

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Tingpibung RELIEF CENTRE

Tingpibung Community Hall,  
Saikul Sub-Division, Sadar Hills

Managed by  
District Administration &  
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

**Total Inmates Registered: 84**





## 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.



# SANS ANY KUKI CANDIDATE, TOTAL OF ELEVEN CANDIDATES FILE NOMINATIONS FOR TWO PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IN MANIPUR

On the final day of filing nominations, six candidates for Inner Manipur and three for Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituencies have filed their nomination papers to contest in the first phase of the upcoming 18th Lok Sabha Elections which is scheduled to be held on April 19, 2024.

With this, a total of seven candidates are in the fray for the 1-Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency seat and four candidates will contest for 2-Outer Manipur Parliamentary seat.

As the Kuki-Zo bodies have announced their abstention from contesting the elections due to the plight they are facing in the wake of the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom, the candidates comprise mainly from the Meitei and Naga communities who will be contesting the ensuing 18th Lok Sabha Elections. The Kuki bodies, however, urged their people to franchise their right to vote during the elections.

The candidates who filed their nominations for Inner Manipur seat today included Maheshwar Thounaojam, representing Republican Party of India Athawale (RPI-A); Thounaojam Basanta Kumar Singh, representing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); Dr. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, representing Indian National Congress (INC); Moirangthem Totomshana Nongshaba, representing Rashtriya Janhit Sangharsh Party (RJSP); Haorongbam Sarat Singh, Independent candidate, and Ngasepam Nilakanta Singh, representing Universal Family Party. Earlier, Rajkumar Somendro Singh @ Kaiku had already filed his nomination paper representing the Manipur People's Party (MPP) on March 25.

Meanwhile, three candidates from the Outer Manipur seat, including former Congress MLA from Ukhrul A/C, Alfred Kanngam Arthur, have officially filed their nominations at the Returning Officer's office in Thoubal district today. The two other candidates who have filed today for the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency on an independent ticket included Dr. Alyson Abonmai from the Zeliangrong community and former United



Naga Council (UNC) President Kho John from the Poumai community. Dr Alyson Abonmai, popularly known as 'The Gospel Cowboy,' was earlier seeking a ticket from the BJP party. However, the saffron party had already declared its support to Naga People's Front (NPF) candidate, Kachui Timothy Zimik, a retired IRS, who had already filed his nomination papers on March 25.

The nomination papers filed for all the candidates will be taken up for scrutiny at 11 a.m. tomorrow i.e., the 28th of March, Thursday at the respective Offices of the Returning Officers, for the two Parliamentary Constituencies; and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures is the 30th of March, 2024.

The elections for the first phase for 102 Lok Sabha seats in 17 States and four Union Territories will be held on April 19, 2024.

The first phase polls includes 39 seats of Tamil Nadu, 12 seats of Rajasthan, 8 seats of Uttar Pradesh, 6 seats of Madhya Pradesh, 5 seats each in Uttarakhand, Assam and Maharashtra, 4 seats of Bihar, three seats of West Bengal, 2 seats each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and 1 seat each in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.

Notification for the second phase will be issued tomorrow for 89 Lok Sabha seats in different States and Union Territories.

# GLOBAL KUKI-ZO WOMEN CALL FOR BOYCOTTING 18TH LOK SABHA ELECTION; SUBMIT LETTER TO ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

The Global Kuki-Zo women have called for boycotting the 18th Lok Sabha elections in 2024 as a sign of resentment towards the current administration both at the national and state level.

In this regard, a representation addressed to the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Rajiv Kumar, was submitted on March 27, citing various reasons on the decision to boycott the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

In the letter, the women representatives said, "This decision is a call for urgent and sincere engagement from the government with our community to address grievances and work towards a just and equitable solution," adding that the decision did not come lightly, but as a culmination of their disillusionment and lack of trust in the current administrations, both at the national and state levels.

The crux of their decision to boycott the election stems from the following unresolved issues:

**1. Pogrom and Injustice:** The absence of justice for the ethnic cleansing that has resulted in the displacement of over 41,425 Kuki-Zo from Imphal, along with the lack of prosecution for the rape and murder of more than 20 Kuki-Zomi-Hmar women, and 167 confirmed deaths in total thus far has perpetuated an environment where impunity prevails.

