

Thingkho *Le* Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



JAMKHOLAL LHUNGDIM (34 YEARS)

S/O NGAMTHANG LHUNGDIM

ADDRESS: M. SONGGEL, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 4TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KHONGSAI VENG, IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: BEATEN TO DEATH



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.05.2024



185
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360+
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425+
DISPLACED
PERSONS

Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

KUKI MLAS OF MANIPUR URGE UNION MINISTER TO ADDRESS NEGLECTED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Kuki Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in Manipur have penned a letter to the Hon'ble Union Minister of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), highlighting the blatant neglect of development projects in Hill Districts. The letter emphasised the adverse impact of the state government's negligence on areas inhabited by the Kuki community and urged for an urgent intervention to ensure justice and equality in development initiatives.

In a letter addressed to the Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Kuki MLAs stated that since the outbreak of ethnic cleansing of the Kuki community by the majority Meiteis in Manipur on May 3, 2023, development works in the Hill Districts of Manipur such as Tengnoupal, Kangpokpi, Churachandpur and Pherzawl, which are inhabited by the Kuki community have been blatantly neglected by the State Government, and effective governance is absent in these districts, thereby adversely impacting the development and administration in these areas.

The Kuki MLAs further observed that during the past one year, development works in the said areas have been halted as the funds for road construction and other infrastructure development, including the Special Development Fund for the tribal MLAs @1 crore per MLA per year have been stopped by the Manipur Government.

"Furthermore, it is reliably learnt that for the current year, Manipur Government has submitted its priority list to North-Eastern Council for various development works for the state of Manipur, deliberately excluding the Kuki districts mentioned above as part of its ongoing discrimination policy."

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO HON'BLE UNION MINISTER DoNER BY
THE KUKI-ZOMI-HMAR MLAS

To,

The Hon'ble Union Minister,
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER),
Vigyan Bhavan Annexe,
Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110011
May 29, 2024

Subj: Implementation of various development projects under NEC in all the Hill districts of Manipur viz. Tengnoupal, Kangpokpi, Churachandpur and Pherzawl.

Respected Sir,

We, the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar MLAs of Manipur Legislative Assembly would like to bring to your kind notice the following issues for favor of kind urgent intervention.

That, since the outbreak of ethnic violence between Meiteis and our community in Manipur on May 3, 2023, development works in the Hill Districts of Manipur such as Tengnoupal, Kangpokpi, Churachandpur and Pherzawl, which are inhabited by the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar community have been blatantly neglected by the State Government, and effective governance is absent in these districts, thereby adversely impacting on development and administration in these areas.

Further, we have observed that during the past one year, development works in the said areas have been halted as the funds for road construction and other infrastructure development, including the Special Development Fund for the tribal MLAs @ 1 crore per MLA per year have been stopped by the Manipur Government.

Furthermore, it is reliably learnt that for the current year, Manipur Government has submitted its priority list to North-Eastern Council for various development works for the state of Manipur, deliberately excluding the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar districts mentioned above as part of its ongoing discrimination

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"We hope and trust that the Government of India will not allow the state government to pursue its policy of discrimination and misuse its authority to execute injustice to our people, who have been undergoing immense suffering during the past more than one year."

The Kuki MLAs earnestly appealed the ministry to look into the matter and ensure that the current year's (2024-2025) NEC Development Program includes projects for development works in Tengnoupal, Kangpokpi, Churachandpur and Pherzawl districts to uphold the ideals of justice and equality enshrined in the constitution of India.

FLOOD WATER RECEDES IN MANIPUR, FEMALE BODY RECOVERED IN SEKMAI RIVER

As water levels of all the rivers in Manipur are receding, one Chanuka Mishra, 61, wife of Prasad Mishra, a resident of Kanglatombi in Manipur's Kangpokpi district swept away by the strong water current of the Sekmai river at around 7 am on Thursday was fished out at Sekmai Paro area at the same river on Friday morning, the officials said.

"Most of the water is going to flow back into the river system and downstream, ultimately to the Loktak, the largest lake in northeastern India," the officials said.

Whether it's a lake, stream, or river, the floodwater mainly returns to its source.

However, in several low-lying areas of the state and at the heart of the Imphal city including Ima market, the main business center in the state is still inundated.

