

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



**NGAIBIAKKIM @ NANCY ZOU (25 YEARS)**

D/O M KAMKHOLUN

ADDRESS: NEW ZOUVENG, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF INCIDENT: NEAR FISHERY GATE, SANAKEITHEL LAMPHEL

CAUSE OF DEATH: MISSING, ABDUCTED BY MEITEI MILITANTS





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 25. 11. 2024



**221**  
DEATHS

- 1. Lungin Singson
- 2. Paotinlal Gangte



**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-ZO COUNCIL DENOUNCES HINDUSTAN TIMES REPORT, DEMANDS FAIR REPORTING AND JUSTICE FOR KUKI-ZO VOLUNTEERS

The Kuki-Zo Council has issued a strong statement condemning the allegations made in a recent Hindustan Times news report dated November 22, 2024, which claims that five tribal villages in Manipur were at the epicenter of the ongoing ethnic conflict. The council has termed the report as “false and baseless,” urging the media to exercise caution and verify facts before publishing sensitive and misleading information.

The statement, issued by the council’s Secretary of Information, Khaikhohauh Gangte, emphasizes the importance of responsible journalism, particularly when covering delicate issues such as ethnic conflicts. The Kuki-Zo Council called for accuracy, fairness, and adherence to journalistic ethics when reporting on events that affect the lives of people from different communities.

The council strongly refuted the portrayal of the Kuki-Zo villages as breeding grounds for militancy, highlighting that the 10 Kuki-Zo village volunteers who lost their lives in Jiribam were acting in self-defense. These volunteers were protecting their communities from attacks by Meitei militants, not engaging in militant activities themselves. The council stressed that the villages from which the volunteers hailed should not be unfairly stigmatized for the actions of a few individuals.

“It is crucial to understand the context of the recent events in Jiribam,” the statement read. “On November 7, Meitei militants launched an unprovoked attack on Zairawn village, sparking the violence that led to the deaths of both Kuki-Zo and Meitei individuals. The tragic rape and murder of a mother of three from the Zairawn village has left the Kuki-Zo community in shock and mourning.”

The council further emphasized the need for clarity in reporting the events leading to the flare-up, urging that the true causes be properly understood rather than allowing one-sided narratives to shape public opinion. The Kuki-Zo Council also called for the extension of the



Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) across the entire state, including the valley, to allow security forces the necessary authority to address any potential threats and restore peace.

One of the key concerns raised by the Kuki-Zo Council is the lack of transparency in the case of the 10 Kuki-Zo volunteers who were killed in Jiribam. Despite the completion of postmortem reports for six Meitei casualties, there has been no report made public regarding the deaths of the Kuki-Zo volunteers. The council has expressed growing frustration over this delay and has warned that failure to provide these postmortem reports within a specific time frame will compel them to take further action to demand justice.

“We are left with no choice but to resort to serious agitation if the authorities continue to ignore our calls for accountability,” said Gangte. “The delay in providing the postmortem reports has deepened the anger and distrust within the Kuki-Zo community, and we will not stand idly by while our people are denied justice.”

The Kuki-Zo Council’s statement comes as part of its ongoing efforts to ensure fair and impartial treatment of the Kuki-Zo community in Manipur and to demand justice for those who have lost their lives in the ongoing violence. The council has called on all parties involved to engage in dialogue and work toward lasting peace and reconciliation.



# FORMER HOME SECRETARY G.K. PILLAI CALLS FOR ARREST OF MANIPUR CM BIREN SINGH OVER KUKI COMMUNITY ALLEGATIONS

In an article published in Malayala Manorama, former Home Secretary G.K. Pillai has called for a criminal case to be filed against Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, accusing him of propagating a false narrative that undermines the Kuki community's role in Manipur's history. Pillai, who has been an influential figure in Indian security and governance, also demanded the CM's arrest, highlighting what he described as a deliberate campaign to discredit the Kukis as "non-original Manipuris."

