

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



DOMKHOHOI HAOKIP (70 YEARS)

W/O (L) SEIJANG HAOKIP

ADDRESS: KHOKEN, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 9TH JUNE, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KHOKEN, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
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.

ARMS LOOTING CONTINUES IN IMPHAL VALLEY: SECURITY BREACH AT MLA'S FARMHOUSE

The arms looting in Manipur's Imphal Valley took a troubling turn once again on Tuesday evening when armed miscreants targeted a farmhouse owned by MLA Kh Joykishan Singh. The incident, which occurred around 8:00 PM at Awang Leikinthabi under Sekmai Police Station in Imphal West district, saw the assailants overpowering the Village Defense Force (VDF) personnel and stealing three SLR rifles along with four loaded magazines.

The latest incident adds to a troubling pattern of weapon thefts in the region. This is not the first time arms have been looted in Imphal Valley; during the initial stages of the violence that erupted in May 2023, several government armories were targeted by Meitei armed radical groups.

While the exact number of stolen weapons remains unclear, reports indicate that a significant quantity of service weapons and ammunition has been taken from various sources, including the 7MR, 3IRB, 6IRB, 8IRB, Kakching district police, and the Manipur Police Training College (MPTC) in Pangei. On May 4, 2023, armed radicals looted a substantial amount of arms and ammunition from the MPTC armoury amid the ethnic conflict.

In another incident earlier this year, on February 14, an armed miscreant from the Meitei community was killed, and three others were injured during a confrontation with security forces. The group had attempted to loot weapons from an IRB camp and storm a police camp in Imphal East district. Additionally, six individuals were arrested for their involvement in looting weapons from the 5th IRB camp at Chingarel. Reports from the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) back then claimed that nearly 200 weapons and 20,000 rounds of ammunition were stolen, although police have not confirmed these figures.

In a related development, over 2,000 women from Pangei took an unprecedented stand on June 23, 2023, by blocking the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)



team's entry into the MPTC. The CBI was there to investigate the massive arms and ammunition theft from the armoury, but the women's protest forced the team to leave without conducting their investigation.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against five accused persons in a case related to the loot of arms and ammunition from the Manipur Police Training College (MPTC) in Imphal's Pangei on May 4 last year.

Among those named in the chargesheet, which has been submitted before a Guwahati court in Assam, are Moirangthem Anand Singh, Athokpam Kajit alias Kishorjit, Loukrakpam Michael Mangangcha alias Michael, Konthoujam Romojit Meitei alias Romojit, and Keisham Johnson alias Jhonson.

Interestingly, Moirangthem Anand Singh is alleged to be a former member of the proscribed People's Liberation Army of Manipur and Kangleipak Communist Party (Noyon), while the remaining are believed to be overground workers of valley-based banned terror outfits.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on March 5 this year filed a chargesheet before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Kamrup (Metro), Guwahati, against seven accused in a case related to loot of arms and ammunition from the Bishnupur police armoury during the Manipur ethnic violence last year.

LEADER OF NAGALAND'S RISING PEOPLE'S PARTY CALLS FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION FOR KUKIS IN MANIPUR

In a recent appearance on 'The Pipy Show,' Joel Naga, President of the Rising People's Party of Nagaland, underscored the urgent need for a separate administration for the Kukis in Manipur. His comments come amid ongoing tensions and violence that have dramatically affected the Kuki community in the region.

Naga's statement reflects a growing consensus that the Kukis, who have been at the center of violent clashes with the Meitei majority since May 3, 2023, require a separate administrative framework to ensure their safety and well-being. He argued that the current situation in Manipur is untenable, and that a separate administration for the Kukis might be necessary to restore peace.

The conflict, which began with widespread violence and alleged state-sponsored ethnic cleansing, has led to significant displacement and loss within the Kuki community. Naga criticized both local and national authorities for their handling of the situation, asserting that the government's response has been insufficient.

"The Kukis and Meiteis cannot continue to coexist peacefully under the current conditions," Naga said. "The government of India must act promptly to establish a separate administration for the Kukis, as this is the only viable solution for lasting peace."