The sources said that the government authorities in conjunction with the local volunteers sealed/plugged in the seepage/holes/breached riverbanks at several areas in various locations across the state.



The Imphal River was breached at 18 places, the Nambul River breached at four places, the Tentha River at a place, the Khujairok River at two places, and the Thongjaorok River at two different locations.

Flooding also occurred at the Khabi River, the Leimakhong River, the Mayai Loukhong River, the Maklang Nambol River, the Kanarok stream, the Kak stream, and the Oinam River. (NE Now News)

CONGRESS PRESIDENT KHARGE EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT FLOOD SCENARIO IN NORTHEAST

The President of the Indian National Congress Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday expressed his concern regarding the flood scenario in the whole of the northeast and offered his condolences for those who have lost their loved ones.

Taking to X, Kharge wrote, "Extremely concerned about the grim flood situation in Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim. We do not expect PM Modi to visit Manipur, but the least he could do is extend help to the distressed people of Manipur and other NE states."

He further added, "Our deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. We expect the Union

and the State Governments to provide immediate relief and expedite the rescue efforts. While in Manipur, thousands are displaced as about 25,000 houses have been damaged. Over 2 lakh people have been affected in Assam. The situation is grim in the Barak Valley.

The Congress President also said, "Multiple landslides in Mizoram's Aizawl district have claimed several lives. Tripura and Sikkim are also seeing flood-like situations with rising waters in the low-lying areas. I urge Congress workers to provide all possible assistance in the rescue and rehabilitation work and support those in distress."

TELANGANA PREACHER'S PROPHESED SPEECH GOES VIRAL AMID MANIPUR FLOOD CRISIS; POLICE VOWS TO TAKE ACTION

A viral video of Christian preacher predicting that violence-hit Manipur will be struck by 'God's Vengeance' has gone viral, following which Police sources said they are looking into the matter and will take action.

Notably, the video was posted 10 months ago where the preacher predicted that calamity will surely befall the violence stricken Manipur for unleashing a deadly attack on godly people.

Manoj David, a Telangana-based influencer whose Instagram handle says he's a preacher, had uploaded a video on YouTube on July 29, 2023, in which he said God will "pour his wrath upon Manipur" over the deaths of "godly children". Nearly three months earlier, ethnic clashes had broken out between the valley-dominant Meiteis and the Kuki tribes, who are dominant in the hill districts of southern Manipur and a few other districts like Kangpokpi and Tengnoupal.

The old video has now gone viral amid the floods in Manipur in the wake of Cyclone Remal.

Manoj David delivered the speech on May 31, 2023. An earthquake of magnitude 3.5 had struck Manipur's Ukhrul district on July 21, 2023. He then posted his May 31 speech on YouTube on July 29, 2023 - eight days after the earthquake which was categorised as minor on the scale - along with clippings of news reports of the earthquake in Ukhrul, a hill district that shares a border with Nagaland.

"This is a prophecy for Manipur because there were grave attacks upon godly children, and persecution has been taking place in Manipur. So God is not silent. God is going to pour his wrath upon Manipur because they have killed his people, they have touched his people," Manoj David said in the video.



"To those who destroyed godly children God is sending his vengeance through two angles. These two angels are bringing earthquakes and floods. 'They have touched my people. They have destroyed my people. They have killed my innocent people.' So God is going to send his vengeance on Manipur in two forms - one is earthquakes, and heavy floods..." he said.

The purported prophesied video has been taken seriously by the Manipur Police, terming the speech under 'hate speech' and vowed to take legal actions against the preacher.

The alleged hate speech video, according to Manipur police, going viral amid the flood and destruction in the northeast due to the cyclone Remal could lead to tensions on the ground and fuel enmity among communities, police sources said.

MBC DUAL NATURE UNVEILED: IGNORED ATROCITIES AGAINST FELLOW CHRISTIANS; EXTEND HELPING HANDS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

The Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC), one of the largest congregations of Christian denominations in Manipur, has been finally aroused from its deep slumber, but only to offer assistance to the flood-affected people in the Valley areas of Imphal.

Despite various Church denominations of the Kukis affiliated under its head, the Manipur Baptist Convention remained mute spectator when their fellow Christians were inhumanely treated and murdered in and around Imphal valley. Hundreds of Churches burnt to ashes and vandalised by the non-Christians Meiteis' under the incumbent fascist regime. They remained silent!