**2. Destruction of Homes and Places of Worship:** The extensive destruction inflicted upon our community, with 7,000+ houses destroyed, 200+ villages and 360+ churches and synagogues burnt - including a Torah scroll, 188 churches vandalized, and over 858 vehicles destroyed, speaks volumes about the scale of the conflict and the lack of effective remedial action.

**3. Looted Arms and Unabated Violence:** The failure of the Government of India to address the looting of arms from police armories by the Arambai Tenggols has had devastating consequences. These arms are

To,

Shri, Rajiv Kumar,  
Chief Election Commissioner of India  
Election Commission of India,  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road,  
New Delhi - 110001

Subject: **Decision to Boycott the Upcoming Lok Sabha Election 2024 by the Global Kuki-Zomi-Hmar Women Community of Manipur**

Dear Sir,

We write to you as representatives of the Global Kuki-Zomi-Hmar Women community of Manipur, a community that has long been an integral part of the rich cultural mosaic of India. With a heavy heart we would like to inform you of the decision of the women in our community to exercise their constitutional and legal right to boycott the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This decision does not come lightly, but as a culmination of their disillusionment and lack of trust in the current administrations, both at the national and state levels.

The crux of our decision stems from the following unresolved issues:

**1. Pogrom and Injustice:** The absence of justice for the ethnic cleansing that has resulted in the displacement of over 41,425 Kuki-Zomi-Hmar from Imphal, along with the lack of prosecution for the rape and murder of more than 20 Kuki-Zomi-Hmar women, and 167 confirmed deaths in total thus far has perpetuated an environment where impunity prevails.

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**3. Looted Arms and Unabated Violence:** The failure of the Government of India to address the looting of arms from police armories by the Arambai Tenggols has had devastating consequences. These arms are wielded against innocent Kuki-Zo perpetuating a climate of fear and violence that undermines any sense of security and peace.

**4. Lack of Rebuilding, Rehabilitation and Humanitarian Aid:** The lack of essential support for over 41,425 displaced Kuki-Zomi-Hmar people demonstrates a neglect of the humanitarian conditions and dignity of our people.

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**4. Lack of Rebuilding, Rehabilitation and Humanitarian Aid:** The lack of essential support for over 41,425 displaced Kuki-Zo people demonstrates a neglect of the humanitarian conditions and dignity of our people.

**5. Educational Deprivation:** The irredeemable disruption of education for Kuki-Zo students signals a grave oversight of the rights and futures of the youngest and brightest members of our community.

*Contd.*



*Contd.*

6. Absence of Political Dialogue: The government's persistent avoidance of political negotiations with Kuki-Zo leaders disregards the democratic principle of dialogue, mutual respect, and the resolution of disputes through peaceful means.

7. Ignored Demand for Separate Administration: The continued negligence of our demand for a separate administration under the Indian constitution disregards the distinct cultural identity and governance needs of our community. The ground reality clearly suggests that the separation of the Kuki-Zo people from the Meitei community is total and complete. We only need the administrative mechanism to follow suit to enable us to live in peace with our neighbors.

8. Discrimination and Disenfranchisement of IDPs outside Manipur: There are no special arrangements

made for internally displaced persons (IDPs) outside the state of Manipur to exercise their right to vote. This discriminatory treatment is a denial of their constitutional rights that are tantamount to their disenfranchisement which will be a blot on the credibility of the democratic process in India.

The Kuki-Zo women alleged that the above points of their concerns highlighted a pattern of neglect and unwillingness on the part of the Government of India to engage with the Kuki-Zo people constructively.

"Participating in the upcoming elections, under these circumstances, would only serve to legitimize and normalize the continued marginalization and suffering of Kuki-Zo community," the letter added.

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## MANIPUR CONFLICT IS A WARNING TO ENTIRE NORTHEAST STATES: ANTONY

Matthew Antony, the national spokesperson of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) and media coordinator for the North East Region (NER), launched a fierce critique against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging personal corruption and a desire to maintain power through a dictatorial approach.