Pillai criticized the current state leadership for promoting the idea that the Kuki community, which has long been a part of Manipur's social fabric, is of foreign origin, claiming they hail from Myanmar. He stated that this misinformation, which he claims has been actively supported by the state government, is designed to devalue the Kukis' contributions to India's freedom struggle.

"The narrative pushed by Chief Minister Biren Singh lays the foundation for this misinformation," Pillai wrote, arguing that Singh's stance is unlikely to change as he enjoys strong backing from a constituency that shares his views. Pillai asserted that the removal of Singh is crucial for any meaningful peace-building efforts in the state.

The article further emphasizes the need for public awareness in Manipur, stressing that the Kuki community must be recognized as an integral part of the state's history and development. Pillai suggested that once this public recognition is achieved, peace efforts would become more viable, allowing for dialogue and compromise with the Kuki community.



Pillai also criticized the central government's approach to the ongoing violence in Manipur, calling the use of force to restore peace "impractical." He called for the disarmament of local militias, many of which, according to Pillai, are engaged in activities such as abductions and extortion, some of which are reportedly supported by the state government. He further argued that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) should be repealed in light of the situation.

Finally, Pillai demanded the immediate publication of the judicial commission's report on the Manipur violence, suggesting that the delay in its release could be due to its potential to criticize both the state and central governments for their roles in the crisis.

# KUKI MLAS PLAN JOINT PROTEST IN DELHI: DEMANDING REMOVAL OF CM BIREN, SA FOR THE KUKIS

In a significant development, ten Kuki Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Manipur, including seven from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), are set to hold a joint protest in Delhi in the first week of December. The protest will demand the removal of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and the establishment of a separate administrative system for the Kuki community.

This marks the first time the 10 MLAs, who have raised these issues separately in the past, will unite on a common platform. The decision to stage the protest in the national capital was made following a meeting between the MLAs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and representatives from 25 Kuki groups that signed the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement in Churachandpur.

One of the MLAs, who requested anonymity, said, "We have individually raised concerns about the removal of the Chief Minister and other key demands. The recent surge in violence has compelled us to speak out together, both to the public and the press. We will protest at Jantar Mantar. Some MLAs are already in Delhi, while others will travel via Aizawl to avoid the security challenges in Imphal."

The protest comes as Manipur continues to be gripped by ethnic violence, which has persisted for almost 18 months. The violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities has resulted in nearly 240 deaths and prompted the central government to send more troops and reimpose the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in certain areas. Despite the assurances of safety from the state government, the Kuki MLAs have refused to attend Manipur's legislative sessions, citing



security concerns and pressure from ethnic CSOs.

The MLAs will also highlight the ongoing tensions over the Suspension of Operation agreement, signed between the Centre, the Manipur government, and 25 Kuki militant groups in 2008 to end hostilities. This ceasefire pact, which has been renewed annually, expired earlier this year, and there is no clarity on its renewal or abrogation. The Manipur assembly recently called for the agreement's termination, citing violations.

While the SoO groups, who are central to the ceasefire agreement, will not participate in the Delhi protest, the 10 MLAs intend to speak out collectively. They will also share details of an October meeting between representatives from Manipur's Meitei, Kuki and Naga communities and the central government, which aimed to address the escalating conflict.



## CONGRESS, TMC TO RAISE MANIPUR ISSUE IN PARLIAMENT

Manipur Congress president Keisham Meghachandra on Monday said that senior leaders of the grand old party will raise the issue of ongoing conflict in the state in Parliament.

He also expressed confidence that all like-minded MPs of the INDIA bloc will raise the issue in Parliament during the ongoing winter session which began in Monday.

“AICC senior leaders told me that the Congress party will raise (demand) for a discussion on Manipur turmoil in Parliament,” he said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, in another post on X, Inner Manipur Lok Sabha constituency’s Congress MP Angomcha Bimol Akoijam said, “Avoidable loss of lives, of innocent men, women and children during the last 18 months are products of a fatal combination of a belligerent mobilisation of an identity politics based on an exclusivist ‘ethno-nationalist’ project and actions of a state that looks for some political and strategic goals by using Manipur as a ‘peripheral’ entity.”

