

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



TILMINLUN KHONGSAI (26 YEARS)

S/O (L) THANGKHOHEN KHONGSAI

ADDRESS: PHAINOM, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF INCIDENT: 27TH JANUARY, 2024

PLACE OF INCIDENT: SATANG, SAIKUL, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED 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 INPI WELCOMES CHIDAMBARAM'S VIEWS ON MANIPUR CRISIS, CALLS FOR PRESIDENT'S RULE

The Kuki Inpi, the apex body representing the Kuki-Zo community, has expressed its appreciation for the recent remarks made by P. Chidambaram, former Union Finance and Home Minister, regarding the ongoing political crisis in Manipur. In a post on the social media platform "X," Chidambaram, a seasoned political figure, pointed to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh as the primary cause of the unrest in the state. He echoed the longstanding demand from the Kuki-Zo community for Singh's removal, a call that has been intensifying since the violence erupted on May 3, 2023.

Chidambaram, who has extensive experience in dealing with Manipur's political intricacies, also called for genuine regional autonomy for the Meitei, Naga, and Kuki-Zo communities to ensure lasting peace in the region. While the Kuki Inpi acknowledges the merit of Chidambaram's view on autonomy, the community has moved beyond the idea of coexisting with the Meitei-led state government. Instead, the Kuki-Zo community is now advocating for the creation of a separate administration in the form of a Union Territory with legislative powers, a demand that has gained momentum in recent months.

The Kuki Inpi also highlighted a significant interview with Manipur's former Director General of Police, Yumnam Joykumar Singh, published in *The Week*. Singh, who also served as Deputy Chief Minister in N. Biren Singh's first cabinet, offered a scathing critique of Singh's leadership. Describing the Chief Minister as a "dictator," Singh pointed out that the current ethnic conflict in Manipur escalated due to Singh's governance, which favored only one community. Singh also accused the Chief Minister of facilitating the formation of Arambai Tenggol, a private militia, which played a role in the violence that has plagued the state. The Kuki Inpi commended Singh's courage in revealing these details and underscored the need for accountability in the ongoing crisis.



Press Release
Lamka, 26th November 2024

The Kuki Inpi appreciates and commends the views expressed by P. Chidambaram, former Union Finance and Home Minister of India and currently a member of the Rajya Sabha, on social media platform "X." A veteran politician well-versed in Manipur's political dynamics, Mr. Chidambaram rightly stated that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is the root cause of the ongoing crisis in the state. He emphasized the urgent need for Mr. Singh's removal, a demand the Kuki-Zo community has consistently pressed upon the Central Government since May 3, 2023.

Mr. Chidambaram, a prominent political figure and former Union Home Minister, further proposed that genuine regional autonomy for the Meiteis, Nagas, and Kuki-Zo communities is essential for permanent peace and tranquillity in Manipur. While appreciating, this view holds merit to some extent, the Kuki-Zo tribals, following the events of May 3, 2023, have abandoned the notion of coexisting with the Meiteis and the Meitei-led Manipur State Government under a single administration. Instead, the community has firmly demanded a separate administration in the form of a Union Territory with legislative powers for the Kuki-Zo tribals.

As time passes, the truth behind the causes and masterminds of the current conflict between the majority Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo community is gradually being unveiled. In an exclusive interview with *The Week*, Manipur's former Director General of Police, Mr. Yumnam Joykumar Singh, who also served as Deputy Chief Minister in N. Biren Singh's first cabinet, provided significant insights. Mr. Joykumar described N. Biren Singh as a dictator who cannot absolve himself of responsibility for escalating a law-and-order issue into an ethnic conflict. He categorically stated that N. Biren Singh acted as the Chief Minister for only one community.

Courageously revealing sensitive details, Mr. Joykumar further alleged that N. Biren Singh played a pivotal role in the formation of Arambai Tenggol, now operating as a private militia. He pointed out that the involvement of Arambai Tenggol in the violence was evident, with access to police arsenals being facilitated for them. The Kuki Inpi acknowledges Mr. Joykumar's bravery and sincerity in exposing the truth behind the causes and key figures orchestrating the ongoing atrocities against the Kuki-Zo tribals.