Naga also took aim at misinformation regarding the oaths taken by elected representatives, refuting claims that legislators swore to protect the territorial integrity of Manipur specifically. He clarified that their oaths are to uphold the integrity of India as a whole, and it is up to the central government to decide on matters of state reorganization under Article 3 of the Indian Constitution.



Since May 3, 2023, the day on which state-sponsored ethnic cleansing against the Kukis began, a separate administration has been the focal point of the Kuki movement. The Kukis were chased away from the Imphal Valley—the capital of Manipur—where many Kuki government officials also reside.

As the Kukis no longer feel safe living alongside the majority Meiteis, they have expressed a need for a separate administration. On May 12, 2023, the 10 Kuki MLAs demanded a separate administration, alleging that the N Biren Singh-led government had "miserably failed to protect" the tribal group, according to a press statement.

In the press statement, the 10 legislators alleged that the "unabated violence that began on May 3, 2023, perpetrated by the majority Meiteis and tacitly supported by the existing Government of Manipur against the Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi hill tribals, has already partitioned the state and effected a total separation" from Manipur.

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“Our people can no longer exist under Manipur, as the hatred against our tribal community has reached such a height that MLAs, ministers, pastors, police and civil officers, laymen, women, and even children have not been spared, not to mention the destruction of places of worship, homes, and properties,” the statement read.

Of the 10 Kuki MLAs, seven are from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including the two ministers—Commerce and Industries Minister Nemcha Kipgen, and

Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Letpao Haokip.

Various Kuki civil society organizations (CSOs) have also submitted numerous memoranda to the central government pressing for the demand for a separate administration. Numerous rallies across the country have also been held, demanding a separate administration from the state of Manipur.

EXTORTION SURGE IN IMPHAL VALLEY; MAJOR CRACKDOWN ON MILITANTS

Security forces in Manipur conducted a series of coordinated operations in Imphal Valley, leading to the arrest of multiple militants from various proscribed insurgent groups. The crackdown comes amid increasing concerns over rampant extortion activities in the region.

On August 26, a joint operation by security forces led to the arrest of six cadres from the banned Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) at Awang Potsangbam in Imphal West District. The detainees include Oinam Naocha Meitei (26), Tharoijam Nanao Meitei (25), Yumnam Amit Kumar (38), Sandam Roshan Meitei (24), Moirengthem Boy Singh (41), and Waribam Ibomcha Meitei (35). During the operation, authorities seized a variety of items, including three gun scopes, live ammunition, a vehicle, six mobile phones, and military fatigues.

In a follow-up raid, police recovered additional weapons and equipment, such as a single-barrel gun, a DBBL gun, live cartridges, AK-47 magazines with 75 rounds, M-16 rifle magazines, assorted live rounds, walkie-talkie sets, a laptop, and a hard disk.

Simultaneously, in Imphal East, police arrested Konsam Romesh Meitei (43), a cadre of the United National



Liberation Front (UNLF). Romesh was allegedly involved in extortion activities targeting local brickfields. Authorities recovered two mobile phones, a wallet, and a two-wheeler vehicle from his possession.

In another operation in Bishnupur District's Nambol area, four members of the Kangleipak Communist Party - People's War Group were apprehended. The arrested individuals are Khundrakpam Rojit Singh (28), Thokchom Sornu Singh (23), Khoirakpam Abhinash Singh (21), and Khundrakpam Victoria Devi (26). These militants were implicated in extortion schemes within Nambol. The police confiscated a pistol with a live round, four mobile phones, a vehicle, and Rs. 900 in cash from their possession.

YOUTH FROM NAGALAND, MANIPUR AND MIZORAM URGED TO UNITE FOR PEACE IN MANIPUR

The North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR) and Peace Channel jointly organized an expert talk on resolving the ongoing conflicts in Manipur at the Bishop Abraham Memorial Cultural Hall, Peace Centre on August 27.

It brought together scholars, peace activists, and community leaders to discuss pathways to peace in the conflict-stricken region.



If you can find ways without any obstacles, it probably leads nowhere.

- Che Guevara

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: AUGUST 27, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 27, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

An unfortunate incident took place in New Checkon, Imphal West today afternoon. According to reports three houses owned by the Kuki-Zo community were deliberately set on fire by the Meiteis. These houses had been unoccupied since a period of violence occurred in Manipur on May 3rd. Before the arson, the houses were subjected to looting.