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress will also raise the issue of the ongoing unrest in Manipur during the winter session of Parliament, demanding a detailed debate and urgent intervention of the central government while focusing on seeking answers through discussions rather than disruptions.

At its national executive meeting, chaired by party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the TMC decided that its MPs will highlight the broader unrest in Northeast India during the winter session, which began on Monday, emphasising the need for focused attention on restoring peace and stability in the region.

“We will seek answers from the government on the ongoing unrest in Manipur. We want a debate and want the Centre to intervene. But we want discussions and are not in favour of disruptions,” a senior TMC leader said after the meeting. (IndiaTodayNE)

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## UNLF MEMBERS ARRESTED FOR EXTORTION ACTIVITIES

Two active members of the proscribed United National Liberation Front (Pambei Group) were arrested from Manipur’s Imphal East district for allegedly being involved in extortion, police said on Monday.

The two, identified as Thoudam Ibungobi Meitei and Chanam Rashini Chanu, were apprehended in Khurai Ahongei Labuk Leirak area on November 23, a police statement said.

Arms and ammunition, one wireless radio set and a mobile phone were recovered from their possession, it said.

The outlawed UNLF (Pambei group) had signed a peace agreement with the central government in 2023 but its members have been involved in extortion, a police officer said.

Earlier on November 24, Manipur Police arrested six

individuals and apprehended one juvenile for their alleged involvement in damaging properties belonging to elected officials on November 16, marking significant progress in the ongoing investigation.

Three suspects were taken into custody on November 22 in Kakching district: Mayanglambam Harison Singh (28), Wahengbam Samson Singh (32), and Yengkhom Chandrashekhar Singh (57). The following day, police detained three more individuals in Imphal West: Mutum Rojen Singh (28), Laishram Bijoy Meitei (21), and Jameson Thokchom (20), along with one juvenile.

The total number of arrests related to the November 16 property attacks has now reached 41, according to police officials.



NEWS ANALYSIS

## Dictatorship, Divisions, and Decline: Yumnam Joykumar Singh's Scathing Critique of Biren Singh's Leadership Amid Manipur's Crisis

Jason Elmun

The interview with Yumnam Joykumar Singh, a former deputy chief minister and director general of police in Manipur, provides a scathing critique of the leadership of N. Biren Singh and offers insights into the ongoing political and ethnic turmoil in the state. Joykumar's remarks highlight a series of governance failures, political manipulation, and the erosion of public trust in the current administration, framing the crisis as one of leadership and communal imbalance.

### Key Points of Analysis:

#### 1. Erosion of Trust in Leadership

Joykumar criticizes Biren Singh's governance style, labeling him a "dictator" and accusing him of exacerbating communal divisions by prioritizing the interests of one community, the Meiteis, over others. According to him, this selective approach has alienated significant segments of the population, contributing to widespread unrest. The loss of public confidence, as evidenced by protests and attacks on officials' residences, underscores a deep dissatisfaction with the state's leadership.

#### 2. From Law and Order to Ethnic Conflict

Joykumar attributes the ethnic conflict between Meiteis and Kukis to mismanagement by the state government.

He points to the escalation following a High Court order to include Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list, which was predictably contentious. Instead of addressing the situation as a law-and-order issue, the government allowed it to spiral into ethnic violence. The involvement of groups like Arambai Tenggol, alleged to have been supported by the state, further destabilized the situation.

#### 3. Role of Arambai Tenggol and Parallel Governance

The emergence of Arambai Tenggol as a private militia is a critical issue. Joykumar alleges that Biren Singh was instrumental in forming this organization, using it as an enforcer to suppress dissent and consolidate power. This has led to accusations of state-sponsored lawlessness, with extortion and intimidation becoming rampant, further undermining the rule of law.