Addressing a press conference at the Shunammite Inn in Dimapur, Antony expanded on the concept of corruption, highlighting its multifaceted nature beyond mere financial wrongdoing. He emphasized the urgency of addressing injustices faced by various segments of Indian society, including the Nagas, across different domains such as economics, social dynamics, and politics. Antony underscored the Congress party's persistent opposition to the BJP-led government at the Centre since the announcement of the 18th Lok Sabha election.

Additionally, Antony shared his concerns about the prolonged ethnic conflict in Manipur, which has adversely affected countless lives. He lamented the situation where tribal groups are embroiled in conflict while the state government appears powerless against insurgents.



Antony criticized Modi's apparent lack of attention towards Manipur, contrasting it with the prime minister's involvement in international affairs and domestic election campaigns. He questioned Modi's priorities and whether he was indifferent to the suffering in Manipur, suggesting a need for urgent intervention to bring about peace.

Highlighting the contrast, Antony recalled former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Manipur during the Congress regime, which fostered trust and confidence among stakeholders towards peace-building efforts.

# MANIPUR GOVT DECLARES EASTER SUNDAY AS WORKING DAY FOR GOVT OFFICES; POUMAI STUDENT BODY CONDEMNS

Aimed at ensuring the smooth functioning of government offices in the state, the Governor of Manipur Anusuiya Uikey has declared March 30 and 31, 2024, Saturday and Sunday, as working days.

The decision covers all Government Offices, including Public Sector Undertakings/Corporations/Autonomous Bodies/Societies under the State Government of Manipur, as per an order.

The official order, numbered LIB-101/1/2022-GAD-GAD-Part(1), was issued by the Governor's Secretariat, issued by Deputy Secretary (GAD), highlighting the importance of maintaining operational continuity during the crucial final days of the Financial Year 2023-24.

However, 31st March falls on Sunday which a sacred day for Christian community. The day is also 'Easter Sunday' which Christians observe as 'Resurrection Day.'

Reacting strongly against this, Poumai Naga Tsiidoumai Me, an apex student union of Poumai Naga Tribe has expressed strong disapproval on the state government's declaration of March 30 and March 31 as working days for all government offices in Manipur.

The Poumai Naga Tsiidoumai Me issued a statement in condemnation of the order and urged the government to withdraw this order promptly and demonstrate a commitment to fostering harmony and inclusivity among all religious communities.

"Anything less is utterly unacceptable and threatens the fabric of our democratic society. Let us uphold the spirit of tolerance and understanding by embracing diversity and respecting religious freedoms," the Union stated.

The apex student union of Poumai Naga stated that they strongly disapprove the government notification declaring 30 March 30 and March 31 as "Working days" for all government offices in Manipur.

"The decision exhibits blatant negligence towards the Christian community, particularly during a time when Christians worldwide are devoutly observing the sacred Easter celebrations', the statement added.



Stating that the Easter celebration is not merely a time for festivities but holds profound significance for prayer and familial bonding, the student union added that the government's disregard for such significant religious observance is unacceptable.

The Poumai Naga Tsiidoumai Me stated that it is imperative for the government to understand that governance entails respecting and accommodating the diverse religious beliefs of its citizens, not just at the convenience of one section.

The state government's move undermines the religious freedoms and sentiments of the Christian population. The youth and student communities alongside all right-thinking individuals vehemently oppose such negligence and demand immediate revocation of this discriminatory order, the union added.

The union further added that the government's pretext of ensuring smooth office operations during the financial year-end is feeble and biased.

"If their concern truly lies in maintaining efficiency, why not designate recent nationwide celebrations like Holi or festivals like Yaoshang as working days? Why specifically encroach upon Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, globally revered days for Christians?" the statement said.

Such policy reeks of intolerance and provocation, eroding the trust of the people in the government's ability to safeguard their rights, it added.



## ENPO CALLS FOR 12-HOUR SHUTDOWN IN EASTERN NAGALAND

In view of the Eastern Nagaland public meeting to be held at Tuensang headquarters on Thursday (March 28), the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) has called for a 12-hour total shutdown in entire Eastern Nagaland region from 6am of Thursday (March 28).