Due to the combustible nature of the wooden structures, the fire rapidly engulfed the properties, leading to challenges for the Fire Department in gaining control. Two adjacent houses owned by the Meitei community were also affected by the flames.



NEWS ANALYSIS

N. Biren Singh Has No Right to Comment on Internal Matters of Kuki-Zo Communities

It is ridiculous or nonsensical that the “Crime Minister” (CM) of Meiteis’ Kangleipak N Biren Singh has to condemn the reported vandalism of T. Michael Lamjathang Haokip’s residence at Lamka.

He has no right to make comments on internal matters of the Kuki communities, including the Thadou tribe. Since the state of Manipur has been totally separated physically, ethnically and geographically, N. Biren Singh is no longer the Chief Minister for the Kuki-Zo people and he has no control over the Kuki hills.

On Sunday night, unknown miscreants had vandalised the house of the state BJP spokesperson T Michael Lamjathang Haokip, a BJP Spokesperson, and reportedly fired shots in the air as a sign of warning for his unnecessary comments over the Kuki-Zo communities on a Meitei-owned TV Discussion show.

One must note that in the wake of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kuki-Zo people, Mr. Michael Lamjathang is regarded as a traitor for aligning with the Meiteis, particularly with the chief architect of the violence, N. Biren Singh. His unwanted action angered some miscreants amongst his own community, the result of which was undesirable.

Taking on X (Twitter), N. Biren Singh said: “The attack carried out on the family members of Michael Lamjathang, a leader of the Thadou community, one

of the oldest among the ethnic tribes of Manipur, as well as a BJP spokesperson, by vandalising his house was an act of cowardice.”

“I consider this personal harm being put on one of our recognised tribes as a direct challenge to the unity and integrity of the state. Attacks on any particular community of the recognised tribes of Manipur, as well as the attack on the family of the BJP spokesperson, are condemned in the strongest terms. We will initiate appropriate legal action against the culprits,” Mr Singh said.

The fact is that the unity and integrity of Manipur has already shattered, and any ideological difference between individuals within a particular community is neither related to the state’s integrity nor it harms the Meitei community’s interest. N. Biren Singh must note that he should not necessarily throw any “divide and rule” policy among the Kuki-Zo communities.

N. Biren Singh’s comment on the internal matters between Kuki individuals is nothing but his sinister design of escaping from the core issue of the state government’s complicity in the ongoing genocide, as exposed by his audiotapes which were published by The Wire news website. How hard he tries, he could not escape from his crimes against humanity.



FEATURED ARTICLE

Why Biren Singh – Caught in 'Manipur Tapes' Allegations – Held a Presser on Jammu and Kashmir

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty

In a much-anticipated press meeting on August 25, Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh – in the eye of the storm following The Wire’s ‘Manipur Tapes’ reports – addressed neither the violence in the state, nor the apparent implications of the tapes, but instead focused on Jammu and Kashmir.

Audio tapes put out in the public domain by The Wire after they were submitted to the Commission of Inquiry for Manipur Violence set up by the Union home ministry appear to implicate Biren and his administration directly in the year-and-a-half-long ethnic conflict in the border state. The violence has led to the loss of hundreds of lives and thousands of people are still displaced.

The state’s political observers, Manipur violence watchers, and members of Biren’s own party – Bharatiya Janata Party – had been calling for the chief minister to address the reports. So far, the Manipur administration has released unsigned press releases, claiming, without citing how, that the tapes were “doctored”. Deponent/s to the Commission of Inquiry have claimed that the tapes are authentic and are backed up by crucial details.

The issue of the audio tapes needed Biren’s direct response as they call into question his role as the chief minister – a constitutional position – in the violence that affected both the Meitei and the Kuki communities of the state. The state is virtually divided into two on

ethnic lines as a direct result of the conflict. State armouries were looted in the valley districts with thousands of arms and ammunition yet to be recovered from non-state actors in the militancy-ridden border state. Since the violence broke out more than a year ago, the state assembly has been in session under unprecedented circumstances, without the participation of any Kuki members. The total of 10 Kuki MLAs across parties are unable to attend as there is a fear that they could be attacked in Imphal by non-state actors.