When various Churches affiliated under the Convention such as Kuki Baptist Convention, Thadou Baptist Association, Chongthu Baptist Association, Vaiphei Baptist Association, Gangte Baptist Association, etc., were burnt down by the non-Christians in and around Imphal valley, some right under their nose, the highest body, MBC neither felt the need to speak out against the crimes nor extended any help to their fellow Christians. Even after more than a year of the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kukis, the Baptist Convention did not provide even a single relief material to the Christian victims.

However, the MBC now came out in open to help mainly non-Christians affected by the collateral effect of Cyclone Remal in Imphal. It is nothing but "hypocrisy at its height". When the Kukis in the hills faced persecution, MBC remained quiet; but when the Valley people faced hardships, MBC came to their rescue. Is MBC the "Pharisee" of Manipur Christians?

Considering its style of functioning, there has been serious doubts that the Manipur Baptist Convention



has now been highly politicised, aligning with the present dispensation that is often accused of persecuting Christians across the country.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC) has said that it offers shelter for families affected by the ongoing flood in Imphal.

"We still have spaces available and want to ensure that everyone in need can find safety. If you or someone you know needs shelter due to the flood, you can come to the MBC Compound at any time. We are open and ready to accommodate a few more families," said MBC.

The Leaders of the largest christian Convention in Manipur must realise that being Christian is not only for the name, but to grow with flesh and spirit without any fear or favour. Hypocrisy is against the tenets of Christian denomination. One must work as per the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of human beings.

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: MAY 31, 2023**A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON MAY 31, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO**

On this day last year (31st May, 2023) Union Home Minister, Amit Shah visited Kangpokpi district headquarters, where he met the leaders of various Kuki Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) of Kangpokpi district as a part of his three-day official visit to the state after violence broke out on May 3rd.

While he was meeting CSOs of the district, five villages namely C.Zoulen, L. Chajang, Thingjang, S.Phailengkot, Chingdai Kholen, Moljang and SL Lhanghoi were burnt to the ground by the combined force of Manipur Police Commandos, Meitei militia group (Arambai Tenggol) and Meitei mob in spite of the commitment given to the Home Minister for cessation of hostilities.

More than 270 houses in 6 Kuki Villages under Saikul Sub-Division, Kangpokpi District were Burnt by Meitei radical groups with the support of state forces. Villagers fled to the forest to save themselves from the inhumane attack carried out in the most barbaric style by the Meiteis. One Nehmang Kipgen (43) of Phailengkot was Burnt alive while the attackers cheered.



Nehmang Kipgen (43) son of Douthang Kipgen, born in 1979, was a villager of S. Phailengkot with hearing impairment. On the fateful day, the Meitei radical groups, captured him alive owing to his hearing disability at S. Phailengkot village, dismembered his body by chopping off his hands, legs and head and burnt him alive. The horror act was cheered upon by the radical group seemingly as a worthwhile achievement of some sort in the war front.



It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.

— *Herman Melville*



FEATURED ARTICLE

Eyes Wide Shut: How the State Turns Away From Manipur's Realities

Greeshma Kuthar

A year after ethnic violence erupted in Manipur, a charge sheet filed by the National Investigating Agency (NIA) at a Guwahati court on May 14 alleged that the NSCN (IM) has been helping the cadre of banned Meitei insurgent outfits Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL) and the People's Liberation Army of Manipur (PLA) enter the country "in order to exploit the current ethnic unrest in Manipur" and "with intent to carry out violent terror attacks targeting the rival Kuki community with prohibited arms and ammunition". During this 'current ethnic unrest', videos and photos of unprecedented, brutal violence has surfaced from Manipur, most of which find presence of armed men, who are still being referred to as 'armed miscreants'.

Over a year after the conflict began, the State government has been downplaying the role of banned outfits even when Central forces posted in Manipur have reported their presence. Since May 3, 2023, the ethnic violence between the dominant Meitei community and the tribal Kukis has claimed over 220 lives and uprooted over 60,000 people who now live in camps across the State, or have sought refuge outside Manipur.

The Guwahati charge sheet was filed against five persons arrested during the thick of the violence in September last year. At the time of their arrest they were dressed in camouflage attire resembling uniforms worn by security personnel. By then, there had been multiple incidents where Meitei men wearing such uniforms had either killed or participated in violence

targeting Kuki villages.

