

Thingkho Le Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

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SUPANVISED BY: MISSION & EVANGELISM BOARD, CFC



Christian Fellowship Church RELIEF CENTRE

CFC Sunday School Hall, DHQ Tuibong, Lamka

Managed by
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi
General Headquarters (KKL GHQ)

Total Inmates Registered: 208*

Male: 90

Female: 118

*As on 25th July, 2023



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 16.12.2023



158
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.

SIT-IN PROTEST DEMANDING SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION HELD; THERE SHALL BE NO DIVISION WITHIN KUKI-ZO, SAYS KCLF LEADER



As usual, a sit-in protest demanding separate administration was held today at the Wall of Remembrance, Tuibong, Lamka. Strongly denouncing the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom unleashed on the minority Kuki-Zo people, the womenfolk of Lamka gathered in large numbers to put pressure on the Government of India to hasten formalization of separate administration for the people.

During the protest, Pastor Onkho Haokip, a leader of Kuki Christian Leaders' Fellowship (KCLF), said there shall be no separation within Kuki-Zo and the leaders must have the mentality to strengthen unity within the Kuki-Zo community. He was delivering a motivational speech during weekly sit-in protest held under the aegis of Women Wing of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF).

Pastor Onkho Haokip said there shall be no division among the Kuki-Zo people as the people have a mission and an aim to accomplish in the near future. "The Kuki-Zo people must be prepared at all times to defend their land," he said, and added that taking up arms to defend one's land does not mean that the people have committed a sin. "The Kuki-Zo have not waged war against the Meitei till date. Instead they (Meitei) have waged war against us," he said.

Onkho Haokip also said that many government projects such as dams had been set up, impacting the land in the hills. However, the profits of the projects mostly

benefited those in the valley. The people from the valley know the value of the land and its resources in the hills, but the real landowners have not been able to utilise the resources productively, he added.

The Pastor continued that people must not rest and think that the conflict is over even though the burial service for the Kuki-Zo martyrs is over. We must first play our part and do the needful in pursuit of our aims and mission and not solely depend upon prayers and miracles for every of our demand to accomplish, he said.

The pastor also suggested that different church denominations must further extend their helping hands to the poor and the needy as well as the displaced persons in Kuki-Zo areas. Even the churches can extend help to the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum or other apex Kuki Zo civil society organisations who are playing a major part in helping the community through the present crisis.

During the programme, victims' families were also given the opportunity to share the ordeal they had faced in the ongoing crisis. Total shutdown was enforced in the district from 6:00 AM on Wednesday till 4:00 PM in the evening. People from different age groups from different localities in the district also took part in the sit-in protest.

GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY AMIDST UNENDING VIOLENCE, MARRED BY THE FAILURE OF LAW AND ORDER

The Kuki-Zo community's constant assertion of imminent violent attacks from the Meiteis' armed groups in the aftermath of each of N. Biren Singh's peace appeal has been vindicated once again on Christmas Day.

Since the eruption of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom unleashed by the majority Meiteis, every peace appeal made by the chief architect of the violent N. Biren Singh on several occasions has been translated into devastating attacks on the Kuki areas by the Meitei militants including the radicalised private militia groups- Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun. Every peace appeal from the top leadership of the state indicates a sign of violent activities from the aggressors towards the Kuki-Zo areas in the immediate future.

On Christmas day and ahead of New year, Meiteis' Kangleipak Chief Minister N Biren Singh asked people to stop violence and start peaceful dialogue. Biren while talking to media persons said, "Solving problems will take time. I want to appeal to all the people to stop violence and start peaceful dialogue. We must live together again, displaced persons have to be resettled, children have to go to school, people have to do their work. So, I appeal ahead of New Year and Christmas, to stop violence." However, like all times before, his appeal was followed by attacks on Kuki-Zo village guards.

On Christmas Day, fresh gunfire attacks occurred in the "Line of Control (LoC)" areas of Saibol, Twichin, Phaimol under Kuki dominated Kanggui district. As per sources, the attack to disrupt the festive mood of the Kukis began in the early morning of December 25 until 11:00 AM. The Meitei militants climbed up the hills and started indiscriminate firing towards the Kuki village volunteers who were guarding their ancestral land and the people. However, there was no report of any casualty.

