

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Sadbhavana Mandap RELIEF CENTRE

Kanggui, Sadar Hills
(Camp Code: KPI-1-02)

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 230*

Male: 108

Female: 122



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 27.01.2024



159
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.

KSO DELHI & NCR TO SHED LIGHT ON 'MOREH BRUTALITY' IN PRESS CONFERENCE

In a move to shed light on the alleged atrocities faced by the Kuki-Zo community in Moreh, Manipur, the Kuki Students' Organisation Delhi & NCR has extended an invitation to media representatives for a press conference titled "Moreh Brutality: The Atrocious Acts of the State Police of Manipur." The event is scheduled to take place on January 29, 2024, between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm at the Press Club of India, Raisina Road, New Delhi.

The conference aims to address the reported inhumane acts committed by both the Centre and State Security Forces against innocent Kuki-Zo civilians in Moreh. It will also delve into the ongoing assault on the Kuki-Zo community by state-sponsored militias, including Arambai Tenggols, Meitei Leepun, and other Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs), who allegedly operate under the guise of Manipur Police Commandos (CDOs) in Moreh and other Kuki-Zo inhabited areas.

Recognizing the urgency and significance of the issue, the Kuki Students' Organisation believes that bringing



attention to these pressing matters is crucial for public awareness. The conference will feature a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session, providing journalists with an opportunity to inquire further and gather additional information.

The Kuki-Zo community has reportedly faced a series of challenges, including violence and intimidation, prompting advocacy groups to take proactive measures in raising awareness and seeking justice for the affected population.

INDIAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT NORTHEAST CALLS ALL CONCERNED TO WORK TOWARDS BRINGING ON AN ALTERNATIVE TO VIOLENCE

Indian Christian Women's Movement (ICWM) North East, calls upon the Manipur government, community leaders, civil societies, NGOs to work towards bringing an alternative to violence and seek a path of non-violent negotiations and dialogue.

The ICWM urged both the warring groups to come to a halt and begin the process of an alternative means of expression of their grievances or anger and negotiations.

"Given the impact of the conflict that is already visible, such as on education, health and future of the youths of the state, we wholeheartedly appeal and urged the government both at the centre and state

to work towards bringing the two communities to a negotiating table. Strive towards bringing normalcy and peace in the State," stated the release.

The ICWM also urged all communities to come together in bringing back harmony and peaceful co-existence within the state. Stating that they understand the ongoing conflict with its problems and issues, the ICWM also appealed to the two communities for the use of non-violent means and called for peaceful dialogue to bring solutions for the ongoing conflict in the state.

RISING PEOPLE'S PARTY URGE NAGA AND CHIN-KUKI-ZO PEOPLE TO UNITE AGAINST GOI'S DECISION TO END FMR AND ERECTION OF BORDER FENCE

Raising concerns that the Government of India's decision to end the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and put fencing along its border with Myanmar will shatter the "fragile peace in the region", the Rising People's Party has urged the Naga and Chin-Kuki-Zo people to stand against these moves together. The party stated that the decision has shocked and hurt the sentiments of the tribal people of Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

In a press release, RPP stated that these moves by the Central Government would mean, "the erasure of our history and our shared past." Highlighting how the Naga and the Chin-Kuki-Zo people are yet to forget the "insensitivity of the British" for dividing the people, for "administrative reasons", the Rising People's Party said that today, "the BJP government of India is rubbing salt into old wounds."

Instead of working towards a lasting solution in the Northeast, the GoI seems to be pursuing a confrontational policy, RPP said.

Further, the party maintained that ending FMR in the border areas "will be a call to insurrection in the Northeast



**RISING
PEOPLE'S
PARTY**
FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

– already reeling from the ethnic conflict in Manipur – eventually leading to Balkanization/break-up of India. Our shared history with our kins in Burma cannot be erased with security fencing, and it's important that India's leaders listen to us with compassion."