In one such incident reported by The Caravan on September 8, more than 30 such men were given safe passage by the Manipur Police on the directions of local politicians, even after it was established that they had orchestrated violence leading to arson, two deaths, and the displacement of more than 1,000 people.

The weapons and ammunition recovered from the five were from the lot that was looted from police armouries, according to the charge sheet. (In multiple incidents across the year, more than 6,500 firearms and ammunition running into lakhs of rounds were looted.)

Role of Meira Paibis

Interestingly, the arrest of these five was met with widespread protests at the time, most visibly by the Meira Paibis, who demanded their release claiming that they were merely village volunteers. (Protest against or resistance to arrests of armed Meitei people had become commonplace by then, with the Meira Paibis being especially instrumental in securing the release of any such men who would be apprehended by armed forces.)

The Meira Paibis declared a 48-hour bandh in the

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valley districts. They thronged police stations, clashing with the police and the Rapid Action Force (RAF), giving a call to fill jails, and even vandalising the residence of the officer-in-charge.

The ruckus ended with a special NIA court actually granting bail to all five, amidst celebrations, even though the five were arrested under the stringent UAPA. Such bail orders are almost unprecedented, as seen in many cases across the country.

The arrest of the five was one of the first such instances on the Meitei side since the violence began on May 3.

The Meira Paibis are referred to as “women activists” by armed forces, but in this conflict they have been active enablers of the violence, aiding and assisting armed Meitei groups.

One of the five men, Anand Singh, was eventually arrested again by the NIA. Singh had courted many such arrests in the past and was known as a PLA leader. In the charge sheet, the NIA alleged that Singh “mobilised local youth” for armed training to escalate the ethnic strife. It added that in July 2023, he “participated in a weapons training camp organised in Selloi Langamai Ecological Park near Keikhu by PLA cadres, where around 80-90 young men received training in handling firearms. Singh assisted in imparting training on battle drills and jungle warfare to the participating youth.”

NIA findings

The findings of the NIA are crucial to understanding the response of the State government in retrospect, especially Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, who has been blamed for fuelling the violence and for refusing to step down even in the face of his failure to control the violence.

The failure of a state, though, does not lie just in its actions but also in the disinformation that is shared at its behest. This disinformation can either be a refusal to acknowledge what has happened and claim accountability for it, or it can be an imagined counter-reality, blared out by the heads of states themselves.

Throughout the violence, Biren Singh, from time to time, blamed “Kuki militants” for the situation, while

staying completely silent on the lead-up to the violence or the armed groups in the valley and their role in the violence. The only time he did speak about them was when he brokered a peace deal with one such group, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF).

The group has since been involved in violence at buffer zones and is also actively recruiting young people in the valley, even offering them stipends. In particular, Biren Singh’s silence about the activities of the Arambai Tenggol needs to be called to question, as this group has been charged with many counts of atrocities by various groups and organisations, including Naga groups, who have otherwise remained aloof from the conflict.

Biren Singh has not once spoken about any of these armed Meitei groups antagonistically, but has gone out of his way to position “Kuki militants” as aggressors right from the beginning, accusing them of attempting to “break Manipur’s territorial integrity”—almost to the extent that the word near-synonymous with Kuki in Meitei districts now is “militant”. Or “poppy cultivators”. Or “illegal immigrants”. The latter two labels see their root in the words of the Chief Minister himself.

State narrative and dismissal of reality

Manipur is a textbook example that helps us understand a state-manufactured narrative, where a State engulfed in ethnic violence is casually dismissed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, who said on April 8 that owing to the “timely intervention of the Government of India and efforts made by the Government of Manipur, there has been a marked improvement in the situation of the State”.

Days after this statement, videos of two Kuki men being chopped up limb-by-limb went viral in the State. Similar messaging of a parallel reality of calm is regularly dished out by the Chief Minister as well, denying the scale or extent to which Manipur remains riddled in violence.

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The only outcome of this form of structured disinformation and denial of reality is that the BJP successfully managed to drive a wedge between two communities that will be hard to undo. Especially when the experience of the Kuki, who can no longer access the capital of the State they belong to, has been reduced to nothing.