During the night of December 24, a video clip recorded by the Kuki village volunteers went viral on social media platforms, wherein a large convoy of the Meitei militants were seen moving towards Sabungkhok and Yaingangpokpi side, a sign of an impending imminent threat of attack on the Kuki areas. The firing thus occurred the following day on Christmas.

Similar attacks on the Kuki-Zo areas were also reported in the buffer zone between Lamka district and the Meiteis' dominated Bishnupur district. The Meitei militants started indiscriminate gunfiring towards the Kuki-Zo village volunteers who were guarding the village of Molngat



and the surrounding areas under Lamka district. The ensuing gunfight which began at around 10:20 PM of December 25 lasted for about two hours. However, there was no report of any casualty.

The pathological liar, N. Biren Singh, had also stated that normalcy has returned in Imphal, Kangpokpi and Churachandpur. However, escalating tension still prevails between the warring parties with imminent threat of attacks from his private militia goons - the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, on the Kuki areas. No one takes his words seriously as he has blood on his hand, and he is a liar and will remain a pathological liar until he breathes his last.

Unfortunately, some other media outlets have also been a part of the misinformation campaign spearheaded by Imphal valley- based sources. An online news portal, nenow.in on 25 December has reported on the incident under the title "Militants perpetuate terror on Christmas Day in Manipur". Although there is no denying the fact that it was indeed militants who had perpetuated the terror, they belonged to the Meitei community. The Kuki-Zo volunteers had only returned fire upon provocation by the Meitei militants as stated above. As there is currently a state of war with the Meiteis ever threatening to attack Kuki-Zo areas, the Kuki-Zo volunteers have been forced to pick up arms to defend their land and its people and will continue to do so until and unless the Meiteis give up their arms and the state and centre formally recognise the separation of the Kuki-Zo hills from the state of Manipur.

RAHUL GANDHI'S 'BHARAT NYAY YATRA' FROM JAN 14, TO BE FLAGGED OFF BY CONGRESS CHIEF MALLIKARJUN KHARGE IN IMPHAL

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is set to embark on a yatra connecting the northeastern and western parts of the country with an eye on next year's national elections. Mr Gandhi will begin his 'Bharat Nyay Yatra' from January 14, a 6,200-km tour from Manipur to Mumbai.

The yatra, set to conclude on March 20 ahead of the elections, is dubbed as the second and East-West phase of his north-south Bharat Jodo Yatra last year that was credited by the party for its election victories in two southern states.

Mr Gandhi will cover 14 states and 85 districts during the 'Bharat Nyay Yatra', which will be flagged off by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge in Imphal.

Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra will be among the states he will cover. This will include stretches of bus rides as well as footmarches.



The Nyay Yatra will be for securing economic, social and political justice for the people of the country, the Congress said.

On choosing violence-hit Manipur as the starting point, the Congress said the party wanted to begin the process of healing the wounds of people.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE SIT MEMBER ANAND MISHRA IPS TENDERS HIS RESIGNATION, LIKELY TO CONTEST LOK SABHA POLLS

In a big development, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Anand Mishra, who is currently serving as the Superintendent of Police in Lakhimpur, Assam has tendered his unconditional resignation from the IPS with effect from January 16, 2024.

Addressing a letter to the Chief Secretary Assam, SP Mishra wrote, "This is to submit my unconditional resignation from the IPS to pursue a life of freedom and independence that I want to realize through various social services and other means that are beyond the mandate of IPS."

Recently, according to a Governor's notification, Anand was placed at the disposal of the Government of Manipur to take charge of the SITs constituted for Manipur incidents with immediate effect. Notably, this order was in compliance with directions of the Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated August 7, 2023 in Special Leave Petition (SLP) Civil Dairy No. 19206 of 2023.



Sources suggest that Mishra is eyeing a potential candidacy in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from the Buxar constituency in Bihar.

IPS Mishra is well-known in the state for being one of the top police officers who has constantly fought the state's drug war, cattle smuggling, robbery, etc.

CoTU NULLIFIES TSA-GHQ'S ASININE CALLS FOR PEACE IN MANIPUR

Intrigued and appalled over the Thadou Students' Association-General Headquarters' calling for peace between the two warring communities, the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills termed it an "asinine" and "irresponsibly supererogatory" gesture.