The Rising People's Party, therefore, called on the Naga and the Chin-Kuki-Zo people to unite and stand against "powers bent on erasure of our history." Furthermore, it urged the communities and churches to pray "that our Lord may grant wisdom to our Indian leaders, and for the two peoples to rise up as one in tackling an issue having ramifications for our existence as a people with shared history and identity".

**Great battles, won or lost,
change the entire course of events,
create new standards of values,
new moods, new atmospheres, in armies
and in nations, to which all must conform.**

– Winston Churchill

IF NOT VIGILANT, MANIPUR CAN HAPPEN IN KERALA TOO, WARNS PARAKALA PRABHAKAR

Noted political economist Parakala Prabhakar on Saturday sounded a warning to Kerala saying what is happening today in Manipur can happen in the southern state also. He made the warning as he delivered the S Rameshan memorial lecture here.

Prabhakar repeated his harsh criticism of the BJP government at the Centre in which his wife Nirmala Sitharaman is the finance minister.

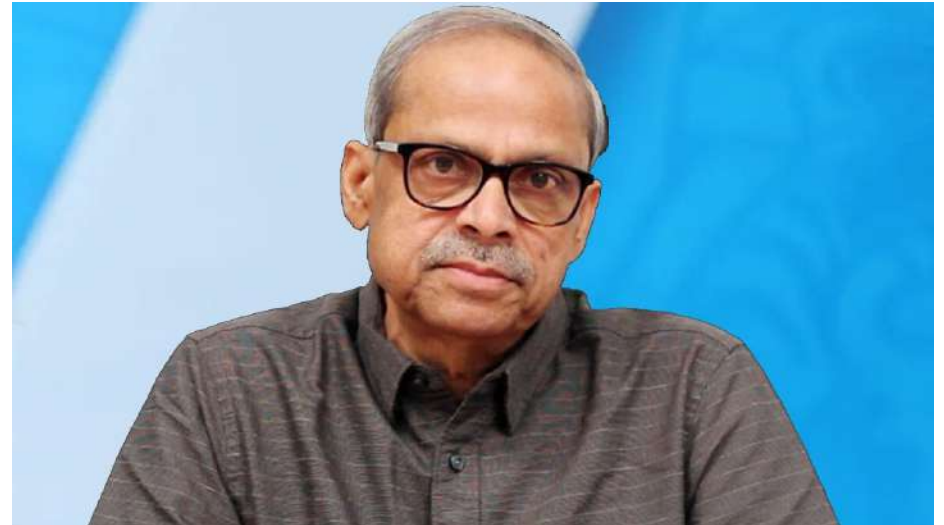
Referring to the communal violence in Manipur, Prabhakar said, "if we don't stop this, what happens in Manipur today can happen anywhere. Please don't be under the impression that anything can happen anywhere, but not in Kerala."

Pointing out the absence of Muslim ministers in the Narendra Modi-led BJP government and the saffron party's refusal to field candidates from the minority community in elections, Prabhakar said "they (BJP) have made it clear that minorities in the country are not needed."

"Today the attacks are happening against Muslims. Tomorrow it can be against Christians, and then Jains. If we are not vigilant, it can happen in Kerala also," he said.

Prabhakar, the author of "The Crooked Timber of New India: Essays on a republic in crisis" slammed the Modi government saying it has ruined economy, democracy and secularism. He repeated his criticism that poverty, unemployment and national debt were mounting while the ruling dispensation was in denial mode.

"The national debt since 1947 till 2014 was Rs 50 lakh crore. In the past nine years it has risen to 150 lakh crore. Unemployment also is increasing. This is the kind of crisis we have today. For the first time since 1990, 30 crore people have fallen back into poverty. The government, however, claims it has lifted 23 crore people out of poverty. The World Hunger Index has ranked India way below and the government



says it's false and they are anti-India. Anybody who speaks reality is anti-India," he said.

Prabhakar questioned the logic behind announcing free ration for five years if the government's claim about poverty alleviation was right.

"Today you cannot believe anything the government says because the data given by them are not believable. They are changing everything (parametre). Earlier, one km of a four-lane road was measured as one km, today it's four km. So that the government can claim they are doing so much (road works). If you ask anything to the government, you get either such lies or you don't get anything," he said.

