspiring individuals to strive for excellence in their respective fields.

The felicitation of Dr. T. Philip Thanglienmang by the Kuki Students' Organisation Delhi & NCR stands as a testament to his outstanding achievements and serves as a reminder of the importance of honoring individuals who demonstrate exemplary leadership and dedication. Dr. Thanglienmang's elevation to the IAS is not only a personal milestone but also a source of pride for the Kuki community and a beacon of hope for future generations.



The Narendra Modi government frequently posits India as a 'Vishwaguru' or world leader. How the world sees India is often lost in this branding exercise.

Outside India, global voices are monitoring and critiquing human rights violations in India and the rise of Hindutva. We present here fortnightly highlights of what a range of actors – from UN experts and civil society groups to international media and parliamentarians of many countries – are saying about the state of India's democracy.

Read this fortnightly roundup for March 1-15, 2024.

International media reports

The Economist, London

Tracing history and today's context, the Economist published an explainer of Hindutva on March 7. Hindutva "seeks to equate Indianness with Hinduism." While the BJP pushes "Hindu-nationalist priorities" such as the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and laws against cow slaughter and religious conversion, its critics say non-Hindu Muslims, especially Muslims, are being marginalised as "second-class citizens" and "Hindu-nationalist vigilante groups" are operating with impunity.

Reuters, Washington DC

Kanishka Singh reports on March 12 that in response to the Indian government's notification of rules to enforce the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, a day before, the US State Department indicated that they will "closely monitor" its implementation and noted that "respect for religious freedom and equal treatment under the law for all communities are fundamental democratic principles". The UN Office reiterated its view that the law is "fundamentally discriminatory in nature".

South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

Amy Sood writes on March 12 that activists are alarmed at India's move to deport thousands of refugees back to Myanmar, as the military there intensifies its fight against ethnic armed groups and pro-democracy rebels. Since Myanmar's military coup in 2021, thousands of civilians and defecting Myanmar troops have taken shelter in the northeastern Indian states of Manipur and Mizoram through free movement policies at the border. Blaming the refugees for ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, India is now reversing these policies. John Quinley III, Director of the international

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human rights group Fortify Rights, says “this is the worst time to send anyone back to Myanmar” and the decision to send them back “is against international human rights law”.

CBC News, Toronto

Mark Gollom writes on March 13 that at the behest of the Indian government, YouTube has blocked access to a documentary by Fifth Estate, CBC’s documentary programme, on the fatal shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar last June. X (formerly Twitter) told CBC that it too has received a legal removal demand from the Indian government on the same story, but a decision has not yet been reached.

Le Monde, Paris

An investigative report by Sophie Landrin and Carole Dieterich published on March 13 focuses on noted human rights activist Harsh Mander and goes on to find that “under the impetus of the nationalist prime minister, the executive orchestrated a radical campaign against NGOs and human rights movements.” This “witch hunt” also spreads to the media and universities.

Parliamentarians advocate

Member of the House of Lords, Baroness D’Souza, on March 14, raised a question in the British Parliament under the title “Reported threats to democratic freedoms in India,” prompting strong debate. The Baroness said “the BJP policy of Hindu nationalism is increasingly invading press freedom, political opposition, and civil society space” and the use of anti-terror and sedition laws, among others “all hint at an electoral autocracy in the world’s largest nominal democracy”. Other peers questioned the British government on how it has been holding the Indian government to account on a range of topics including the situation in Manipur, violence against Christians and discrimination against Dalits.

Experts say

Volker Türk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in a March 4 update to the UN Human Rights

Council that he is concerned about the “restrictions on civic space, hate speech and discrimination against minorities, especially Muslims” in India as it heads to national elections this year.

Amnesty International released a statement on March 5 calling the “re-acquittal” of human rights defender G.N. Saibaba “a triumph of justice over continued repression.” It pointed to the “routine use” of the anti-terror law UAPA “as a tool to intimidate, harass and target activists like G.N. Saibaba” and called for “the immediate and unconditional release of all the other human rights defenders and activists” similarly “arbitrarily detained”.

A group of United Nations independent experts, part of the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, released a statement on March 7 raising their alarm that “attacks on minorities, media and civil society in India” are “likely to worsen” in the run-up to India’s impending national elections. They call on India to “fully” implement its human rights obligations and “reverse” the “erosion of human rights”.

