

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Ichaigojang RELIEF CENTRE

Ichaigojang Community Hall,  
Saikul Sub-Division, Sadar Hills

Managed by  
District Administration &  
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

**Total Inmates Registered: 230**





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13.03.2024



**167**  
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.



# COTU ISSUES ADVISORY TO ENSURE SMOOTH ELECTORAL PROCESS

As the nation gears up for the festival of democracy with the 18th Lok Sabha Election drawing closer, the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills issued a crucial pre-election advisory to the Kuki-Zo people in the district.

The Kuki-Zo's top tribal body in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi urged citizens to refrain from disrupting the electoral process, particularly concerning the movement of central security forces and officials of the Election Commission along the national highway.

Emphasizing the importance of upholding the Indian democratic system, CoTU underscored the Kuki-Zo community's belief in the resolution of the age-old political issues within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

"Kukis being Indian and as citizens of India we believe in the Indian democratic system and that our age old political issue will be resolved within the framework of the Indian Constitution", it stated.

The committee also expressed the Kuki-Zo community's commitment to the democratic process and advocated for peaceful and lawful participation in the electoral activities.

Furthermore, CoTU's advisory outlined the establishment of buffer zones, which will be vigilantly guarded by Village Volunteers to ensure the safety and protection of the Kuki-Zo people.

It stated that the proactive measure aims to maintain stability and security during the electoral period, safeguarding the rights and safety of all residents in the region.



"The issuance of the advisory underscored the commitment of the Kuki-Zo community to foster a conducive environment for the electoral process, promoting civic engagement, and upholding democratic principles", CoTU stated.

The tribal body also said that as the Lok Sabha elections draw near, all stakeholders must cooperate and ensure a smooth and transparent electoral process for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

The polls for the Inner Manipur seat will be held on April 19. The Outer Manipur parliamentary constituency will go to the polls in two phases, on April 19 and 26.

Over 20 lakh voters, including 9,79,678 men and 10,46,706 women, are eligible to cast their vote in the northeastern state. There are 2,955 polling stations in Manipur.

# ARAMBAI TENGGOL'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN RESTRICTIONS: UNVEILING KANGLEIPAK'S POLITICAL INTRIGUE

The Meitei militia group Arambai Tenggol has imposed restrictions on election campaign in Manipur for the ensuing 18th Lok Sabha election, sparking controversy and speculation.

On Saturday, Control Room Operator of Arambai Tenggol, Laishram Robason, issued a statement in regards to the restriction.

Robason stated that there is no need of campaigns, feasts, use of loudspeaker, hoisting of flag and public meeting in different places amidst the prevailing situation of the State.

Robason added that conducting campaigns, organizing public meetings in different places will become a factor for disunity among the Meiteis rather than bringing unity.

Organising such activities could also lead to brawl and even loss of lives. As such, people should be aware of the possible outcomes and choose their candidates and cast their votes peacefully, the statement added.

The Arambai Tenggol which has been leading the Meiteis in attacking Kuki villages since 3rd May, 2023 in the ongoing conflict has been remaining silent or inactive publicly for the past many days as the wave of the LS election was high in the valley.

Following their silence and inactiveness which could possibly be due to the ensuing Lok Sabha election, there has been no reports of any violence or any unwanted activities reported in the boundaries or in Kuki villages.

Analysts interpret the move as an attempt to stifle campaigning for candidates other than those favored by the ruling BJP, with whom Arambai Tenggol shares close ties.

However, the Arambai statement is perceived to have



two meanings – to deny campaigning of other candidates other than the BJP and to coerce the public to vote Arambai Tenggol's choice of candidate discreetly, as the radical group has close proximity with the ruling dispensation. They are patronized by BJP Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and BJP Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba which directly indicates that they would favour the BJP candidate in the ensuing election.

There have been several allegations in the past too that they have been formed to protect the political throne of their master N. Biren Singh. Their restriction on election could just be another play by

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the Chief Minister to deny campaigning opportunity for others, enforcing it through his private armed militia group.

Past incidents, including assaults on opposition figures, further underscore Arambai Tenggol's political alignment.