The district administration, police, paramilitary forces, power department, public health engineering department, fire and emergency services, medical emergencies, media and delegates who will be coming to attend the meeting have been exempted from the purview of the shutdown.

The meeting was called to discuss the government of India's delay in creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT) before the announcement of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections with all the 20 legislators of Eastern Nagaland, tribal bodies and others concerned and steps to be taken concerning the issue.

On March 05, the ENPO, along with other tribal bodies, had called "public emergency" all over Eastern Nagaland comprising six districts of Mon, Tuensang, Longleng, Kiphire, Shamator and Noklak against the delay by the Centre to settle the offer for creation of Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT).



At a meeting on March 19, they had also unanimously resolved to go by their February 23, resolution not to participate in any central and state election against the delay and refrain from casting votes in these elections.

Meanwhile, chairing the Mon District Planning and Development Board meeting in his office on Wednesday (March 27), Mon deputy commissioner Ajit Kumar Verma directed all the heads of offices in the district to be well-prepared and effectively discharge their respective duties for the successful conduct of the forthcoming general election.

Source: [NE Now](#)



**Voting in rigged elections under dictators is like watching a batter pull off a single on the last ball. You know who's going to take the strike!**

*– Vishwajeet Gudadhe*



# BOOK LAUNCH

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2024  
KCC HALL, KANGGUI

Join us for the launch of the book

# THE INEVITABLE SPLIT

VOLUME - III

compiled and published by  
**KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION**  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