The International Crisis Group released a commentary on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir on March 8, pointing to a “substantial gap” between the Indian government’s claims of “peace” and the actual situation on the ground. Militant activity has been pushed “deep underground” and “not a week goes by without an insurgent attack or a deadly encounter between insurgents and security forces”. It notes that many Kashmiris feel the Modi government has turned Kashmir into a “police state.” All political work is “severely curtailed” and journalists are being muzzled. The authorities must address the lack of voice in the region’s affairs including by holding elections.

Friends of Democracy, a new global effort to connect citizens concerned about the rise of authoritarianism around the world, hosted a conversation on March 9 between recently

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appointed upper house Member of Parliament (Trinamool Congress), and former journalist, Sagarika Ghose with Dr. Irfan Nooruddin of Georgetown University. In the context of Hindu nationalism, they discussed challenges facing Indian opposition leaders, including the use of anti-corruption tools to undermine Indian opposition.

Responding to the operationalization of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, Amnesty International called it “a blow to the Indian constitutional values of equality and religious non-discrimination and inconsistent and incompatible with India’s international human rights obligations” in a March 14 statement. The government has failed to “listen to a multitude of voices critical of the CAA”. Amnesty notes that the CAA also expands the criteria for cancellation of the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration as “another weapon” to “target and punish dissenting voices”. It demands the immediate repeal of the law.

A new book by Alpa Shah, Professor of Anthropology at the London School of Economics, titled *The Incarcerations: Bhima Koregaon and the Search for Democracy in India* alleges, on the basis of interviews with cyber security analysts, that evidence used to incarcerate 16 people in the Elgar Parishad case was “likely to have been implanted remotely through a hacker-for-hire mercenary gang infrastructure” and that an Investigating Officer on the case worked with the hackers to plant evidence in the computers of at least three of the accused.

Open Doors’ World Watch List 2024 ranked India as 11th in their latest annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the most severe persecution. Published last month, the report terms anti-Christian persecution in India as “extreme”. It also highlights the targeting of Christians during the ethno-religious violence in Manipur as well as during mob attacks in Chhattisgarh, both in 2023.

The Pew Research Center recently released the findings of its survey on the popularity of representative democracy — and authoritarianism — around the world.

Among its findings on India are that although people want democracy to be more representative, 82% said technocracy was at least somewhat good, 72% said military rule was at least somewhat good and 67% thought it was a good thing for a strong leader to be unconstrained by legislative or judicial interference. The share of the public that supports authoritarian systems was highest in India (85%) and lowest in Sweden (8%), the median being 31%.

The V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Democracy Report 2024 observes that a “wave of autocratisation is observable globally”. India, with 18% of the world’s population, “accounts for about half of the population living in autocratising countries.” There has been sharp autocratisation in India from 2013, putting it at one of the top ten in recent times. It notes that India is no longer termed a democracy, but “dropped down to electoral autocracy in 2018” and remains there at the end of 2023.

Indian diaspora

International Solidarity for Academic Freedom in India (InSAF India) supported by several international diasporic groups, including from Canada, UK, Europe, and USA, organised an online event to celebrate the release of Prof. GN Saibaba, Prashant Rahi, Hem Mishra, Vijay Tirki, and Mahesh Tirki, on March 10. InSAF India spoke about the need to honour them and their families, communities, and legal teams, and to commemorate the custodial death of co-accused Pandu Narote. The meeting was addressed by speakers from activism, law, literature, and art. Present at the event, Professor G.N. Saibaba emphasised the resilience of the imprisoned Adivasi and Dalit-Bahujan in prisons and their efforts to educate themselves against all odds, and on his work as a teacher with these co-prisoners.

First published by [The Wire](#)

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Ashok Swain
@ProfAshokSwain

Follow

'The Young Kuki' & 'Kuki Mothers' have decided to boycott the Parliamentary election in Manipur - No doubt, Modi regime continues to inflict violence & oppression on Kuki tribals. But, boycotting election only helps the criminal regime that perpetrates the violence & oppression.

1:47 pm · 26 Mar 24 · 2,377 Views



Asma ✓
@asmatasleem13

Follow

More power to the women of Manipur who are still trying to cope with trauma, without the support of BJP government and its anchors.