The Arambai Tenggol's inclination towards the ruling dispensation is also seen from their brutal assault of Congress Chief K. Meghachandra on the day of Kangla Utra ceremony. They also beat-up Paonam Brojen who is seen as rival camp to N. Biren Singh's leadership.

As the prospect of BJP winning the Inner Manipur Parliamentary seat is low, the Arambai Tenggol came up with this tactic to stop other party candidates from campaigning which is seen as an

attempt to give leverage to the BJP candidate.

Mention may be made that before the announcement of party candidates in Manipur, Arambai Chief Korounganba Khuman threatened Bimol Akoijam, who is expected to contest the election on Congress ticket at that time.

Critics view the campaign restrictions as a strategic maneuver to bolster BJP prospects in the Inner Manipur Parliamentary seat race. Arambai Tenggol's history of intimidation tactics and threats adds weight to suspicions of political manipulation.

In essence, Arambai Tenggol's interference in election campaigning echoes past attempts to safeguard political interests, raising concerns about the integrity of Manipur's electoral process.

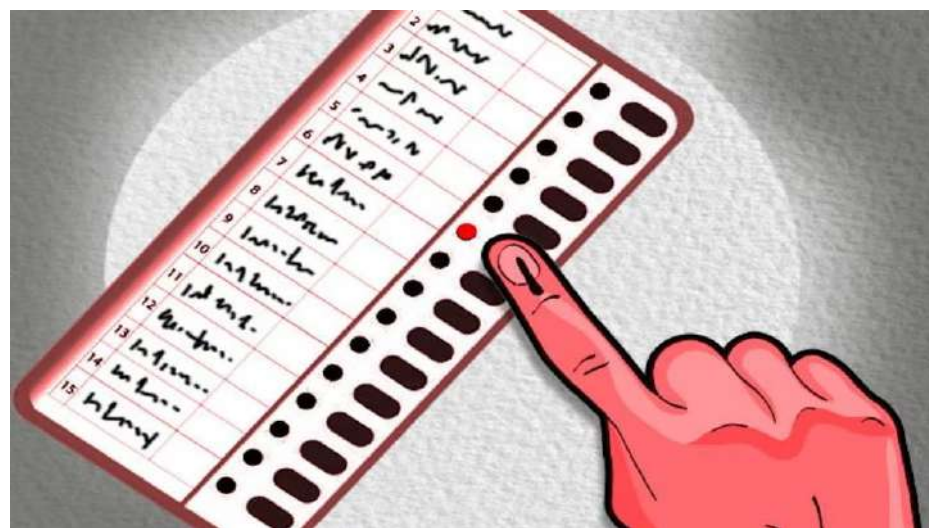
## NONE WITHDRAWN, 10 CANDIDATES IN FRAY FOR TWO LOK SABHA SEATS IN MANIPUR

With no withdrawal of candidates recorded, a total of four candidates for II-Outer Manipur and six candidates for I-Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituencies have solidified their positions in the electoral race, setting the stage for an intriguing battle for parliamentary representation.

The window for the withdrawal of the candidature ended at 3:00 pm on Saturday. A total of 10 candidates are in the fray this time for the ensuing 18th Lok Sabha Elections in Manipur.

The candidates for the Inner Manipur constituency included BJP's Thounaojam Basantakumar, Congress's Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, Maheshwar Thounaojam of the Republican Party of India (Athawale), and three Independent candidates – R K Somendro, Moirangthem Tomtomsana Nongshaba and Haorungbam Sarat.

The candidates vying for the reserved (ST) seat of II-Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency seats are: Alfred



Kanngam S Arthur from Indian National Congress, Kachui Timothy Zimik from Naga People's Front, Dr. Alyson Abonmai (Independent) and S. Kho John (Independent).

Each candidate brings their unique perspective and vision to the table, representing diverse interests and ideologies within Manipur's political spectrum.

# CONGRESS CANDIDATE DR. BIMOL AKOIJAM THREATENED, PARTY DEMANDS SECURITY MEASURES

In another attempt on Congress candidate in Lok Sabha election in Manipur, the Congress candidate for Inner Manipur, Dr. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam was threatened by suspected Arambai Tenggols on March 28. The incident has raised security concerns about ensuing Lok Sabha election as the two Congress candidates now faced open threat and intimidation with regards to their candidacy.