In addition to Chidambaram and Joykumar Singh's statements, the Kuki Inpi extended its gratitude to Pu K. Vanlalvena, a member of the Rajya Sabha from Mizoram, for his vocal support of the Kuki-Zo community in Parliament. Vanlalvena's call for the immediate imposition of President's Rule and his proposal for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people has been welcomed by the Kuki Inpi as a significant step towards addressing the community's grievances.

The Kuki Inpi remains resolute in its demand for justice and a peaceful resolution to the conflict, emphasizing the necessity of a distinct administrative framework to safeguard the rights and aspirations of the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur.

SUPREME COURT TRANSFERS EIGHT CRIMINAL CASES TO ASSAM'S NIA COURT

The Supreme Court today granted the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) request to transfer eight criminal cases from the NIA Special Court in Imphal, Manipur, to the NIA Special Court in Guwahati, Assam.

The cases, registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, were transferred from the Manipur Police to the NIA for investigation.

A bench comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan allowed the transfer, citing the NIA's contention that the prevailing situation in Manipur was not conducive to ensuring a free and fair trial.

The Court therefore ordered: "This transfer petition, under Section 13(2) of the NIA Act, 2008 and Section 406 CrPC, 1973, is at the instance of the NIA (MHA), praying for transfer of the following cases from the NIA, Special Court, in Imphal, State of Manipur to NIA Special Court, Guwahati, Assam We have heard Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, and learned. The transfer has been prayed for essentially on grounds that the situation at the State of Manipur is not conducive for the purpose of conducting free and fair trial in the cases referred to above. , the NIA has requested to transfer to the NIA Special Court, Guwahati."

The Court acknowledged the precedents, including its order on August 25, 2023, which transferred 27 Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) cases from Manipur to Assam, considering similar concerns.

During the hearing, Senior Advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing some of the respondents, suggested transferring the cases to Delhi for neutrality. Advocates Siddhartha Borgohain and Ahanthem Henry proposed alternative states such as Mizoram or Meghalaya, citing practical challenges in transferring cases to Guwahati, including expensive air travel and inaccessible roads.

However, Justice Pardiwala emphasized the necessity of centralizing trials in one state and upheld the decision to transfer the cases to Assam.

He stated that the accused person would not be able to afford it. He said: "I am a carpenter..all roads are blocked by the militants..I am not in custody. I am out on bail.I am from kuki community."

To this, Justice Pardiwala stated that it will be NIA's responsibility to ensure the safety. Taking this as an important consideration, the Court further added in its order: "Some respondents expressed apprehension that it may be difficult for the clients to travel from Manipur to Assam, more particularly those accused on bail. To take care of such apprehension, we permit those accused on bail to join the proceedings through video conferencing."



**He returns from the war.
Nothing has changed except that he only
speaks poetically.**

— *Albert Camus*

TRIBAL YOUTH COUNCIL ISSUES ULTIMATUM TO CM N BIREN OVER NEGLIGENCE OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

The Tribal Youth Council Manipur (TYCM-GHQ) has issued a stern ultimatum to the Chief Minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh, demanding immediate action on a series of demands aimed at addressing the neglect of tribal communities in the state.

In a press release issued on November 25, the TYCM-GHQ put forth a Charter of Demands, which also included previous memoranda submitted to the CM on October 7 and November 6.

In its letter, the TYCM demanded the nomination of two members to fill the vacancies in the Manipur State Commission for Scheduled Tribes (MSCST); the appointment of a separate Member Secretary for MSCST; the regularisation of the eight Clerical Staffs of the MSCST; the recruitment of Research Officers, Senior Legal Officers and Clerical Staffs in the MSCST; to enhance the fund allotment for the MSCST from Rs 90 lakh to Rs 10 Crore; and to create a separate fund head under the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

The TYCM also demanded for the filling of vacant posts in the Directorate of Tribal Affairs and Hills Department, Manipur as well as the expedite release of pending benefits for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 under Tribal Affairs and Hills Department.

The TYCM other demands also included the exclusive appointment of a separate Director, the filling of vacant posts of Offices and Grade-IV Staffs in the Tribal Research Institute (TRI), and to continue the Tribal Cultural Festival Programme under the Tribal Research Institute (TRI).



According to the TYCM, despite ongoing recruitment efforts in other government departments, crucial tribal institutions have been overlooked. The council believes that this discriminatory approach undermines the tribal communities and contradicts the government's proclaimed slogan of "equal development for both the valley and the hills".

