

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation

KUJUT FOR CHRIST





KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 21.10.2024



203
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 COMMUNITY TO SHIFT CHAVANG KUT CELEBRATION FROM FESTIVITY TO DAY OF PRAYER AND UNITY



In an extraordinary revival of tradition with a spirit of resilience, the Kuki-Zo community is gearing up for a unique edition of Chavang Kut, the largest post-harvest festival. Traditionally a celebration filled with vibrant dances, songs, and shared joy, Chavang Kut was last celebrated in 2022 with its characteristic grandeur. However, in light of the tragic events that unfolded in Manipur on May 3, 2023, and in respect for the customary wartime practice of abstaining from celebrations, the festival was suspended.

This year, after thoughtful deliberation by the Committee on Tribal Unity, the festival has been reimagined as “Chavang Kut for Christ” – a day of prayer and spiritual reflection dedicated to the success and unity of the Kuki-Zo community’s movement. This prayer day will be celebrated at four venues across Kangpokpi District: Brigadier M. Thomas Ground for the Gunhom region, Gelnal Playground for the Twilang region, Saikul Playground for Saikul region, and Leimakhong Bazar for the New Keithelmanbi, Kangchup, and Leimakhong regions.

Under the organization of Kuki-Zo Nampi Taokhomna, backed by the Committee on Tribal Unity, the community has poured heart and soul into the event preparations. As late-night preparations continue at Brigadier M. Thomas Ground, similar efforts are underway across all designated locations. This re-envisioned Chavang Kut serves as a powerful testament to the strength, hope, and unity of the Kuki-Zo people during a challenging time in their history.

Earlier, the Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of the Kuki tribes, urged the entire Kuki community to observe the day as a day of prayer. Events should be held at the church level according to individual conveniences. This year’s celebration should differ from previous years, which were often marked by festivities; instead, it should focus on remembering the fallen heroes who suffered during state-sponsored ethnic persecution against the Kukis.

SENAPATI CSOs, ANSAM CONDEMN CONTINUED MEITEI ATROCITIES AGAINST NAGA COMMUNITY

The Naga community is increasingly bearing the brunt of violence as Meitei groups continue to perpetrate attacks against them during the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur. Since state sponsored ethnic cleansing against the Kuki community erupted on May 3, 2023, the Nagas, who remained neutral, are now facing escalating threats and assaults from Meitei radicals.

Today, members of the Arambai Tenggol Unit 18 violently assaulted two Naga men, Blesson Poumai and Dalou Poumai, in Lamshang, Imphal. The victims were returning from a livestock purchase when they were forcibly detained, taken to a camp, and severely beaten. They also had a significant sum of money seized at gunpoint. Despite the victims' disclosure about their identities as Poumai Naga from Senapati district, they were stopped, detained and dragged into their Unit 18 AT Camp and subjected to serious physical torture leaving behind multiple injuries and bruises on their body. They were also repeatedly threatened with automatic rifles and a sum of Rs. 61,400 (sixty one thousand four hundred) was seized from them at gunpoint.

The Naga People's Organization (NPO), alongside the Senapati District Students' Association and the Senapati District Women's Association, condemned the attack, emphasizing the violation of human rights and the fundamental principles of dignity and respect. They questioned the motives of the Arambai Tenggol, which claims to promote the Sanamahi religion, pointing out the troubling pattern of violence attributed to their members.

The assault not only targets individual safety but also undermines community values of hard work and



respect. The Naga CSOs have called for immediate action from law enforcement to investigate the incident and hold those responsible accountable. They demand that the Manipur government deliver justice to the victims within 48 hours or risk facing further collective action.

Meanwhile, the All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM) has accused the Arambai Tenggol Unit-18 of torturing two Nagas today. While strongly condemning the incident, the apex Naga student body in Manipur, while taking this incident with serious concern, "strongly urged the responsible authority in the state to take up swift expeditious and befitting actions against the perpetrators involved in committing such barbaric act and justice is delivered as per the law of the land".

The ANSAM strongly condemned this "bestial act of the Arambai Tenggol (AT) towards the innocent Naga civilians". The ANSAM also said

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such “vicious acts of the AT who claim themselves to be an organisation formed to defend their community land, protect its people and stand for the cause in the name of peace tantamount to a self operating system of a brutish defaming their legacy and its existence”. The Naga student body said the barbaric acts of AT upon the innocent civilians is highly questionable and condemnable by all.

The ANSAM then said that Nagas in Manipur have been maintaining the position of neutrality since the beginning of the mayhem going on between two warring communities of the state. It also said restoring

the prevailing situation back to its normalcy has always been our utmost priority as a peace loving community while also condemning all forms of violence that is reeling in the state. “We have neither supported nor stood as an agency to any of the warring communities. Unfortunately, to our utter shock and dismay, Nagas are always becoming the victims of today’s conflict as witnessed from various incidents and crimes repeatedly committed towards the Naga civilians by both the warring communities despite our repeated appeal to understand our position,” the ANSAM added.