The Congress candidate for Outer Manipur, Alfred Kanngam Arthur, too has faced the same threat in the last few weeks. His election campaign programme was disrupted when unknown armed miscreants started firing during the programme.

In a letter addressed to authorities, the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) highlighted alarming incidents of intimidation targeting Dr. Akoijam and called for immediate security measures.

According to reports from the MPCC, on March 28, 2024, unidentified individuals visited Dr. Akoijam's residence inquiring about his whereabouts. Despite his absence, they instructed his family members to arrange a meeting at Kombirei Garden the following day. Subsequently, these individuals returned and pressured the family, emphasizing compliance with their directives.

Expressing deep concern over these incidents, the MPCC, led by President K. Meghachandra, took proactive steps by submitting applications to relevant authorities, including the Director General of Police (DGP) and the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur. These applications urged the deployment of adequate security personnel to safeguard Dr. Akoijam.

As of the latest communication, neither the DGP's office nor the Chief Electoral Office has provided the



requested security personnel. Despite assurances from the DGP during a meeting with Congress MLAs, tangible action remains pending.

Rajiv Singh, IPS, the DGP of Manipur, received correspondence from the MPCC underscoring the urgency of the situation. Failure to address these security concerns promptly could lead to grave consequences, jeopardizing not only Dr. Akoijam's safety but also the integrity of the electoral process itself.

The MPCC stated the indispensability of robust security measures, advocating for the deployment of personnel from central forces such as the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Such measures are imperative to uphold the principles of free and fair elections and ensure the safety of all candidates, particularly those facing targeted threats.

In light of the escalating security risks, the MPCC calls upon the concerned authorities to prioritize the safety of electoral candidates and take immediate action to mitigate threats to Dr. Akoijam's life.



# NAGALAND: ENPO REMAINS RESOLUTE ON BOYCOTT OF LOK SABHA POLLS

The Eastern Nagaland People's Organization (ENPO) has reaffirmed its commitment to boycotting the Lok Sabha elections, in protest against the unfulfilled demands for the Frontier Nagaland Territory.

This decision was upheld even after a comprehensive meeting at the CKS Hall Tuensang HQ, which included members of the Eastern Nagaland Legislature's Union and a Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament.

ENPO President R. Tsapikui Sangtam, stated that the Chenmoho resolution's decision to boycott both state and Central elections, established on February 23, still holds.

During the meeting, an appeal was made by ENLU for ENPO to reassess its election boycott decision, however, no changes were made. Sangtam clarified that the meeting functioned as a 'coordination meeting', and acknowledged a previously existing communication gap between ENPO, ENLU, and the public, which has now been resolved.



The state of public emergency in the Eastern region will continue, as mentioned by Sangtam.

A draft proposal discussed in a meeting between Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Union Home Minister Amit Shah earlier this year was also considered, however, no additional details were disclosed.

Source: [India Today NE](#)



**“A vote is like a rifle: its usefulness depends upon the character of the user.**

— Theodore Roosevelt

# LET EVERY INDIVIDUAL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING ELECTION PEACEFULLY WITHOUT THREAT, COERCION, OR INTIMIDATION, SAYS NSCN

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland has appealed for peace and parity to the public and stakeholders involved, including the civil society organisations, political parties, candidates and concerned authorities.

In a circular issued on March 27, the NSCN stated that every individual must be allowed to participate in the upcoming election peacefully without threat, coercion, or intimidation.

NSCN stated that the Nagas, in unison, only demanded that whichever candidate gets elected, he/she must work for the greater Interest of the Naga people.

The circular also said that Nagas have come a long way in their quest for freedom, having thousands of lives martyred for the cause.

“We must not, therefore, lose ourselves in such fiddling matters knowing fully well that our enemies are at



hand to further disintegrate us. We must not fall victim to the traps of our enemies lest we become the very evil we are fighting against,” NSCN said.

The circular added that the Naga cause is higher than the interest of any individual, organization, or group and it is beyond and above Indian electoral politics.