The Committee also considered the TSA-GHQ's gesture nothing but a desperate quest for its relevancy and a mere despicable act to fight for importance as the frontrunners of the Kuki society.

CoTU stated in its rebuttal that, of interest, it [CoTU] has been working tirelessly for the safety and security of the Kuki-Zo people, but, to our dismay, the TSA calling for peace between the two warring communities in the state has created confusion leaving the general public exasperated.

It pointed out that Thadou and Kuki are indistinguishable, the former being one of the Kuki tribes while the latter is a nomenclature although it needs no deciphering while slamming the TSA's gesture as preposterous and unwarranted.

The Committee considered that whatever the intention the TSA-General Headquarters has in its depository will not bode well for peace but will instead widen a chasm of misunderstanding and ill-feeling within the Kuki-Zo people.

CoTU also stated that there have been times during social unrest when directionless Kuki-Zo organizations and persons with vested interests have strayed from our cause, stooping so low by wreaking havoc detrimental to the people's movement, which is neither the people's mandate nor representative of the Kuki-Zo community.

The Committee further stated that while they are spearheading the cause for the Kuki-Zo people in the



communal flare-up in the state spanning eight months now, they will no longer tolerate such press statements, hate campaigns, or anti-social pursuits in any form that might disorient the community from reaching its common goal or which could pave way for any signs of discord among the people but would rather deal with in the strictest term.

That being the case, the Committee advised the TSA-General Headquarters to withdraw its press statement calling for peace at the earliest and appealed to the executive members of TSA Sadar Hills representing TSA-General Headquarters to take the initiative to expedite the withdrawal of TSA-General Headquarters press statement.

It also cautioned that any untoward incident arising out of non-compliance will draw severe reprisal and CoTU shall not be held accountable.

CoTU also appealed and forewarned any entrenched interests and groups to desist from sowing the seeds of animus among the Kuki-Zo people during this moment of truth.



I wish to be a martyr, and I don't fear death.

– Muqtada al Sadr

MYANMAR INSTABILITY, WEAPONS WITH MANIPUR GROUPS

KEY ISSUES IN RESTORING PEACE: LT GEN KALITA

Eastern Army Commander Lt General RP Kalita on Wednesday said the availability of a large number of firearms with the warring groups in Manipur and instability in Myanmar leading to influx of people from the neighbouring country are the key challenges in restoring peace in the strife-torn Northeastern state.

Kalita said till the time firearms are available with members of the warring Kuki and Meitei communities, the situation can flare up any time.

“The availability of weapons with both the communities, whether stolen from Manipur police armoury or obtained from Myanmar, continues to pose a challenge,” General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Army Command, Lt General RP Kalita, who is set to retire on December 31, said during a media interaction at Fort William here.

Kalita said the duty of the armed forces is to ensure absence of violent activities. He mentioned that this duty has been successfully implemented in Manipur, where it was called due to the ethnic conflict between the Kukis and Meiteis.

“We need to recover all the weapons that were stolen from the police armoury or those made available to the people from various sources. We have to ensure that society remains free of all kinds of weapons,” he said.

The Eastern Army commander said the armed forces have launched numerous coordinated operations and a number of weapons and ammunition have been recovered in the last five-six months.

Kalita said the conflict between the junta and rival forces in Myanmar has spread to areas closer to India’s border.

He said whenever there are violent activities between Myanmar Army and opposing forces, civilian population from the villages located close to the border come to the Indian side seeking refuge.

The Army commander said while some of them return after violence abates, others prefer to stay put.



Kalita said state police, supported by the Assam Rifles, has taken their biometric details and their data is being compiled.

“But definitely this continuous influx and movement of population across the borders causes some sort of anxiety in terms of contraband and weapons smuggling,” he said.

He said these challenges are accentuated by difficult terrains between India and Myanmar, making it difficult for the armed forces to dominate every inch of the border.

Kalita said efforts are being made by the Centre and the state government to engage both the communities.

Stating that dialogue is already taking place at the political and civil society levels of the two communities, he said, “I think that is the only way forward through which you can look for a permanent solution.”