"Without proper information democracy cannot function. Democracy means government by discussions, expression of disagreements, explanations and being accountable. If anybody questioning the government is suspended or jailed then it's not democracy," he added.

He called for what he termed an army of secularism to remain peaceful. "For communalism there is an army of people working day in and out. Can you say there's an army for secularism. If there's one, I can sleep peacefully tonight. If there's not, none of us can sleep peacefully," he said.

MIZORAM WISHES TO RESUME BORDER TALKS WITH ASSAM

A Mizoram minister expressed the wish to resume talks of the border dispute with Assam to resolve the issue, an official said on Thursday. A meeting of the newly-reconstituted boundary committee, chaired by Home Minister K Sapdanga, deliberated on the issue during the day, and expressed its desire that the border talks with Assam, which was suspended due to the assembly polls in November, be resumed, he said.

It was also decided in the meeting to resolve the border dispute and “establish peace” with Assam, he said. Sapdanga told the meeting that the Lalduhoma government gives priority to the protection of the state

boundary and the restoration of peace among the people, especially those living in the border areas.

He said efforts should be made to find ways, which is acceptable to both states, to resolve the border dispute. He also lauded the previous MNF government for its steps towards finding a solution to the border dispute with Assam.

Three Mizoram districts -- Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit -- share a 164.6-km-long border with Assam's Cachar, Karmganj and Hailankandi districts.

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA

 Christian Emergency Alliance
@ChristianEmerg1

Manipur, India: Those attacking tribal Christians profane and desecrate a church they've taken over.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked.



9:25 PM · Jan 28, 2024 · 943 Views


 Arijit nobody
@phoenixpaul2023

How long will civilians face the terrorist pigs, buy guns, and start practicing. Shoot em up if they come on your doors. Everyone needs a gun in Manipur now. Arambai pigs need a lesson
#Manipur
#ArambaiTenggol

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 Korounganba Khuman and 2.8K others

3:29 AM · Jan 28, 2024 · 6,159 Views

HOW MEITEI TERRORISTS STAGED A FAKE DRAMA TO DESECRATE A CHURCH

Based on a video footage released by suspected UNLF and Arambai Tenggol terrorists themselves on social media, this article attempts to decode how Govajang village, the last standing village in Khamenlok area of Saikul subdivision, Kangpokpi district, was burnt down with a staged drama.

1. INTRODUCTION

Govajang village is the last, and lone remaining village in Khamenlok area of Saikul subdivision, Kangpokpi district. Khamenlok area has ten(10) Kuki villages, namely 1. Khopibung (where Florence & Olivia, the two Kuki girls gangraped and murdered by Meitei terrorists belong), 2. Khamenlok, 3. Chullouphai, 4. Phainom, 5. Aigejang (the village with the church wherein scores of them died), 6. Leikot, 7. Thombol, 8. Jordanphai, 9. Songjang and 10. Govajang. This area was attacked and burnt down, except for a few houses, by the Meitei mob led by Manipur Commandos and Arambai Tenggol combatants, with the support of Col. Akash Oinam, a Meitei Army officer, on 13-14 June 2023. Meitei villages such as Ujumpok and Nongsum are just a stone throw away from Khopibung, the nearest Kuki village.

2. THE PREPARATION

One day before the Meitei terrorists attacked Satang Mousang and Govajang, i.e. on 26 January 2024, Meitei social media handles began to post messages saying they are moving toward Khamenlok area. Voice recordings and WhatsApp messages were also released as if it were from the intelligence department of Arambai Tenggol! Remember, any sane person will never share their plan to attack on social media.

3. THE ATTACK

In the wee hours of 27 January 2024, a group of Meitei Terrorists attacked Kuki volunteers guarding their hills at Satang Mousang, killing one of them in the process. In a facebook live video later posted on facebook, heavily armed Meitei miscreants in combat fatigues, claiming themselves to be cadres

of UNLF/MPA and declaring it was them who attacked the Kuki villages and its volunteers.