**Sumkawn**  
@Sumkawn



Jodha and Athouba is spreading lies not only in Manipur but even in @UN\_HRC. Enough is Enough! COCOMI is Meitei organisation who first declared war against the Kuki\_Zo tribal Christian in Manipur @UN @UNECOSOC #HRC55 #UNHRC



**Northeast Now** @NENowNews · 23h

Jodha Heikrujam from #Manipur delivered his short speech in the ongoing 55th UNHRC session held in Geneva

nenow.in/north-east-new...

1:20 am · 30 Mar 24 · 413 Views



**Ashok Swain**  
@ProfAshokSwain

Follow

Modi, to fool the West, wishes #GoodFriday2024 to Christians but his supporters vandalize & burn down churches all over India. In the last 10 months, 400 churches have been destroyed in Manipur alone.



From **Anil Cherukara I.N.D.I.A**

2:02 pm · 29 Mar 24 · 54.7K Views





OPINION

## How Will the Kukis Vote in the Forthcoming 18th Lok Sabha Election?

The forthcoming Lok Sabha election will be held in Manipur under extraordinary circumstances due to the state-sponsored ethnic violence that has plagued the state since May 3, 2023. In more than ten months, the state government has done literally nothing to diffuse the tension between the two warring communities. Even the third party, the Nagas, continue to maintain their “neutral” position with an aim to reap maximum political benefits, including in this Lok Sabha election.

For the Kukis, it is a test of their strength whether they will be able to survive such an ethnic cleansing pogrom, or surrender to the majoritarian state whose sole intention is to annihilate the minority communities and usurp their lands and properties.

Under such circumstances, it is imperative for the minority Kukis to take extreme care in deciding whom to vote for, as their existence as a community will largely depend on the outcome of this election.

So far, the intending candidates from the Kuki community have listened to the advisory issued by top Kuki bodies such as the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) not to contest the election. Similar advisory was also issued by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF). This already shows that the Kukis are not only extra cautious but also united in their stance.

There have also been calls for total boycott of the

election by some lesser-known organisations including the Women Associations but the same has not yet been announced by the top civil bodies. So far, the top Kuki-Zo bodies such as KIM and ITLF do not make any clear advisory whether the voter should abstain from voting.

As of now, we can only guess how the Kukis will vote in this election although a directive is expected from the unified command or Joint Inpis of the apex CSOs soon. As for today, let us see the four candidates who all belong to the Naga tribes – two from Tangkhul, and one each from Liangmei and Poumai tribes.

**1. KACHUI TIMOTHY ZIMIK:** Mr. Kachui Timothy Zimik of Naga People’s Front (NPF), is a retired IRS officer and a wealthy man. He is the richest among the four candidates. As the choice of the Naga civil bodies including the United Naga Council (UNC), Tangkhul organisations, and Tamenglong village organisations, he is the forerunner to be the next Member of Parliament from Outer Manipur.

Considering the current ethnic dynamics, the NPF candidate is likely to get support from various quarters including the Meitei and Kuki

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communities. There are already rumours doing the round among social media users that some Kuki groups are seriously considering supporting Mr. Zimik.

It is also highly possible that the NPF will get strong support from parts of Lamka as the party enjoys a considerable support in the past, particularly in 2019. However, this is unlikely among the Kuki commoners for they see the NPF as representing the voice of the NSCN-IM, an armed organisation responsible for the unfortunate ethnic conflict in the 1990s.

In such a scenario, the biggest strength of the NPF lies not from the support of the BJP but the later's inability to put up a candidate in the Outer Manipur. NPF being an ally of the ruling BJP, candidates from both the two would have put the Congress in a better position. So, Mr Biren Singh's abject failure in governance comes as a blessing in disguise for its ally, NPF and Mr Zimik.

**2. ALFRED KANNGAM S. ARTHUR:** Mr. Alfred Kanngam S. Arthur of the Congress party is also expected to be a strong contender for the forthcoming Lok Sabha election from Outer Manipur. Mr. Alfred, a former Congress MLA from Ukhrul AC, is a highly respected politician from the state for his statesmanship. His stature as a statesman was well recognised during his five year tenure as an Opposition MLA (2017-2022) not only among the tribals but the whole state of Manipur and even beyond. His role in drafting the ADC Bill, 2021, was also appreciated by one and all though some sections from the dominant Meitei community have mistakenly taken it as a Bill to disintegrate the state.