Civil war-like situation

The situation in Manipur can now be defined as a full-blown civil war, which began from protests organised by the All-Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM) on May 3, 2023. These rallies were opposed to a court order that suggested granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the dominant Meitei.

The predominantly Hindu Meitei are concentrated in the valley area around Imphal, the State capital. They enjoy political dominance; Chief Minister Biren Singh himself is a Meitei as are 40 legislators in the 60-member State Assembly. On the other hand, the minority Kuki tribe, along with the Naga, are predominantly Christian and form about 40 per cent of the State's population. They mostly live in the hills around the valley and have ST status.

The root of the violence lies in an order issued in March 2023 by Justice Muralidharan of the Manipur High Court recommending that ST status be extended to the Meitei too.

This problematic portion of the order was eventually removed by the same court in February 2024 after a pushback from the Supreme Court, where a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said: "The order was not only factually incorrect but also against the principles laid down by the Constitution Benches of the Court on the classification of communities in the SC/ST list."

But the damage had been done. The High Court order led to widespread resistance from the Kuki and Naga tribes, who believed that constitutionally anointing the Meitei as a tribe would be an injustice to the already under-represented tribes of Manipur. Many protests and rallies were organised in opposition.

When protest rallies were announced across the hill districts on May 3, Meitei organisations such as the Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tenggol announced counter-blockades, which were in place from the night of May 2. The rallies ended peacefully in all the hill districts, except Churachandpur, where the Kuki found a portion of their centenary gate set on fire. This led to fights between the two sets of protesters, escalating to arson and violence.

Attack on Meitei Christians

In no time, this spread to the other districts, but the worst was marked out for Imphal and its peripheries. Mob lynching, gang-rape, and the burning down of churches of the Meitei Christians figure in the FIRs as having occurred in the first week alone.

As the rest of the country had its eyes on the Karnataka Assembly election and its outcome, Manipur burned for days, with barely any mainstream media coverage of the extent of violence. Data reviewed by Reuters showed that in the first week of May alone, 77 Kuki and 10 Meitei were killed.

An investigation by New Lines Magazine found that almost all churches of Meitei Christians in Imphal were burnt down in the first week, including accompanying threats to many to convert to Sanamahism. By the second week, almost all the Meitei from the hill districts had to be relocated to the valley and the Kuki from the valley to the hills. This was done under the supervision of the armed forces.

On the very first day of the conflict, a total Internet shutdown was put in place, restricting any form of information from leaving Manipur, barring what journalistic organisations could put out. This shutdown was in place for months.

A perusal of the reports of Imphal-based media outlets from May onwards shows that most of them were just using the narratives set by State authorities. These media organisations, almost all

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dominated by Meitei, only relayed the Chief Minister's messages. They failed to report on the forms and types of violence orchestrated in the State, and did not once critique the failure of the Biren Singh government in bringing the violence under control.

Further, the reality of what went on in Imphal and its peripheries did not make it into national news until much later.

The only information in national reports were statements of the Chief Minister, made through press conferences from Imphal. What one could gather from this was that the information blockade served as a tool for the state to establish its version as the only version available.

Chief Minister's agenda

Biren Singh, in the initial weeks of the violence, maintained that "there was no fight between communities, it is purely with government. When government tries to do something, then resistance or acceptance is always there all over the world".

This stance changed towards the end of May, when he started blaming outbreaks of violence on "Kuki militants", calling them terrorists and alleging that they were attacking villages. He made multiple such references to them. The same was copied by media agencies, to the extent that even when Kuki villages were attacked, the perpetrators, according to the media, were "Kuki militants".

The silence of the State government, the Chief Minister, and the local media about the biggest player in the violence, the Arambai Tenggol, is one that needs a closer look. The Arambai Tenggol, an organisation birthed by BJP politicians in Manipur, especially MP Leishemba Sanajaoba and Biren Singh, has proclaimed itself the saviour of the Meitei in Manipur.

Its members orchestrated a takeover on January 24 in Imphal, thronging the streets in armed vehicles and finally administering an oath to Meitei legislators, even beating up those who questioned them. Through social media posts, its members call for unity, often couched in degrading anti-Kuki language. This was happening even before the war, where the Arambai

Tenggol would mimic similar vitriolic statements of the Chief Minister.