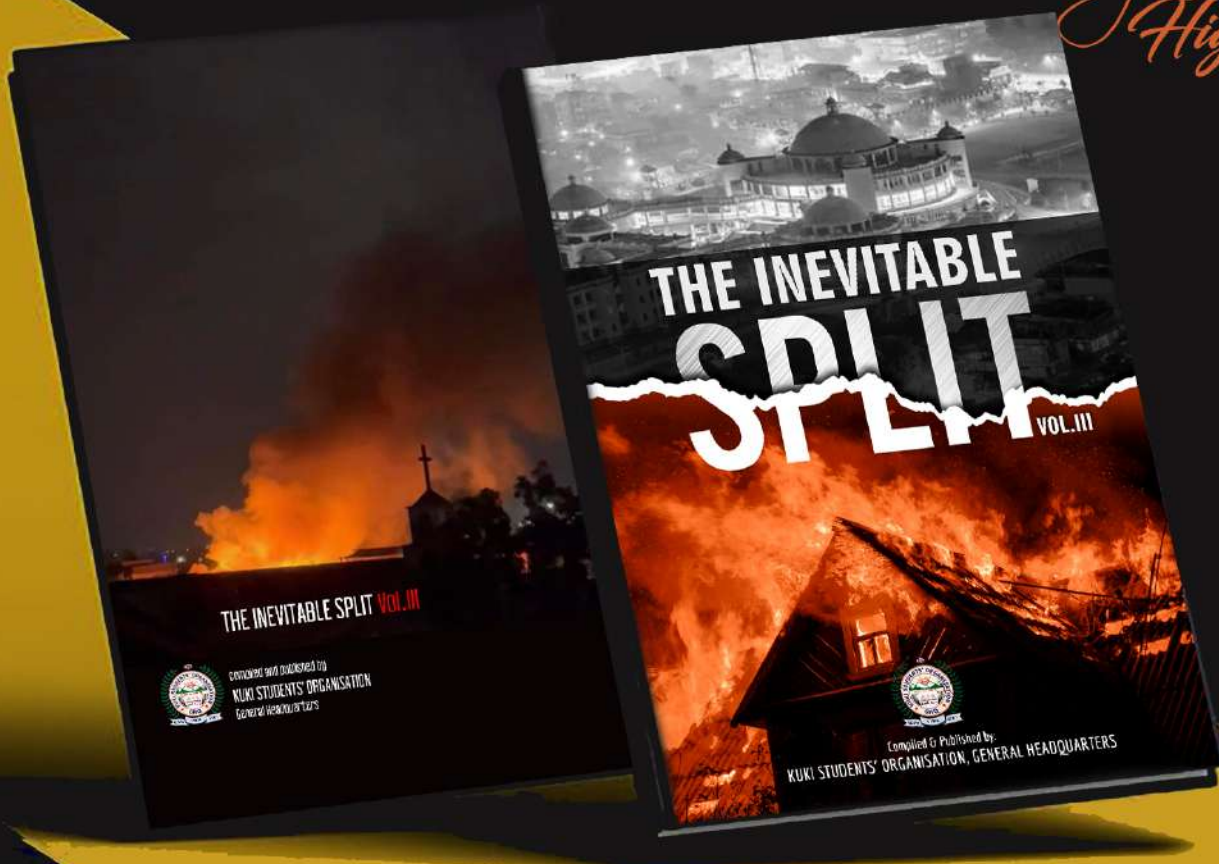
## Program Highlight

Dedication Minister  
Rev. Dr. SATKAI, Semang Pu

Releasing of the Book  
PU HAOKHOLET KIPGEN  
Hon'ble MLA, Saitu A/C

Welcome Speech  
Pu TONGHEN, Chairman STC  
About the Book  
Pu HENKAI, former KSO-GHQ

Speech  
Pu Ch. AJANG, President, KIM  
Pu DK THANGBOI  
Member STC



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PAPERBACK COVER & HARD COVER





NEWS ANALYSIS

## Reading Between the Lines: What do the Advisory Notices Issued by KIM and ITLF Signify?

The recent advisory from the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) and Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) advising the Kuki community against contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha elections has ignited debate and raised questions about the interplay between identity politics and electoral politics in the region.

However, one has to read between the lines of these advisories to understand the sentiments and grievances of the Kuki people.

The directives of the two Kuki top bodies comes in the midst of heightened ethnic tensions and political uncertainty in Manipur, where communities grapple with issues of representation, autonomy, and historical grievances. Against this backdrop, the advisory to abstain from electoral participation reflects deep-seated concerns about the potential for exacerbating existing fault lines and inflaming communal tensions.

The Kuki community, one of the prominent ethnic groups in Manipur, has a long history of struggle for recognition, rights, and representation within the state's political framework. Like many other indigenous communities in the region, the Kuki people have faced marginalization, discrimination, and socio-economic disparities, fuelling aspirations for greater autonomy and political self-determination. They have been tagged as illegal migrants, foreigners, Burmese, and what not,

to discredit their political aspirations.

In this context, the advisory can be seen as a cautionary measure aimed at preserving peace, harmony, and unity among different ethnic groups in Manipur. It is also a display of frustration shown against the lackadaisical attitude of the government in addressing the plight of the Kukis.

By urging the Kuki community to refrain from contesting the Lok Sabha elections, the two Kuki bodies seeks to avoid the potential to exacerbate existing tensions and deepen divisions along ethnic lines.

However, the advisory issued by KIM and ITLF has sparked controversy and drawn criticism from some quarters, with questions raised about its implications for democratic values, political rights, and the freedom of choice. Critics argue that electoral participation is a fundamental democratic right guaranteed to all citizens, and any attempt to curtail or influence this right undermines the principles of democracy and pluralism.

This critic's argument fails to substantiate the stand point of the two Kuki bodies and the Kuki

*Contd.*



**Contd.**

people in general as many fail to read between the lines and do not want to understand the reason behind this advisory notices.

The two organizations have been dissatisfied with the state government policies, and they feel that participating in elections legitimizes a flawed system or unfair practices.

The Kuki people in general, and the two organizations in particular, believed that contesting the lone Lok Sabha seat for the hill areas of Manipur do not adequately represent the interests of the community. Moreover, they feel marginalized or ignored by current dispensation.

The aims of the two organizations are not merely successes in electoral politics but to establish a self-governed administration within the framework of the Indian Constitution which they believe cannot be achieved through participating in elections alone. Refrain from the electoral process is a way to pressurise the authorities to address their demands.

The Kuki people viewed not contesting elections as a form of non-violent protest against perceived injustices or grievances. This effectively allows the Kuki community to express their discontent and mobilize support for their cause without resorting to violence.