The TYCM expresses frustration over the lack of positive response from the Government, regarding their Charter of Demands, despite repeated reminders and patient waiting. The Executive Council of TCYM-GHQ, in a meeting held on November 23, resolved to issue this ultimatum.

The TYCM has vowed to initiate democratic forms of agitation, if the Government fails to address and implement the Charter of Demands on or before November 29, 2024.

UNITED NAGA COUNCIL ADDRESSES ADC ISSUES

In the matter pertaining to the resolution adopted and recommended by the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) on October 14, 2024, for formation of a 20-member committee with 18 members to be selected from former Autonomous District Council (ADC) members, local self government experts, eminent intellectuals and two government nominees, the United Naga Council (UNC), while reiterating its "crystal clear" position to dispel from doubts arising out of the dissemination of information in public domain by the HAC, has said today that it "has never deviated its position on any matter relating to the ADC."



In a statement issued to Newmai News Network tonight, the UNC said, "If one is not oblivious, the UNC has earlier declared the third amendment of ADC 2008 and The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils (sixth amendment) Act 2022 as null and void."

While rejecting the said amendments, the UNC said that recommendation for nomination of adhoc committee by the HAC without any basis and provision is "all unbecoming and absurd".



Greeshma Kuthar
@jeegujja

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



From [frontline.thehindu.com](https://www.frontline.thehindu.com)

5:43 PM · Nov 25, 2024 · 3,666 Views



Ravi Kapur
@Kap57608111

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Meitei CM Biren Singh: A Dictator!!

YJ Singh, former deputy CM alleged that Biren Singh has been abusing the CMship as a dictator.

YK Singh, a minister in Manipur government, has also questioned Biren for his inability to restore peace.

Will Biren step down from his post?

Joykumar Singh, former deputy CM and DGP, Manipur

Singh says Biren has the backing of Union Home Minister Amit Shah

By Javed Parvesh

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'Biren Singh Couldn't Bring Peace, So Why Isn't He Resigning?' Manipur Minister's Criticism Signals Internal Rift

Reported by: KANISHK SAHAJANTA, GURU, IMPHAL

Edited by: Ananta Mishra

Last Updated: November 22, 2024, 14:14 IST

Yumnam Khemchand Singh said Monday's meeting of MLAs, which he stopped, should have included the administration as it was their job to maintain law and order in the state.



Yumnam Khemchand Singh, a minister in the Manipur government, has questioned chief minister N Biren Singh's refusal to quit over the failed law and order situation in the volatile state. Yumnam Singh was one of the



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FEATURED ARTICLE

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

Vishal Arora

Manipur is burning yet again, marking its third major escalation since the violence began in May 2023. The initial outbreak and the three subsequent flare-ups have almost seemed predictable, each coinciding with challenges to the leadership of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

Let's start with the latest escalation, which is still ongoing.

Third Escalation: Nov. 7, 2024

This escalation began on Nov. 7, 2024, when Zosangkim Hmar, a 31-year-old Kuki-Zo woman and mother of three, was assaulted and killed. Her death, alleged to involve rape, torture and burning, occurred without any apparent provocation, in Jiribam district.

After this tragic murder, 10 Kuki-Zo "village volunteers" were controversially and brutally gunned down by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The village volunteers are members of a civilian guard—a role necessitated by the ongoing conflict.

Further, five Kuki-Zo churches, 14 homes and a petrol pump were set ablaze. At least six innocent Meitei civilians – women and children – were also tragically

killed, and a Kuki-Zo man was found dead, among other violent incidents.

The Nov. 7 killing of the Kuki-Zo woman occurred just a day before the Supreme Court agreed to examine the "Manipur Tapes," a leaked audio recording which allegedly features Chief Minister Singh's voice discussing violent tactics amid the ongoing ethnic conflict.

The audio recording, brought to public attention by The Wire, claims that at least two Meitei groups, banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), were made to collaborate with security forces. It also suggests that the use of lethal ammunition during the initial phase of violence was supported.

The Supreme Court's Nov. 8 order stated, "Before the Court can consider the submissions which have been made on the basis of an audio clip, we deem it appropriate to grant the petitioners an opportunity to file before this Court material indicating the authenticity of the clip."

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Contd.