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Chinese arms influx to valley insurgents at CRISIS POINT! Fueling catastrophic tensions. Immediate intervention needed. SA & Territorial demarcation vital for:

- De-escalating violence
- Diffusing tensions
- Ensuring security
- Self-determination
- Self-guvrnce



10:02 AM · Oct 30, 2024 · 774 Views

Adv. Siam Phaipi
@SiamPhaipi

Oct. 2024, #Manipur

EBC Church, a Kuki Zo Christian Church located at Zone-3, National Games Village, Imphal West-795004, the first Church to be Vandalised and burnt by Valley Meitei Radicals on night of 3rd May 2023, now being used as if it were their own personal property.



11:38 PM · Oct 30, 2024 · 2,249 Views

NAGA LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION, MANIPUR SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO GOVERNOR; APPEALS FOR ANNULMENT OF CONTROVERSIAL HAC RESOLUTION

A team from the Naga Lawyers' Association, Manipur, led by its President, Adv. Mark Khapai, met with the Governor of Manipur, Lakshman Prasad Acharya to request the annulment of Resolution No. 59/2024-(HAC) and Memo No. 4/29/2022-27-LA(HAC), dated 14th October 2024, issued by the Hill Areas Committee (HAC).

The memorandum conveyed serious concerns regarding the unprecedented resolution recommended to the Government of Manipur by the Hill Area Committee. This recommendation references the decision of the Manipur Cabinet on 13th June 2024, which calls for the selection or appointment of Autonomous District Council (ADC) members from former ADC members, experts in local self-government, or other eminent persons and intellectuals. In addition, two members would be government nominees from the respective districts until the ADC elections are held.

The Naga Lawyer's Association, through its memorandum, questioned the legal basis or provisions under which the Hill Areas Committee made its recommendation, as it bypasses the democratic process outlined in Section 4 (2) of the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971, which mandates elections solely based on adult suffrage.



The Association urged the Governor to take immediate action, invoking the special powers granted under Article 371C of the Constitution of India, along with its related Rules GSR 317(E), issued by the President of India on 20th June 1972. Furthermore, the Association emphasized the need for the Governor's intervention to expedite the ADC elections, which have been delayed for nearly four years since the last term ended. The prolonged vacancy in the ADC offices has not only hindered essential governance and development in the hill areas but also deprived the rights of the people, the memorandum stated. (Ukhrul Times)



To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.

— *George Washington*

**NEWS ANALYSIS****The Deep Divide: Resource allocation- The Eternal Grouse of the Hill People**

The thorniest issue in Manipur is the disparity that exists between the valley and hill regions in all spheres of life. Though 90% of Manipur's geographical area is occupied by the hill people, who make up 43% of the population, they feel marginalized when it comes to developmental work and its benefits, often feeling treated like second-class citizens. This gives rise to many socio-political and economic problems.

To substantiate their claims, hill people point out that most major institutions are located in Imphal, which could have been equitably distributed. For instance, Manipur University (MU), the National Institute of Technology (NIT), the National Institute of Electronic and Information Technology (NIELIT), the National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), and top medical institutions like the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS), as well as the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Art and Cultural University, the Central Agricultural University (CAU), the Manipur Institute of Technology (MIT), Polytechnic, the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), the National Sports University (NSU), the

National Sports Academy (NSA), and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), are all located either in Imphal or the Imphal valley. Additionally, all major government warehouses, as well as private ones, are concentrated in the already congested Imphal area.

As the capital of Manipur, Imphal houses all important government offices, as well as major private educational institutions, hospitals, clinics, and businesses. These institutions and offices require significant land for their operations and for quarters for staff and employees. Manipur University alone occupies over 500 acres of land. Therefore, if all large institutions, offices, and establishments remain centered in Imphal, there will naturally be a strain on land. The availability of basic amenities and quality educational institutions has further stimulated people from across the state to move and reside in Imphal.

Ironically, while the Meitei community often complains that Imphal valley has reached a