Later on, a series of video footage emerged on social media platforms where a group of armed Meiteis suspected to be Arambai Tenggol showed themselves as the Heroes. Here, we are referring to the series of incidents which allegedly happened in Govajang. It may be remembered that the village was abandoned since it was partially burnt down in June of last year.

4. THE VIRAL VIDEOS

Video-1: A staged drama of an alleged ambush was recorded live on Facebook just in front of a Church. In the video, the incident occurred when a bullet proof vehicle was approaching towards the Church when a bullet hit the front BP glass.

Video-2: A video shows the front glass of the bullet proof vehicle where the armed miscreants nearby were seen enjoying their drama.



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Video-3: Some armed miscreants were seen shooting automatic weapons through the window inside a Church.



Video-4: Inside a Church, a group of Meitei men in combat attires conducted a mock marriage ceremony, one acting as the Priest, and another two as the bride and groom. In the video, the one acting as the priest holds a Bible and says in a sarcastic manner that he respects Jesus but wants to kill all the Kukis for which he asks for help. He also said some words as in a marriage ceremony, and gave them a cup each filled with liquor. If this is not blasphemy, what could it be? In a secular country like India, nothing can be worse than desecrating a Church, **making fun of Jesus and the Christian faith, and drinking alcohol using the Holy Chalice, and burning and destroying a church.**



Video-5: Another video shows a burning Church.

Video-6: A Church was pulled down using JCB.



Video-7: In a video, a Meitei man [possibly the one taking the video] is heard saying they have completely torched the village, including the Church. This video seemingly was recorded at dusk.



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Video-8: Much later, another video went viral supposedly taken by a Kuki village volunteer, in which the pulpit [stage area] of the Church was seen completely charred. The voice behind the camera supposedly spoken by the one taking the video says he feels so sorry for he can't put-off the fire since there was neither water nor the manpower to do so!



Video-9: A group of armed Meitei miscreants were seen stealing Jonglha (Jongchak in Manipuri). In an image shared widely on social media, an armed Meitei man was seen carrying [stealing?] a Gas Cylinder over his head.



Video-10: A video shows how a drone guide the vehicle carrying Korounganba, C-in-C Arambai Tenggol, and his brigade towards the Kuki-Zo areas.



5. THE ANALYSIS

Later in the evening, some Meitei social media handles, showing a screengrab of the front glass of the bullet proof car, claimed that a passenger vehicle was attacked by Kuki militants.

Mr. Philem Rohan Singh, the fake Meitei Christian, posted an angry message on his facebook page saying all his efforts to tell the world that the war was not against the Christians turns upside-down. He also appealed his people and community to at least respect the Lord Jesus, if not the Christians, as it could invite unnecessary backlash from the Christian world including the Nagas. However, Mr Korounganba shared a facebook post justifying the act.



Korounganba Khuman

2h · 🌐

Meitei gi laifam Kaya tungai yankhaibada Maron thoktraga kuki gida thok lak adi noisu kuki ga chap manare ne adudi

Our take: Oh, they drove a passenger bullet proof vehicle [nearly 10km from the nearest Meitei village] to visit [rather destroy?] Churches and took up some acts of thievery! 700 sq.m. Meitei Leipak na Yaifare!

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

Kuki Community's Cry for Justice: Is India Failing to Protect Minority Rights?

Owing to its unity in diversity aspiration unlike the concept of Western secularism, Indian secularism is unique. The Indian philosophy of secularism is related to “Sarva Dharma Sambhava” (literally it means that the destination of the paths followed by all religions is the same, though the paths themselves may be different) which means equal respect to all religions and equal protection by the state. It gives its citizens the fundamental Right to Freedom of religion and faith, and management of its affairs under Articles 25-28 of the constitution. What use is of a Right that can't be protected and practised against the tyranny of a majority community?