While the court order was issued on Nov. 8, a Friday, it is standard practice for the court to notify the respondent, in this case the Union of India, about a week before the proceedings. For this particular instance, that would have been on Nov. 4, a Monday. It's understood that the central government would have then informed the Manipur government. Regardless, the case was initially filed by Advocate Prashant Bhushan on Oct. 9. Thus, the chief minister must have anticipated media focus on the Manipur Tapes.

Now, let's turn our attention to the second flare-up.

Second Escalation: Sept. 1, 2024

The previous escalation started on Sept. 1, 2024, and claimed 11 lives. It erupted about two weeks after The Wire first brought the "Manipur Tapes" to the public domain, which led to Kuki-Zo groups calling for the chief minister's resignation and a speedier investigation into his purported admissions in the tapes.

The Manipur police, which reports directly to the chief minister who also holds the home portfolio, accused Kuki-Zo groups of using military-grade drones and rockets—a claim that the Kuki-Zo community vehemently denied. The only alleged evidence was held by the police force, without independent verification and outside the knowledge of the army or the central forces.

On Sept. 4, Advocate Prashant Bhushan formally requested the Commission of Inquiry, which was set up by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to investigate the Manipur violence, to file a First Information Report against the chief minister in response to the contents of the Manipur Tapes.

About 10 days later, a leaked copy of the purported intelligence report emerged from the chief minister's office, claiming that 900 "Kuki militants" had entered into Manipur from Myanmar with a plan to target Meitei villages around Sept. 28. This information was strangely

shared with the public at a press conference by a senior official, rather than being communicated discretely to the Indian Army, or at least the Assam Rifles stationed at the India-Myanmar border—who were better equipped than ordinary citizens to respond.

Two days before the alleged planned attack, the Manipur government retracted the statement regarding the so-called intelligence input.

Now, let's examine the first escalation.

First Escalation: June 6, 2024

The first escalation occurred after a Meitei farmer's death was attributed, without evidence, to a Kuki-Zo armed group in early June. That was the time when the Manipur Chief Minister was being blamed for the poor showing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2024 general elections, the results of which were announced in early June.

On June 6, in alleged retaliation for the death of the Meitei farmer, some Meiteis reportedly set fire to houses belonging to the Kuki-Zo community. In response, members of the Kuki-Zo community also burned houses of the Meiteis. The Hindu reported at the time that over 1,000 people had been displaced, including about 800 from the Kuki-Zo communities and roughly 220 from the Meitei community, as a result of the cycle of violence that followed.

Now, let's revisit the outbreak of the violence that occurred over 18 months ago.

Initial Outbreak: May 3, 2023

The ongoing violence began on May 3, 2023, when

Contd.

Contd.

a long-simmering dispute over land ownership and identity between the Meitei majority and the Kuki-Zo tribes exploded into full-blown violence. It came about 10 days after the resignation of the fourth BJP member of legislative assembly (MLA). Raghumani Singh stepped down on April 24, 2023, from his post as Chairman of the Manipur Renewable Energy Development Authority, as reported by Deccan Herald.

Resignations had piled up as dissent simmered within the ruling party. Many were unhappy with the leadership of Biren Singh, about a year after his second term began. The murmurs of discontent grew louder, with reports of MLAs camping in New Delhi, attempting to make their grievances heard by the BJP high command. Just as the ground began to shift under Singh's political feet, violence broke out—displacing political focus with chaos.

The pattern is evident: whenever the chief minister's leadership comes under scrutiny or he faces calls

for accountability, violence flares up, effectively diverting public attention from political crises. This trend implies that political survival might be prioritised over maintaining peace in the state.

The consistent lack of response from the central government, despite the deaths of hundreds and the displacement of tens of thousands, along with an apparent acceptance of these disruptive events, points to at least an indifference at the national level towards the ongoing turmoil in Manipur.

The people of Manipur — Meitei, Kuki-Zo, Naga and others — certainly deserve a peaceful and stable environment. But whether this latest flare-up will be the last remains uncertain. The true test may come with the next leadership crisis or demands for accountability facing the chief minister.