At the Sunday meet, Biren Singh, however, tried to give matters a twist by telling reporters that it was “about Jammu and Kashmir”.

Biren spoke particularly on the National Conference (NC) and Congress’ alliance for the coming elections in the Union Territory (UT). Biren asked, “Does Rahul Gandhi and Congress support NC’s decision to restore Article 370 and Article 35A in J&K and thereby push Jammu and Kashmir into an era of unrest and terrorism?”

“Does the Congress support promoting separatism again (in Kashmir) by dialogue with Pakistan?”

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Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition at the Lok Sabha, had visited Manipur a couple of times while the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remained conspicuously absent. This is understood to have contributed to the BJP's failure to retain even the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha seat in the recent general elections although the party is in power in the state assembly.

Biren, who first tasted state power as a Congress leader in Manipur and has spent more years as a Congress politician than in the BJP, accused the Congress at Sunday's press meet of having "repeatedly compromised on the unity and national security of the country" thanks to its "greed to power".

Curiously, unlike most of the chief minister's press meets, Biren's Sunday address to local media was in English. His social media team took no time to circulate it on all platforms where the chief minister has an account.

Chief ministers of the northeastern states, including those from the BJP, typically hold press meets only on state/local issues, and usually touch upon national issues only if they directly affect the state or region. On some rare occasions, chief ministers have addressed press meets on the advice of the party's central leadership. So why was Biren speaking about Kashmir and Article 370 while the news space is filled nationally with what allegedly happened in Manipur under his watch?

Three factors could go some way in reflecting a direct connection between Manipur and Kashmir.

No breakthrough with Delhi yet

From the time the audio tapes were put in the public domain by The Wire, the call for Biren to address the issue has only got louder. The news has been picked up by media outlets and leaders of opposition parties have demanded an investigation into it

Kuki leadership and a considerable section of Meitei MLAs and leaders, too, have called for Biren to be replaced as chief minister over the last year.

Since last week, a few names have begun circulating both in Imphal and New Delhi as next possible chief ministerial candidates.

According to reliable state BJP sources, Biren had sent a few emissaries to Delhi this week to make his case directly before the party's central leadership. Sources in Imphal told The Wire that this was done to thwart moves by Delhi to ask him to resign.

"[In addition] some state ministers and party leaders close to the chief minister were deployed to push the sympathy narrative among the Meiteis – that Biren Singh is the only strong leader of the community to lead it. Some civil society outfits were alerted," a source in Manipur BJP told The Wire.

The Wire has also reported that Biren Singh's brother, Rajendro Nongthombam, and the BJP Rajya Sabha member and founder-chairman of the controversial Arambai Tenggol, Leishemba Sanajaoba, have issued veiled threats on social media to the "Meitei" and "traitors" who "leaked" the tapes to "the enemy". Notably, these messages have come even though the state administration has officially called the audio tapes "doctored".

Singh's emissaries are, however, learnt to have returned home without getting a firm assurance from the central leadership of the BJP. Given his tenuous position, Biren could be on the lookout for a fresh lifeline.

Ram Madhav's return to the equation

In the past week, something else has made the Northeast chief ministers and BJP leaders of the region sit up straight – the return of the senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh functionary Ram Madhav to the BJP after over four years of political exile, as the party's in-charge of the Jammu and Kashmir

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Till he fell out with Union home minister Amit Shah followed by his expulsion from the party's organizational role, Ram Madhav was the party's in-charge for the northeastern states. Thus he had had a direct role in the party's decisions – not just when it came to choosing candidates for state and general elections, but also when it came to the fate of state ministers and chief ministers. In the last four years though, that national position has been enjoyed mainly by Shah as far as the Northeast is concerned.

Now, with Madhav's return to the party as the in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir in the run-up to the elections at the behest of the RSS, the buzz within the BJP is that it is only a matter of time before the RSS insists on his return to the Northeast too. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, by asking the party's leadership to look into the Manipur issue on priority just after the general election results were out, has left no doubt that the outfit is unhappy with what has been unfolding under Biren.