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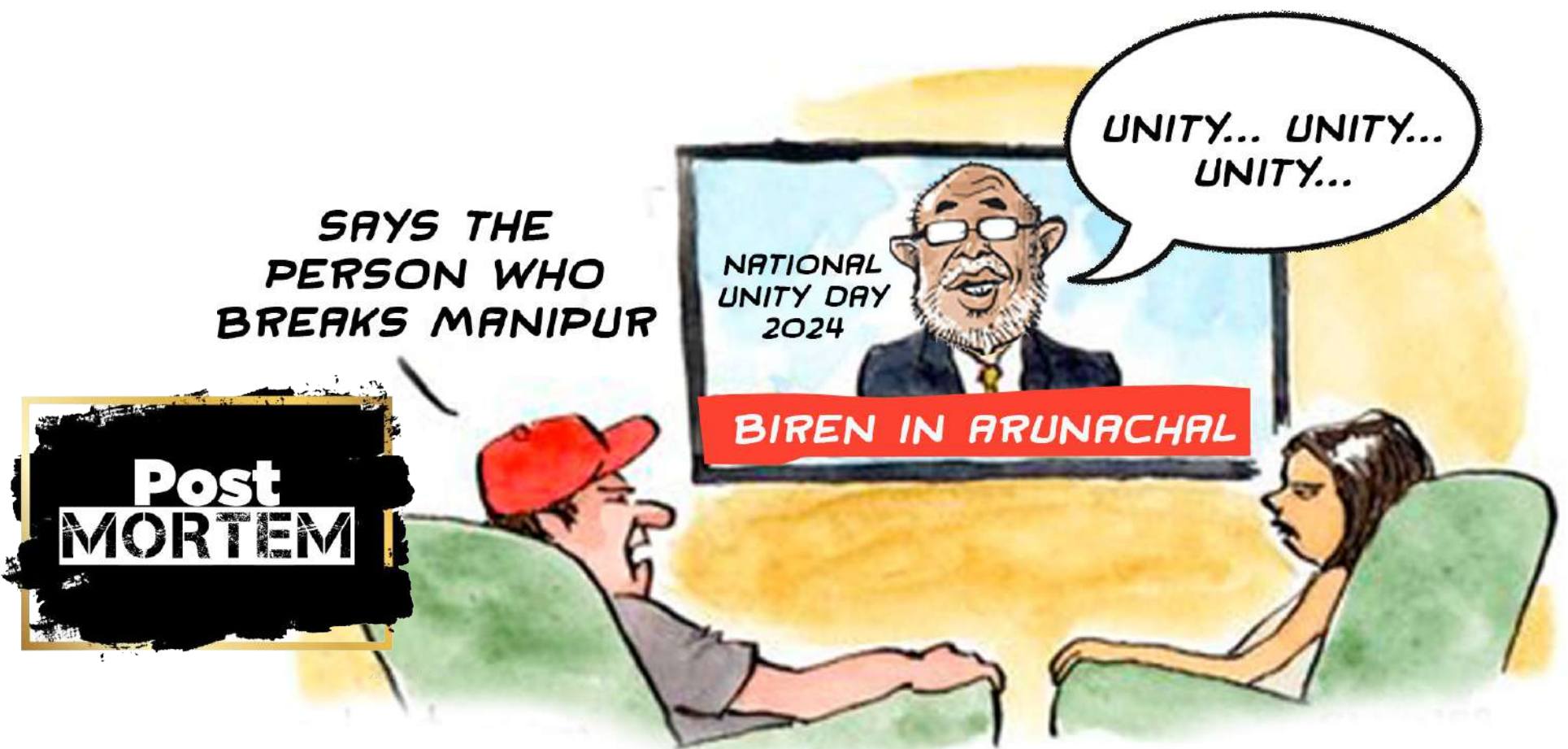
saturation point, they simultaneously resist calls to distribute development to the hill regions and argue for access to settle in the hills.

These large institutions bring many fringe benefits. For example, Manipur University alone provides employment for hundreds of people who are not directly employed by the university. Within the campus, there are many canteens, tea stalls, and stationery shops that provide jobs to locals. Additionally, the surrounding area is bustling with numerous businesses. Most of the subordinate staff, especially grade IV employees, sweepers, plumbers, etc., are local residents. However, Meiteis do not want these benefits to extend to the hill people, yet continue to complain that the valley is overcrowded.

The hill areas are marked by a lack of proper roads, transportation, educational, healthcare facilities, and other basic amenities needed for growth and development. The state government could have taken steps to alleviate these challenges in the hill regions, but they have seemingly chosen to remain indifferent.

The Meitei community's favorite slogan, "Chingmi tamni amatani," meaning "hill people and valley people are one and the same," rings hollow to the hill residents, who view it as mere rhetoric rather than a genuine sentiment.

-Excerpts from *The Indelible Trauma*



THE WRONG PREACHER ON NATIONAL UNITY DAY

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THANK YOU *from the KUKIS*

To our tribal brothers, far and wide,
Across India, your support we can't hide.
In Manipur's strife, you stood by our side,
Solidarity in struggle, a heartfelt tide.

From Nagaland to Assam, and beyond,
Your voices echoed, a bond so strong.
Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura too,
Together we stand, as one tribal crew.

Your words of comfort, in darkest night,
Gave us strength, to hold on to the fight.
Your prayers and tears, for our plight,
Reminded us, we're not alone in this fight.

We thank you, for your unwavering stand,
For justice and peace, in our troubled land.
Your solidarity, a beacon of hope,
Guides us forward, through the darkest scope.

Together we rise, united we stand,
For tribal rights, hand in hand.
Our gratitude, to each and every one,
For being with us, until the dawn is won.

~ L'minth Kuki-Zo