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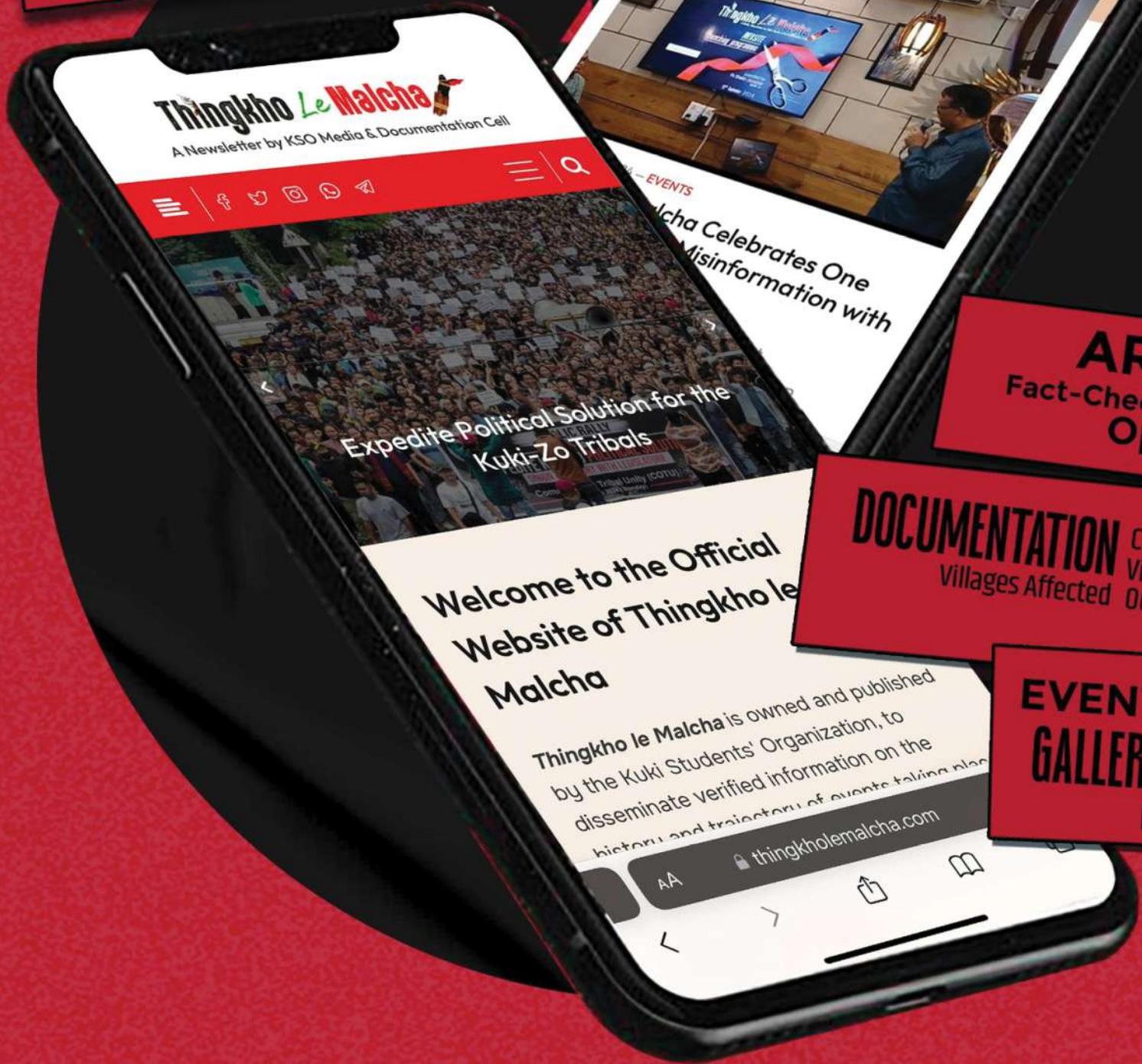


MODI'S UKRAINE INTERVENTION & HIS SILENCE ON MANIPUR

Courtesy: Molitics



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Under scorching sun and starry night
They stand watch, ever vigilant and bright
Braving heat and cold, through rain and shine
Guarding our land, our homes, our hearts and minds

Their selfless dedication, a beacon of hope
A shield of protection, a watchful scope
Because of them, we sleep with peaceful sight
Grateful for their courage, their unwavering light

Through the darkness, they stand as a wall
Defenders of our heritage, our culture, our all
Their commitment unshakeable, their spirit bold
A testament to the Kuki spirit, forever to be told

We salute these brave volunteers, one and all
Their sacrifice and service, we honor and recall
May their watchful eyes, forever guard our land
And their selfless hearts,
forever beat with courage and stand.

~ *Lenlalmawi Vaiphei*