FEATURED ARTICLE

'Ostracised' Kukis Facing an Existential Crisis, Claim Activists

Sandip Chakraborty

Living conditions seem dismal in L. Thingkangphai village in Chandel district of Manipur. Most of the families here say they find it difficult to arrange for two square meals a day. The village lies in the frontline of where regular clashes between the Meiteis and Kukis are going on.

The village has no medicines, no food, and no essential supplies coming in from the valley. The supplies that are available are from the Aizawl (Mizoram) side, where, despite the inhospitable terrain, food and other supplies are arranged by organisations, such as YMA or the Young Mizo Association.

However, these supplies are not adequate, leading to escalation of prices of essential items. Pulses are not available and the frontline Kuki volunteers here are surviving on rice stew, Martin Haokip, a senior leader of the Kuki volunteers, told NewsClick.

The Kuki volunteers were fighting with arms "to protect their land being overrun by the Meiti militia and heavily armed police commandos who were aiming to take over the hill areas from Kukis, he alleged.

Haokip alleged that police commandos were using mortars on the civilian settlement along the buffer zone, adding that the Kukis were also "retaliating sometimes through hand-made cannons and rifles."

The Meitei people represent around 53% of the population of Manipur state and mainly live in the plains, followed by various Naga ethnic groups at 24% and various Kuki/Zo tribes (also known as Chin-Kuki-Mizo people) at 16%, mainly living in the hills.

As one goes slightly into the interior from the Lamka frontline, the residence of David Lunminlen, a Kuki youth leader, can be spotted. He is said to be keeping himself well aware of the developments on the frontline and is worried for the security of the elders in the area should there be a situation "where police commandos and Meitei militia get an upper hand" in the continuing warfare.

According to Professor J Doungel, a Fulbright scholar who teaches in Mizoram University, the problem has been created by the ruling Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) government. He alleged that the present crisis was "well planned". Chief Minister N Biren Singh bringing in the Forest Act in traditional areas where the Kukis lived, added fuel to the fire, he feels.

The scare after the May 3 "mayhem" in Imphal valley on the Kukis remains a major point of contention and the Kuki people no longer want to live in the

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same administrative unit with the Meitei people, he contended.

Dr Mary Grace Zou of Delhi University, who is also convenor of the Kuki Women's Forum, is also perturbed about the situation. She is already booked in an FIR by the Biren Singh government for demanding a special state or Union territory in the hills of Manipur "because the administrative mechanism in the hills and in the Imphal valley has been washed away by the current spate of ethnic clashes."

"People from the Kuki community are facing an existential crisis in Manipur," she told NewsClick.

After May 3, when ethnic clashes first broke out in the Imphal valley only to engulf the state within days, the administrative separation of the state of Manipur seemed imminent, though no political party of Manipur was clearly in favour of it -- be it the ruling BJP or the 10-party alliance of Congress, CPI(M), CPI and other political outfits. No valley-based party was clearly showing any support for this demand proposed by leaders of the Kuki tribal community, who, it has been alleged, is at the receiving end of the ethnic clashes.

The scenario in Manipur is such that the majority Meitei people cannot venture into the hills that are dominated by the Kuki and Naga tribes, while the Kuki people cannot venture into the state capital of Imphal and its 700 sq km radius, which some Imphal valley-based insurgent group term as Kangleipak, their kingdom.

So much so that even the 10 Kuki MLAs cannot venture to Imphal. The electoral equation in the Manipur state legislature is such that there are 40 seats for the Meiteis in the 60-seat Assembly, with 10 each for the Kuki and Naga tribes.

As of now, a total failure of the administrative mechanism in the state is visible, with valley-based insurgent groups and a social organisation Meitei Leepuns and Arambai Tenggols, a revivalist organisation, are said to be "controlling" the valley, along with the state police, said political observers.

Though the original version of the strife, as put forward by a section of political analysts, was that a war had broken out between the religious ethnic groups of the Meitei Hindu community and the Christian community, but now "seemingly the fight is between the followers of Sannamei religion, which pre-existed before the Meiteis took to Hinduism as their religion in the 18th Century." The valley-based insurgent group are allegedly even killing mainland Hindus now, according to satp.org (South Asia Terrorism Portal).