#### 4. Failures in Conflict Resolution

The handling of the abduction and killing of innocent people in Jiribam exemplifies the government's failure to engage with stakeholders

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and utilize mediatory resources effectively. Joykumar critiques the lack of involvement of community leaders and central forces in resolving the crisis, highlighting the administration's inability to act decisively and empathetically in critical moments.

**5. Proposed Solutions and the Path Forward**

Joykumar advocates for confidence-building measures between communities, the establishment of a neutral government, and equitable governance to restore order. He emphasizes the need for direct financial aid for rehabilitation, rather than temporary measures, to rebuild lives and restore dignity to those affected.

**6. Political Implications**

Joykumar predicts a significant political shift in the next assembly elections, with the BJP facing severe losses unless corrective measures are implemented. The impact of the Manipur crisis, he notes, has extended beyond the state, affecting the National People's Party (NPP) and resonating with Christian communities across the Northeast. This signals broader discontent with the BJP's handling of sensitive issues in the region.

**Broader Implications:****Communal Polarization**

The crisis in Manipur reflects the dangers of politicizing ethnic identities and leveraging community-based grievances for electoral gain. The alienation of the Kuki community and the empowerment of private militias

have deepened mistrust and widened communal fault lines.

**Governance and Accountability**

The failure to address the crisis transparently and inclusively underscores a broader issue of accountability in governance. The state's inability to maintain neutrality and ensure justice for all communities has led to the perception of state complicity in violence.

**Regional and National Impact**

The political fallout in Manipur could influence the BJP's standing in the Northeast, where regional dynamics often intersect with national policies. The growing resentment among minority and tribal groups may shape electoral outcomes in neighboring states.

**Conclusion:**

Yumnam Joykumar Singh's interview paints a grim picture of governance in Manipur under Biren Singh, marked by communal favoritism, administrative failure, and the rise of private militias. His insights highlight the urgent need for inclusive governance, equitable conflict resolution, and rebuilding public trust to restore stability in the state. The upcoming elections may serve as a referendum on the BJP's handling of the crisis and could redefine political alignments in the Northeast.



**Unity is not uniformity; unity is oneness of purpose.**

— Tony Evans



THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



K C Venugopal  
@kcvenugopalmp

As Parliament reconvenes, INDIA Alliance leaders held a strategy meet in INC President Sh. Mallikarjun @kcharge ji's office. The people are suffering under the BJP's rule, be it in Manipur, the rising unemployment, the communal clashes across India, or due to Adani's mega corruption. We vow to speak on their behalf and raise their voice in Parliament this session.



11:03 · 25 Nov 24 · 18.9K Views



Greeshma Kuthar  
@jeegujja

Follow

What is this "Jiribam new epicenter of violence in Manipur" rubbish that agencies are floating? In JUNE, the Arambai Tenggol had used fake news to instigate mobs, burn down houses/churches, abducted a Vaiphei man who