BJP support for Arambai Tenggol

The Arambai Tenggol enjoys the patronage of BJP leaders even though its name has come up in several FIRs since the onset of the violence, including an "attempt to kill" the additional SP on February 27.

This was the first time the Manipur Police itself issued a press statement against the group, saying it was "engaged in many anti-social activities such as assaulting civilians, and snatching vehicles from the public and government officials". The group was blamed for booth capturing and violence during the election as well, but no member of the Arambai Tenggol was arrested.

Apart from the Arambai Tenggol, banned insurgent groups have seen a resurgence, and yet there have been no efforts to bring them under control in spite of indicting evidence against them. Their activities are not just in the buffer zones; a major chunk of complaints that have surfaced against them are from Imphal valley, ranging from extortions to physical assault.

Unfortunately, most of these cases go unreported, following the trend that seems to have been set since May 3.

How journalism was used to support the State's narrative set the tone for how the conflict was perceived by the rest of the country. This continues till date: the Chief Minister still makes statements about how he is targeted because he has cleared acres of poppy fields and it is carried as news, word by word, with no background check. That a senior police officer zeroed in on the Chief Minister's role in the drug mafia is no longer relevant. Many more questions remain answered.

The disparity in aid to the tribal-displaced and access to state institutions in the affected hill

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districts has been brought up many times by Kuki leaders and organisations, but remains unaddressed. Hundreds of students who had to flee from Imphal continue to face difficulties in accessing their institutions, even to procure a migration certificate to study elsewhere.

What has been starkly evident is that the state's narrative leaves no place for redressal or justice. This is evident in the way the criminal justice system has failed victims. When photographs of two Meitei teenagers who had gone missing surfaced on the Internet, there were widespread student protests in the valley, with armed forces even raining pellets on the protesters. It was only after arrests were made swiftly the protests died down. But this has not been the case in the hill districts. In the viral video case, a few arrests were made but at least three persons who were named as accused are still to be apprehended.

Many more photographs and videos of brutality have surfaced since, including a beheading and bodies being desecrated, but none of these has led to arrests. Attacks on Meitei people critical of the government have also led to no action. In fact, even the abduction and attack of a senior police official by the Arambai Tenggol did not lead to arrests. Instead, Sanajaoba shared a post that urged the Arambai Tenggol and the Manipur Police to work together. The post was eventually deleted.

Perhaps the most troubling fact is how little has been done to indict the role of the bureaucracy in the violence. That lynchings and rapes were carried out by mobs running amok in Imphal, the seat of power not just of the Chief Minister but many high-ranking officials, has not come under as much scrutiny as it deserves. Why did orders under Section 144 of the IPC and orders seeking help from the Army come almost a day after the violence began remains unanswered.

Political intervention

A State government official who did not want to be named, claimed that bullying and political interventions were part and parcel of working in Manipur. While the functioning of officers in a State riddled by insurgency has always been complicated, from facing threats to even staying functional, matters seemed to get

better from the mid-2000s, as the Manipur government cracked down on insurgent outfits.

But with the rise of Biren Singh, a reversal was initiated. He and those close to him are said to control every posting, and anything considered antagonistic usually leads to transfers. The Chief Secretary at the time of the violence, Rajesh Kumar, was to retire more than a year ago, but his tenure was extended twice, even when other eligible officers were available for deputation.

When questionable orders were made at the Chief Minister's behest, including declaring villages in the hill districts illegal without following due process, there seems to have been complete compliance by the bureaucracy.

Insiders said that nothing could be done because of political compulsions, the weight of which was especially felt in Biren Singh's regime. Among the officers, a clear distinction can be made between those who are vocal about the discrepancies and those who are not. Most of those belonging to the former category no longer serve in Manipur, barring a few exceptions.

While the Inquiry Commission that has been constituted to investigate the violence said it would be looking at the failure of officers to address the violence on time, there is barely any precedent in the recent past where such accountability has been pinned on erring officers.

There are fears among the people of Manipur across districts that matters might only get worse after the declaration of the Lok Sabha election results on June 4. But "worse" is only a relative term now, as there has not been even a sliver of change in the attitude of the Centre or the State government in dealing with the issue. Furthermore, the need for justice and reparations to begin the process of conciliation seems to be totally lost on all those who are in power.