Biren's move to bring up elections in the union territory far away from Manipur appear, therefore, as him trying to clutch on to a fresh lifeline, one that goes beyond Shah claiming on the floor of the Parliament that he "is cooperating" with the Centre on tackling the violence.

Notably, the voice in the tapes – identified by the Commission's deponent/s as that of Biren – is heard going well beyond the directions given by Shah on the use of "bombs" on civilians.

Book praising Modi's decision to remove Article 370

Aside from the ensuing J&K elections, the murmur within the BJP in Delhi is also about a book set to hit the market this August. Titled 370: Undoing the Unjust, A New Future for J&K, the book, put together by BlueKraft Foundation, a pro-Modi outfit, will have a foreword by the Prime Minister. Its publisher, Penguin Random House, has placed the book to readers as "the inside story of how Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned the seemingly impossible into a reality" and "an eye-opening read on the damage Article 370 inflicted on Jammu and Kashmir". It is set to release this August 30.

No doubt the book has been timed with the elections in the now-UT, and Modi and his party would treat it through its army of pro-government media houses as no less than ammunition for propaganda before the polls, particularly aimed at the constituencies in Jammu.

Biren, battling with a state in turmoil and sharply divided, for over a year without a sign of peace, must have felt it necessary to address Jammu and Kashmir and the Article 370, anticipating that the atmosphere was primed for such a discussion to be led by none other than the Prime Minister himself.

In the last parliament session, Modi's speech was marred by the opposition's slogan of "Justice for Manipur". The state leadership's inability to usher in peace between the two communities at loggerhead has certainly affected Brand Modi like no other BJP-ruled state in recent times.

Sources within the state BJP indicate that Modi, after his return from his trip to Maharashtra on August 26, will hold "a meeting on Manipur". Party sources told this correspondent, "It is most likely set for today (August 27). Some decision on Manipur is likely. We have been told by our party colleagues in Delhi that Biren Singh's replacement issue will likely come up before the prime minister too, especially because the RSS leadership has been extremely unhappy with the chief minister for his inability to bring peace to the state. They feel he is becoming a liability for the PM and the party's image in the region. Also, BJP and its ally, the Naga People's Front, have lost both the Lok Sabha seats to the Congress because of the ethnic conflict even though our party was in power."

Sources wonder if Biren's press meet at Imphal on Jammu and Kashmir and the reading down of Article 370 – held by the chief minister on a holiday – will be able to rescue the Manipur chief minister's fortunes.

Published by: [The Wire](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ



Kimmi Khongsai
@KimmiKhs

Manipur :Biren Singh's motive to selectively replace the 9th & 22nd ARs, who excelled in their duties at key locations, raises questions. Why single them out? Is he attempting to compromise National Security & create a power vacuum for his own gain?

#ARmustSTAY #ManipurTapes



गृहमंत्री कार्यालय, HMO India and 8 others

18:09 · 27 Aug 24 · 514 Views



Sumkawn @Sumkawn · 49m

Manipur: What about the attack on the house of BJP leader R. Ranjan Singh by his own Meitei community on June 16, 2023? During that time, Biren was so silent and suddenly raised his voice on the recent Mr Michael LJT's house attack when his community was teaching him a lesson but [Show more](#)

News / Political Pulse / Professor-turned-BJP leader Rajkumar

Professor-turned-BJP leader Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, the MoS External Affairs whose home was torched in Manipur

By: [Express News Service](#)