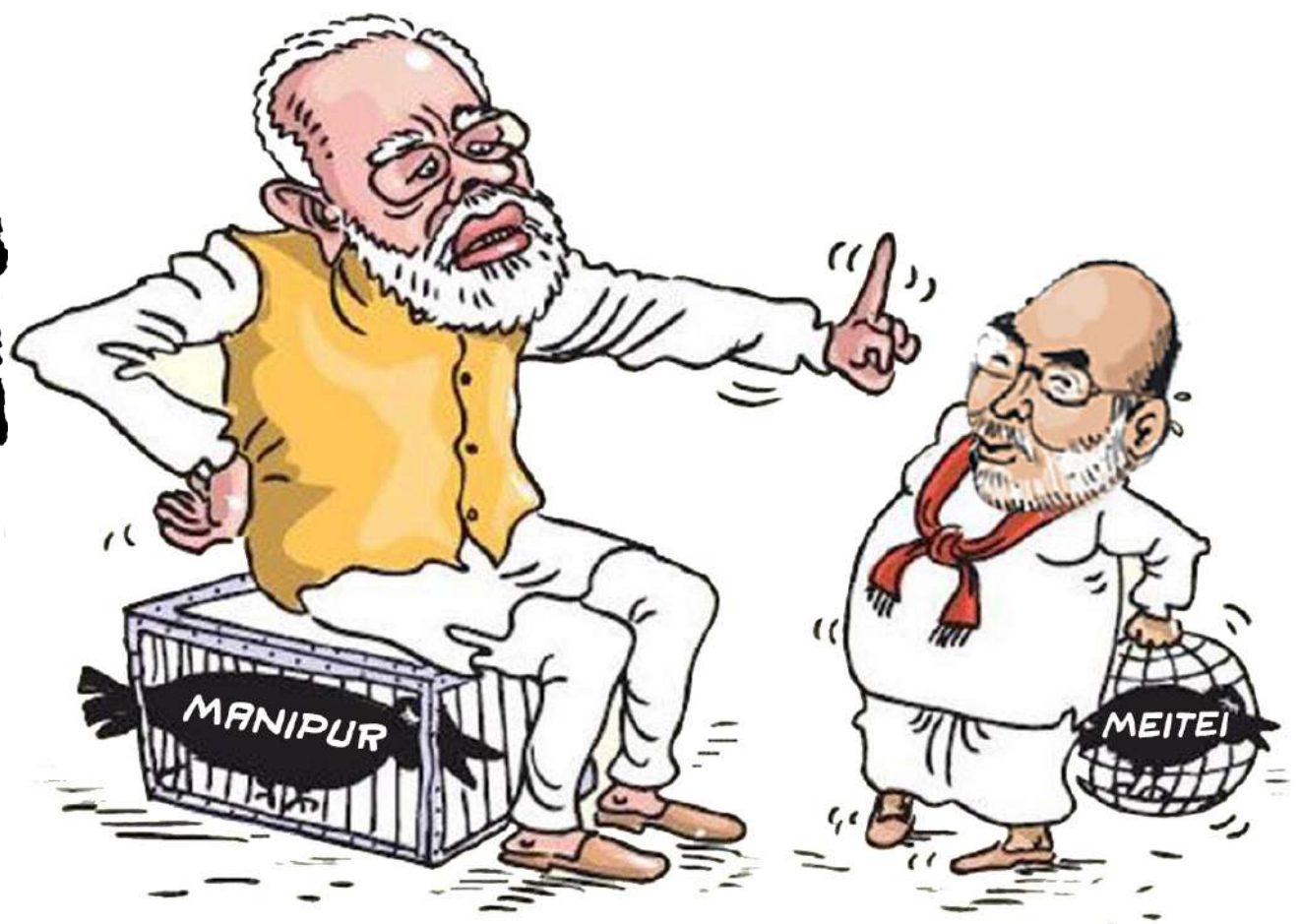


frontline.thehindu.com  
Manipur Mayhem 2024: Violence Escalates in Jiribam Despite Peace Deals