The Supreme Court-appointed committee formed to look into the humanitarian aspects of the ethnic violence in Manipur had asked the government in the state in September last year to “immediately identify” all religious buildings in the state and protect them from damage and encroachment. Does the government of Manipur give a cent on the request? The demolition of Chongthu Baptist Church in Aigejang village yet again as they did in Imphal and other Kuki villages attacked by Meitei terrorists is the answer.

Deliberate destruction of non-military targets is considered a war crime. But unlike other civilian buildings, attacks on religious structures have a particular motivation and their destruction has unique, long-term cultural consequences. Churches are often deliberately targeted as centuries-old symbols of history, heritage, and faith,

filled with priceless experiences and furnishings of deep meaning to the local community. Destruction of religious buildings is a key component in the definition of cultural genocide. Among many other potential reasons, cultural genocide may be committed for religious motives as part of a campaign of ethnic cleansing in an attempt to remove the evidence of a people from a specific locale or history; as part of an effort to implement a Year Zero, in which the past and its associated culture are deleted and history is “reset”. Hence the attacks on religious buildings, important cultural offices, hospitals, and schools which are owned and run by Kuki and its Civil Society Organizations along with the homes of the Kukis and themselves.

8 months have passed since an ethnic cleansing and genocide pogrom has been executed against the Kuki community by the majority Meitei community in the state. India might not have any domestic law on genocide, even though it has ratified the Convention on Genocide. But as a signatory, it is well informed of the nature and the cruelty of genocide and ethnic cleansing which can be known from its criminalization of the crime under IPC section 153B. Thus its silence on atrocities committed against its groups of citizens and their faith under a government of its jurisdiction to date is rather frightening than a disappointment.

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When a crime against humanity like genocide and ethnic cleansing is committed, included in the human rights violations is the violation of many basic Fundamental Rights and Constitutional Rights that a democratic constitution and country endows to its citizens as well. Thus what of Kuki Indians who are violated of, among other rights, their fundamental rights of the Right to Equality under Articles 14-16, the Right to Freedom under Article 19, the Right to Freedom of religion under Articles 25-28, Cultural and Educational rights under Articles 29-30 and last but not the least, their right to life and liberty under Article 21. Rights that cannot be protected and enforced against tyranny are as good as non-existent. Is India not powerful enough to protect their rights and to give them justice?

The direct involvement of the Biren-led government is an established fact by now, living in denial of its involvement will only question one's intellectual capacity. If one goes back in time a bit, one can see the demo presented by Biren himself to Arambai Tengol prior to the final execution of their pogrom on 3rd May 2023 viz. the demolition of churches and eviction from places particularly belonging only to Kukis, besides the hate, defamatory and belittling speech on Kukis. The only difference is now it is executed on a larger scale. One can say the silence of the central government despite the glaring evidence is proof of its permission to go ahead with the genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Kuki. Or else it could only mean they are kept in the dark? Or that they are powerless and incapable of acting?

The surrender of the Constitutional institutions like the state Legislature and its Executive to a Taliban-like militia - the Arambai Tengol - has murdered democracy, constitutional rights and the constitution itself in the state. Taking an oath not only to protect the integrity of Manipur for Arambai Tengols but also their pledge to fulfil the demands of Arambai Tengol whose demands will not only suppress the democratic and constitutional rights of the Kukis but question the legality of Kuki's citizenship status means it concurs to their ideology as well. It's ironic that the central government expects our welfare and protection under a government that doesn't even consider us their equal but surrenders our democracy and our constitutional rights.

And the Kuki village defence forces' defense should not, I repeat should never be equated with that of state-sponsored militia the Arambai Tengol. Experiences

have taught Nelson Mandela to speak on the issue rightly and I quote "A freedom fighter learns the hard way that it is the oppressor who defines the nature of the struggle, and the oppressed is often left no recourse but to use methods that mirror those of the oppressor. At a point, one can only fight fire with fire". Left to fend on its own, the Kuki village defence force has no option but to take up the methods their oppressor used, to protect the priceless gift the constitution gives them in the forms of their Rights and their democracy, the land their ancestors fought for even against the mightiest empire that existed on earth and their families, or else what awaits them is annihilation. The Kukis cannot be reliant on the central forces for they become powerless before the radicalised mobs that pave the path for their militia, thus the central forces have advised the Kukis on many occasions to leave their homes for their survival on many instances.