Arambai Tenggols are said to be a revivalist group that has created this nomenclature in the mainstream Meitei community. They have now said to have "reformed" themselves as a militant group, like the Meira Paibis, the Manipuri women's group, who earlier was vocal against the Army's "human rights abuse" but are now allegedly themselves "indulging in human rights abuse" of Kuki women in areas of their domination.

Interestingly, military and paramilitary forces have created a buffer zone between the areas under Meitei and Kuki domination. The heavily guarded buffer zone was created in the second week of the ethnic clashes after the Kukis came under "sudden attack", allegedly from Meitei groups, only to regroup later under ITLF (Indigenous Tribal leaders Forum) and forming the UTV (United Tribal Volunteers) and Kuki INPI Tribal volunteers. The latter is said to be a form of "self-government" predominant in Manipur, wherein the village chief is known as Houza, while the defence minister is known as Pachong.

According to Kuki INPI, there are about six lakh Kukis in Manipur, using the CHIKIM nomenclature—Chin-Kuki-Mizo -- who are all Christians. So far about 5,000 Kuki houses have been burnt down in the strife, 256 churches set ablaze with 187 Kuki persons dead, according to Len Chongloi, information minister of Kuki INPI, who are close relatives in the "Imphal carnage". His house was also burnt down after valuables were looted.

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“We have been tormented for ages by the mainstream and you can see that Lamca, situated about 55 km from Imphal, does not have an adequate number of schools or hospitals. The hill districts -- Pherzawl, Churachandpur (Lamka), Chandel, Tengnoupal and Kangpokpi -- still reel under poverty, but everywhere the tribal volunteers team has been formed to guard their respective areas from the Meiteis,” said Thangboi Mate from Lamka, a student.

He claimed students were “arming themselves” to save their elderly parents and were forming “Army-like contingents” to save their area.

On the Meitei side, about eight valley-based insurgent groups and the Arambai Tenggols, were said to be dependent on the “arms snatched” for the government armoury. Some 4,000 arms and five lakh ammunition were snatched from the Manipur government armoury, allegedly by Meitei groups. The Kuki groups are said to be mainly dependent on indigenously made cannons, muskets, double barrel rifles and single-barrel fire arms sourced indigenously, Mate said.

“It was only in 2017 that the Biren Singh government started calling us ‘refugees’, even though we have been living in our land for centuries and have even fought a fierce war with the Britishers, called the Anglo Kuki war from 1917-1919. As a result, 23 Chiefs of Kuki Tribes were deported in different jails of Burma (Myanmar), said a senior leader of KNO, an organisation that is in

suspension of the operations agreement with the Central government following their accord in 2008.

“At one point of time, even tweeting against the Biren government was perceived as a crime, and they went on to create a narrative that Kukis are engaging themselves in poppy cultivation. As a Lamka resident, I can say that less than 3,000 hectares of land is under poppy cultivation in the entire hill districts. But it is most unfortunate the way the Arambai Tenggols earlier used to enter our locality and thrash Jhum cultivators, and charge them of being engaged in poppy cultivation. The 100 days of work (under MGNREGA) is not available in the hill districts of Manipur, as are the central funds,” he added.

There are only 2,194 illegal migrants in Manipur, as per Assam Rifles estimates, most of them were thrown out of their homes in Myanmar due to the civil war. So, is it feasible for the state to “wage a war against the Kuki community” in the name of tackling “illegal migrants”, said a senior KNO leader requesting anonymity.

First published by: [NewsClick](#)

THE **SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ**

 **Sikhs are not Hindu**
@akal_de_sewadar

🇮🇳 A reminder of whats happening in #Manipur India. Hindutva's are showing their true colors but this time against Christians.