Understanding well the motive behind the advisory of two Kuki bodies, it has been heeded by the Kuki community as no one filed nomination paper for the II-Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, a seat reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. The Kuki community's decision in paying heed to the advisory notice underscores the delicate balance between collective identity and individual rights. While collective action and solidarity are essential for advancing the interests of marginalized communities, individual autonomy and freedom of choice must also be respected and upheld in a democratic society. However, all this has been sidelined by the Kuki community for the larger interest of their community, at the moment.

The ITLF's advisory also sheds light on the broader context of political mobilization and conflict resolution

in Manipur. Ethnic tensions and rivalries, often exacerbated by historical grievances and socio-economic disparities, continue to shape the state's political landscape, posing challenges to peace-building, reconciliation, and inclusive development.

In this context, the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as a mediator and arbiter of ethnic tensions highlights the importance of dialogue, engagement, and conflict resolution mechanisms in addressing underlying grievances and fostering mutual understanding among different communities. By advocating for restraint and moderation in electoral politics, the ITLF seeks to promote dialogue and reconciliation as pathways to sustainable peace and coexistence.

As Manipur prepares for the Lok Sabha elections, the advisory serves as a timely reminder of the need for inclusive and participatory democracy, where the voices and aspirations of all communities are heard and respected. While electoral politics can be a powerful tool for expressing grievances and effecting change, it must be exercised with caution and responsibility, mindful of its potential to either bridge or widen the fault lines of identity and ethnicity.

In addition, the KIM and Indigenous ITLF advisory urging the Kuki community to refrain from contesting the Lok Sabha elections in Manipur reflects the complex interplay of identity politics, electoral democracy, and ethnic tensions in the region. As Manipur navigates through the challenges of political representation and communal harmony, it is imperative to uphold democratic principles, foster dialogue, and promote inclusive governance to build a more peaceful and prosperous future for all its citizens.

Overall, the Kuki community chose to abstain from contesting Lok Sabha elections as a strategic decision to protest against perceived injustices and to assert their political rights and demands.



# THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



**Dr Jwala Gurunath**   
@DrJwalaG

Follow

Gujarat 2002

Delhi 2020

Manipur 2023

No attempt by govt to stop a state burn!ng since months and PM stopped a war according to a funny video 😄

#NoVoteToBJP

11:51 am · 27 Mar 24 · 1,701 Views



**Govindra S Hunjan**  
@govindrahunjan

We hope the Manipur Govt. reviews its egregious order, considering its deep & profound implications.

A thoughtful reconsideration could bridge gaps & foster unity.

But a thoughtless implementation will only antagonise the minority Christians & go against all peace initiatives.



**Savio Rodrigues** @PrinceArihan · 36m

It is my earnest appeal to @AmitShah and the Chief Minister of Manipur @NBirenSingh to relook at its decision or make an exception for people belonging to the Christian community in Manipur on the occasion of Easter Sunday which is a solemn religious occasion for the Christians...

[Show more](#)

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR  
SECRETARIAT: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

### ORDERS

Imphal, the 27th March, 2024

No. LIB-101/1/2022-GAD-GAD-Part(1) : The Governor of Manipur is pleased to declare 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and 31<sup>st</sup> (Sunday) March, 2024 as working days for all Government Offices including Public Sector Undertakings/Corporations/Autonomous Bodies/Societies under the State Government of Manipur for smooth functioning of Offices in the last few days of the Financial Year (2023-24).