Radicalization of the Meitei community against the Kukis has reached the point where any Kuki is seen as an object to be played against and butchered off, infants and adults alike. They don't see them as their equals; Kukis' liberty is seen as a threat to their own and fraternity and being Kuki considered a crime. Dr BR Ambedkar stresses the importance of the harmonious existence of Equality, Liberty and Fraternity and says, that without Equality, Liberty would produce supremacy of the few over the many, Equality without Liberty would kill individual initiatives, and without Fraternity, Liberty and Equality can not become a natural course of thing.

Thus where there is no Equality and Liberty in the state of Manipur for the Kuki and the feeling of Fraternity for Kuki by the majority Meitei community as a consequence of prejudices and radicalization, where is the democracy for the Kukis that their forefathers fought for? If the Separate Administration is the solution for the existence of democracy and a way forward to ensure the constitutional rights of the Kukis, then Separate administration is the right India owes them, for an oppressed minority is never a tool to soothe the ego of the majority oppressor. They rather have every right to live with dignity, enjoy all the privileges the constitution endows upon them as citizens of a democratic country like all Indians citizen do.



FEATURED ARTICLE

Manipur: The Curious Case of Articles 355 and 356

YASHASWINI BASU

Manipur has been in the throes of unrest over the last nine months.

Ironically, official attempts to broker peace in the state seem to have further stirred the hornet's nest. When violence between the Kukis and the Meiteis erupted in May last year, the Union government initiated certain restorative measures but no official word on their legal grounds were made public. Consequently, there was speculation regarding whether the Centre had invoked its emergency powers under Article 355 or not.

The recent onslaught of violence across various pockets of Manipur, the "collective demand" put forward by as many as 35 MLAs and the resultant visit of the delegation of the Union Home Ministry, and most importantly, the all-party meeting summoned by the Meitei radical group Aarambai Tenggol, resurrected the conversation around the degree of authority that the Centre legitimately held in the state.

While an overall resolution is nowhere in sight, one important piece of information that has come to light is that Manipur has been under Article 355 since May 2023, although there is no official order available to connote or confirm that.

The question then arises: are the people of Manipur are being subjected to a silent emergency? Is the state

heading towards Presidential Rule?

Steps Taken by the Union Government in Manipur

In May last year, the Centre appointed former DIG (deputy inspector general of police), Kuldeip Singh, as an advisor to the Chief Minister and the chairman of the peace brokering body, the Union Command. This was concomitant to a flurry of other measures like the deployment of government forces like the Assam Rifles and over 20,000 RPF (railway protection force) and BSF (border security force) personnel across the state. There was also a tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement signed between the Centre, the state, and Kuki militant groups for the withdrawal of hostilities.

Despite these overt steps by the Centre, there has been persistent ambiguity around the scope of its involvement and under which legal provisions were these steps being undertaken. While responding to an RTI (Right to Information) filed last year by the Karnataka High Court Advocate Ajay Kumar, the Ministry of Home Affairs categorically specified that it had no information about any order affirming the imposition of the Centre's emergency powers in the state.

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Typically it is the emergency powers enlisted under Article 355 and subsequently Article 356 of the Indian Constitution that empowers the Centre to assume administrative and legislative control over a state.

Although these measures were squarely in line with these provisions, no official order on the imposition of either of the Articles was proclaimed.

Is Article 355 Prevailing Over Manipur, After All?

While continuing to be riddled with questions of legalities, a few specific incidents in the recent context have triggered the demand for clarity on this matter. Firstly, the Ministry of Home Affairs initiated the fencing of the Manipur-Myanmar border alleging the insurgence of illegal refugees from Myanmar as the chief cause of ethnic discord.