17:43 · 25 Nov 24 · 1,987 Views

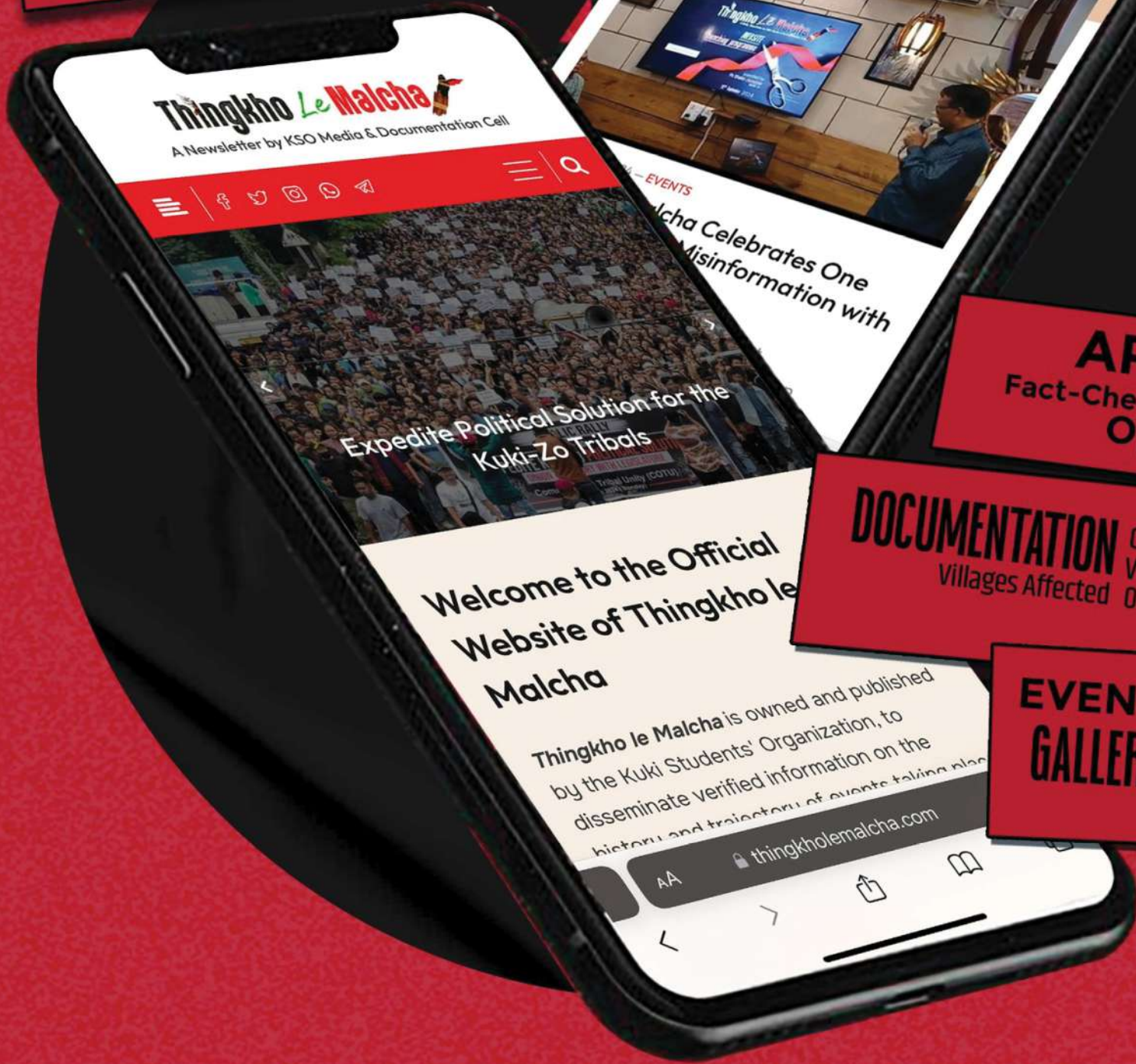


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# THE HEART OF A VOLUNTEER

To be a volunteer, you need selflessness.  
Here's to the ever-ready heroes  
Who gave them what they were?  
To ease the suffering of others  
And serving through Village Volunteer

The promise of love that will change life  
For they are light in a world of despair.  
So open-minded, so bold with the heart of gold.  
The selfless sacrifice makes a huge section,  
To face the world in huge ways; as saying  
goes "a nation without Volunteer is a nation without soul."

So, let us honour the heart of a hero.  
For their shining altar and their selfless soul  
Which would have a great impact on the generation.  
As dedication and commitment are constant;  
Through the potential dignity of VOLUNTEERS.

~ *Lhungougin Khongsai*