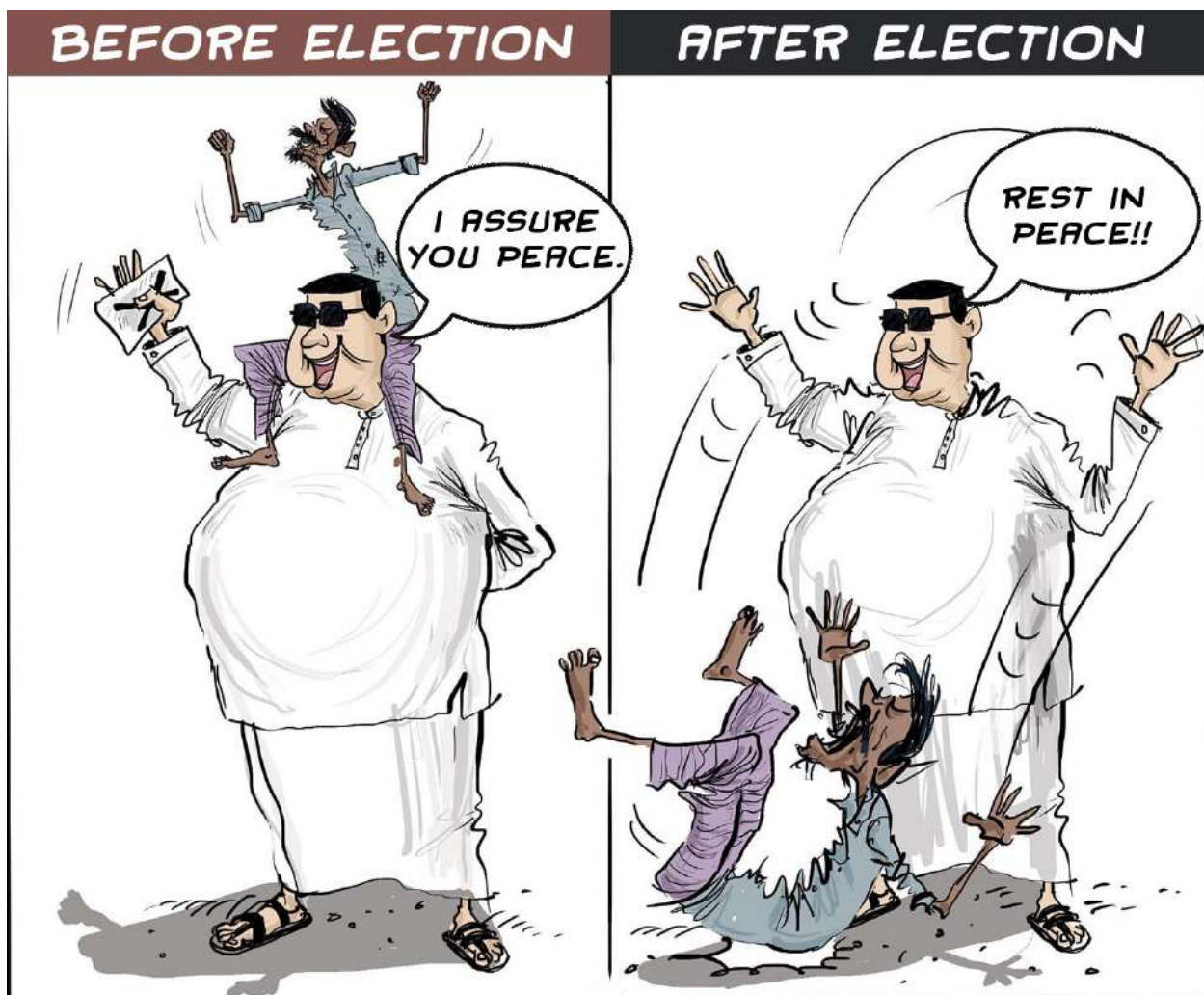
This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

By Orders & in the name of the Governor,

(Angom Heera Singh)  
Deputy Secretary (GAD), Government of Manipur



**IT'S  
ELECTION  
SEASON.  
STAY ALERT!**







# Heroes of the Dark

- *Hemminlal Touthang*

In the silence of the storm they stand,  
Warriors of frontline, hand in hand.  
With courage forged in hearts of fire,  
They face the darkness, never to tire

Their armour not of steel, but of resolve,  
In the battle for life, they evolve.  
Each step they take, a testament of grace,  
as they navigate the shadows, they embrace.

Through trials and tears, they remain steadfast.  
Guided by duty, their strength unsurpassed.  
In the face of fear, they find their light,  
their bravery shining, fierce and bright.

They are the guardians of the vulnerable,  
Their sacrifice, a beacon unforgettable.  
For every life they touch, a story told,  
In their courage humanity unfolds.

So let us honor these warriors true,  
For all they endure, for all they do.  
In the frontline's embrace, they stand tall,  
Heroes in the storm answering the call