Secondly, the Centre received two sets of demands from either side. While the Kuki side sought the separation of power between the administrations of the hills and the valley, along with the removal of the Chief Minister, the Meitei side demanded the Unified Command to be placed under the CM, have Kuldeip Singh dismissed, and have the Central forces withdrawn. The Centre rejected the former and sent a three-member delegation in response to the latter.

However, the name of the CM was conspicuously absent from the list of personnel of the Unified Command. Now, these in themselves are strong indices to the manifestation of power and control of the Centre over internal matters of a state, something the it cannot do ordinarily because law and order are essentially state subjects. Finally, while addressing a multi-party meeting, CM Biren Singh put the surmises to rest by admitting that Article 355 in fact has been in place in Manipur since May 2023. To reiterate, no written official order to this effect has yet been provided.

Is Manipur Under the President's Rule, Then?

It is important to demystify the difference between Article 355 and Article 356 before we address the Manipur question. Article 355 ascribes a duty upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to protect

a state from "internal disturbances and external aggression".

This provision merely sets the stage for the Centre to intervene in matters which otherwise would be the prerogative of the state. Contrarily, Article 356 introduces the provision under which the President can assume all authority over a state if the Governor of the state, by making a Proclamation, informs him so.

Known as President's rule, this provision clearly states that upon the imposition of Article 356, all powers of the Governor will be conferred upon the President, and the Centre can make administrative and legislative changes in the state including necessary changes to the Constitution as well.

As we know historically, even fundamental rights can stand to be suspended during President's Rule. Article 355 specifies nothing to that effect. It simply authorises the Centre to take steps as deemed necessary to ensure that the governance in a state is in line with the provisions of the Constitution. It may be interesting to note that Article 355 was introduced through a constitutional amendment in 1948 to provide a legal warrant to the Union government for invoking their emergency powers.

Dr B R Ambedkar himself stated that the purpose behind the introduction of Article 355 was to ensure that in cases where the Centre would interfere in the administration of a state's affairs, it would be done under some constitutional obligation.

Since the emergency powers under Article 356 vest the Centre with unhinged authority and must be used very rarely, Article 355 became the essential justification for invoking the President's Rule.

This was designed to safeguard the federal structure of our country. The Supreme Court further clarified this provision in the S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994) case where it held;

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“Art. 355 is not an independent source of power for interference with the functioning of the State Government but is in the nature of justification for the measures to be adopted under Arts. 356 and 357.”

So, the clear answer is that Manipur is currently not under the President’s Rule. In fact, last year, the Minister of Home Affairs had distinctly stated that since the state was cooperating, the Union government did not see the need for President’s Rule. But, it is now confirmed that Article 355, which justifies the Centre’s interference in the state’s internal matters, is the valid order of the day.

Articles 355 and 356 are at best contiguous and not interchangeable. One can say that the former is a step below the latter since it retains the state government

while facilitating greater involvement of the Centre, unlike the latter, where the state government’s authority is entirely yielded in the favour of the Union government.

But, lest we forget, never in the history of India has Article 355 been issued without the application of Article 356. So, although Manipur is yet to come under the President’s Rule, there’s not much ground to negate the possibility of it being imposed soon.

First published by [The Quint](#)

(Yashaswini Basu is a Bengaluru-based lawyer.)



**THE MAN
WHO
MURDERED
DIVERSITY**





Evanescence Manipur

Alas, Manipur once land of the free
Now, ensnare with abomination,
Hatred for its denizens,
Distorted politics, pogrom against the Kuki Nation.

Manipur the evanescent polity,
Profound knowledge bequeaths us the "Three Imminent Splits",
Disguised politics, clandestine, schemes will be divulged, deceptions prophesied...
Making every tribesmen exuberant in the Hills.

How fortunate, agonize brethren,
Edicts of our Ancestral Land anticipate us protracted,
The sacrifice of our men, women and children,
Pray, with the Living God, we'll witness "Our Own Administration".

Let us not deviate our convictions,
And the martyrs not be in vain,
We live today for tomorrow's death,
The glory of our Ancestral Land awaits us.

~Henry D. Summer