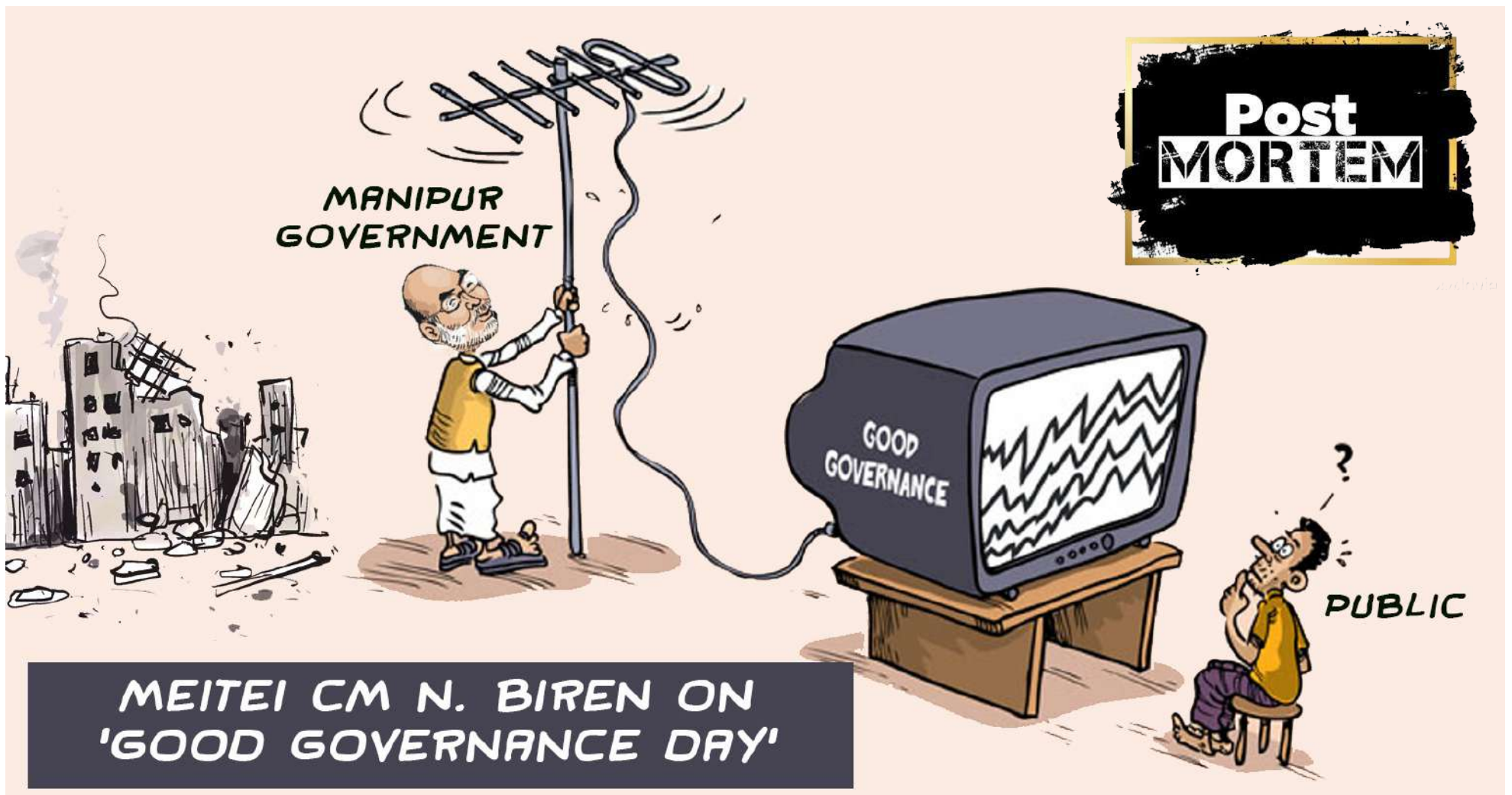
From Muslims to Sikhs to Dalits to Kashmiris to Christians and to all the low castes (read india's ugly cast system).

Humanity died a thousand deaths in #Manipur

- >A Kuki-Zo mother and her child burnt alive
- >Daughters gang-raped in front of their parents
- >Innocent women paraded naked and gang-raped by Meitei mob
- >Merciless butchering of mentally challenged by Meitei animals



7:31 PM · Dec 27, 2023 · 775 Views





Cold Summer

Oh! The frontyard tree that bore sweet fruits
Will you bear another fruit next summer?
To make the bitter soil of the enemy's land sweet,
And quench their thirst for blood with your sweet bearings.

Oh! The summer that changes everything!
How long will you keep us waiting?
For the dawn to break from darkness,
And the winter to pass in the wilderness

But I believe it is the darkest before dawn.
The days might be hard and the nights may be long
But spring awaits with a promise of renewal
And the summer won't be cold any longer.

- Uhingpihohi Dounyel