June 18, 2023 15:04 IST



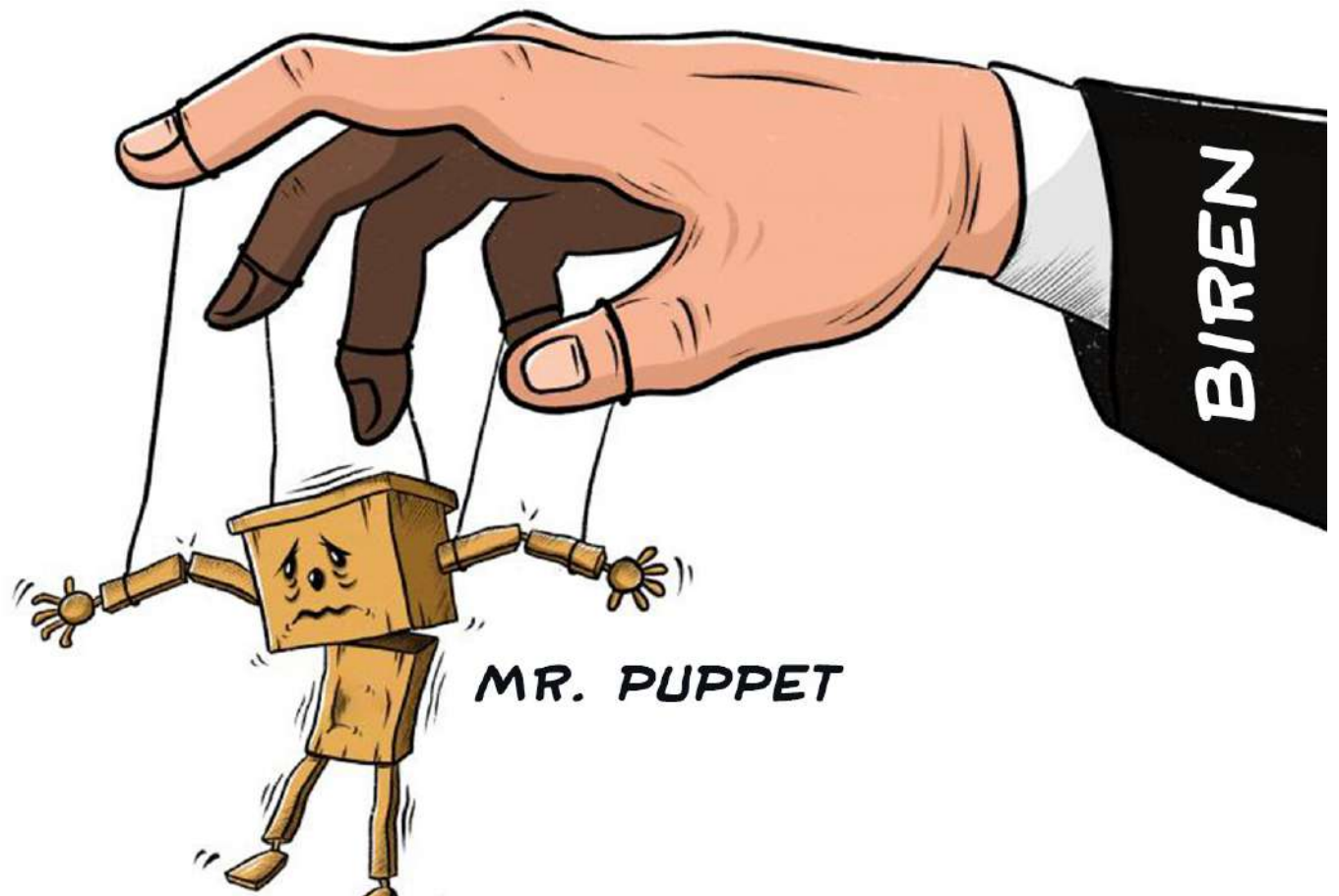
The Statesman @TheStatesmanLtd · 10h



Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh condemned the attacks on a BJP spokesperson from the Thadou community in the Churachandpur district of the state on Tuesday....



MR. PUPPETEER & MR. PUPPET





TAHCHANU ARE ON NIGHT DUTY

~ Cskg Mate

Under starry skies, they stand watchful guard
Tahchanu brave hearts, with love and care unmarred
Protecting their people, through the dark of night
From harm's way, they shield with all their might

With vigilant eyes, they scan the shadows dark
Ever alert, they face the unknown spark
Their courage unwavering, like a beacon bright
Tahchanu on night duty, a true hero's sight

The wind whispers secrets, of the dangers near
But Tahchanu hearts, with valor unafraid appear
They face the challenges, with a steadfast gaze
Their love for their people, in every single way

Through the silence, they hear the cries of need
And swiftly respond, with a hero's speed
With every step, a story unfolds
Of bravery and honor, worth more than gold

Tahchanu on night duty, a shield to their own
A guardian of peace, in the darkness overthrown
Their selfless dedication, a guiding light
Shines bright in the night, a true delight