First published by [The Frontline](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ



Manipur has become so untouchable for the media that even a natural calamity from there doesn't become news in prime time.

Thousands affected by floods in Manipur

- Hindustan Times**
Manipur: Heavy rainfall causes flooding in many areas of Imphal
1 day ago
- NDTV**
Flash Floods Hit Manipur; Roads And residential Areas Inundated In Imphal
20 hours ago
- The New Indian Express**
Imphal goes under water; 4 killed, 2 lakh hit in Assam
3 hours ago

12:20 pm · 31 May 24 · 35.2K Views



Min (Kuki ka parivar)
@ngulminthang

Follow Back

#Manipur Raj Bhavan, the symbol of governance and authority, is now flooded. The Governor of Manipur can be seen inspecting flood levels within Raj Bhavan itself. Just one year ago, Meitei radicals and their supporters executed ethnic cleansing of Kukis from Imphal, killing dozens and destroying thousands of Kuki homes and cars. Today, almost all institutions and symbols of power in Imphal are flooded.

#อมิตาก

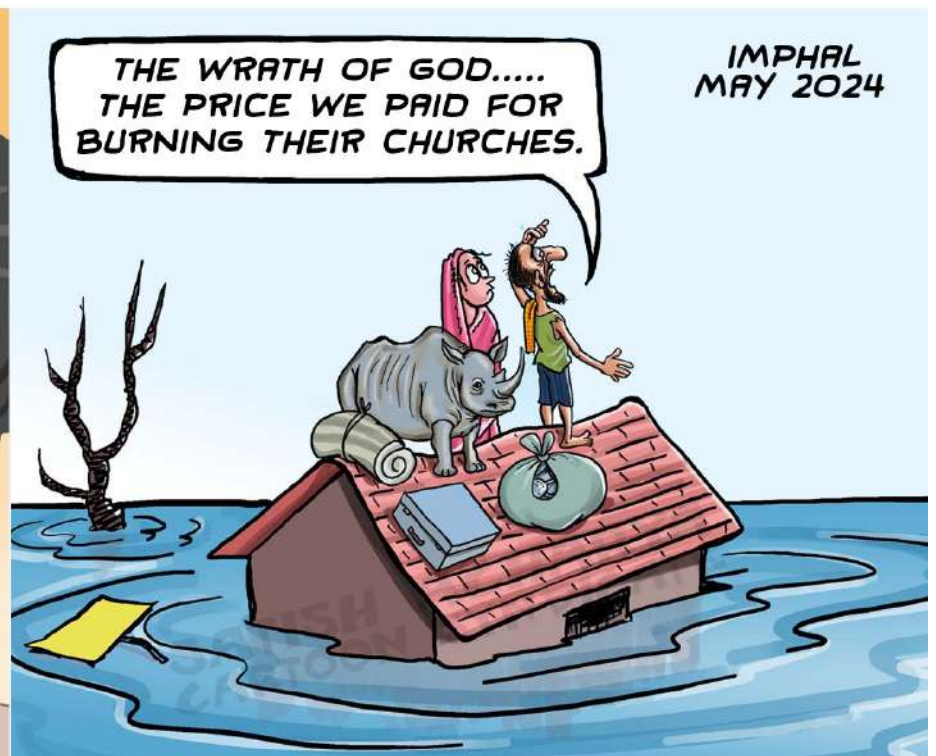


Congress and 9 others

5:45 pm · 31 May 24 · 1,917 Views



THE WRATH OF GOD





MAY BE

- Angie Doungel

Season of bloom begun,
Whispering promises of growth,
So are we quite beam with new hope,
Though embedded with traumas we cope.
The flowers in us want to bloom,
But the wilted petals within are gloom.

And so shalt yet be a cruel summer,
The indelible mayhem of last summer;
Of their deliberate genocide on us,
Of all inhumane by the valley psychopaths,
Dimmed days of fear, starve and homeless,
How we felt grimly hopeless.

Turning along with the world,
Yet our lives still floats in MayBes;
Stuck in a dilemma are we,
Of the now and the bitter bygones,
We breathe and live on,
But unlike us they're gone.

Guilty of laugh whilst they still mourn,
The warmth of their beloveds every morn,
Some goodbyes with empty coffins,
Waiting for a closure palely far away,
MayBe we shall stay this way,
In this maze a long long time.