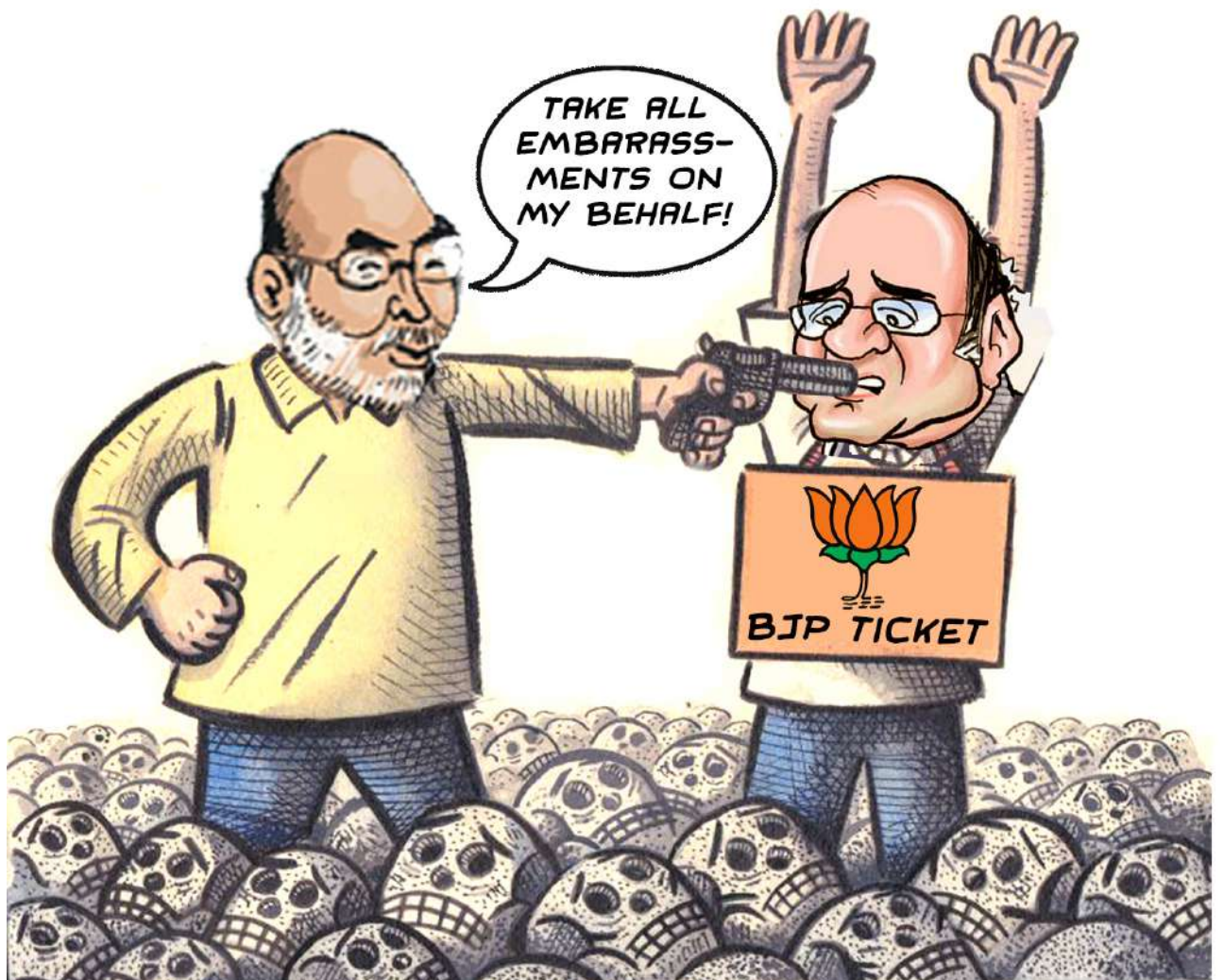
Rubika Liyaquat ✓ @RubikaLiyaquat · 1d

More power to you Kangana. It's disheartening to see a woman doing it to another woman.. lots of love ❤️

12:19 am · 26 Mar 24 · 107K Views



THE LOSING SCAPEGOAT





Why do we fight this war?

- Hillsman J. Tearsworth

Sometimes we all may have wondered,
Which road will this war lead us to?
What awaits us beyond the finish line?
What will we achieve after the last battle?
Will we get better or worse after it's over?

Neither you nor I know all the answers,
But I do know one thing for sure:
If we don't fight this war to the fullest,
And lose it anyhow, we will regret it forever,
And our children will live in shame all their lives.

But if we fight this war to our best with unity,
We will never remain the same after it's done.
Our children will never be in shame again;
Instead, they will hold their heads up with pride
And will never regard themselves as inferiors.

One day, our children will be proud to say -
"Our forefathers never gave up their fights for
Our dignity, honor, and our land,
So that we can now reap the fruits of freedom
For this is what they had fought the war for!"