Moreover, Mr. Alfred also played a big role in winning a legal case in favour of the Manipur University Tribal Students' Union (MUTSU) in the honourable Supreme Court on reservation matter. An appeal which was filed by a section of ill-informed Meiteis against the tribals' constitutional rights was given a befitting end with the help of Mr. Alfred and his legal team in 2021-22.

As an experienced politician and an astute statesman, Mr. Alfred is likely to find favour in the eyes of not only his own community but also a large section of the

Kukis as well as the Meiteis. Anybody who wants a leader who will boldly represent the voice of the marginalised tribals in the state will think twice before choosing a candidate other than Mr. Alfred.

There are also rumours bustling in social media that intellectuals and society leaders among the Kukis are deliberating on whether to support the Congress candidate or not as his counterpart in the valley is largely seen as a communal academic who thinks the Meiteis alone own the state. His role in adding fuel to fire since day one of the current ethnic violence is something the Kukis can't ignore.

However, there are corners who refuse to see the two on party-lines. To them, the hills and valley being two separate entities, and that the tribal voters must choose Mr. Alfred for his statesmanship, and not based on who his counterpart is from Inner Manipur. For many, particularly among the intellectuals, he is the favourite to represent Outer Manipur.

**3. S KHO JOHN:** Mr. S. Kho John, an Independent candidate from Senapati district, was a household name for many particularly among the tribals as a former President of UNC. One very important advantage Mr. John has is his experience in social service in this regard. The UNC being the apex socio-political body of the Nagas of Manipur, he is quite popular among the Naga tribes of Manipur. Since Kangpokpi is adjacent to Senapati, he is also equally popular in this neighbouring district which was granted recognition as a separate district in 2016.

It may be noted that, Mr. John was quite reasonable in dealing with the other major ethnic communities, particularly the fellow Kuki tribals. In other words, he was much more rational than some of his predecessors who were quite communal/exclusivist in maintaining inter-ethnic relationship.

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Moreover, Mr. John is also by nature straight forward, a common character found in both the Kukis and tribes of Senapati. This similar trait can be exploited to his advantage if he wants favour from the Kukis.

Similarly, Mr. John is also known to be a close associate of Mr. Biren Singh. He was even asked to lead a Peace Committee supposedly sponsored by the latter though the mission failed to yield any tangible outcome. In other words, his close proximity with the Meitei chief minister will be of great help if he is able to play a diplomatic game. Here, it shouldn't be forgotten that Biren is known for supporting one candidate openly and another secretly.

**4. DR. ALYSON ABONMAI:** Have you ever imagined that Dr. Alyson Abonmai, another Independent candidate from Konsakhul village, Kangpokpi district, has a theological background? Yes, he was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Ministry in 2017 by Bethany Baptist Bible College & Seminary, Bangalore. He is not just a theologian, but also an educationist who works primarily as a school principal and a social worker.

However, considering his experience and comparative less popularity, he is unlikely to find favour from the Naga masses though he may get support from his district as well as the Zeliangrong communities. His strength will also come from the proximity he created between his own village and the Meitei community, but the same will likely distract the Kuki voters from favouring him.

There are also rumours that he is under pressure from the Naga bodies to withdraw his candidature which shows the lack of support he enjoys from the Naga community.

From the above analysis, it is likely that the Kuki voters will have a tough time in choosing from one of the four Naga candidates. It is also expected that the apex bodies of the Kukis might already have someone in mind even though they are yet to declare his name. So, whoever is the proposed candidate, the Kukis are likely to decide who will be the Member of Parliament from the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency this time.



## THE POLITICAL EMERGENCY KIT







# I ain't a singer nor a Philosopher

- Hillsman J. Tearsworth

I am not a singer,  
Whose voice leads millions to fall in love,  
And millions more to break up!  
I am not a psychologist,  
Who thinks he understands well -  
What a woman feels.

I am not a philosopher,  
Who thinks he knows-  
The real meaning of existence and life.  
I am not a physicist,  
Who can create an atomic bomb -  
To end all wars, but it's just an illusion.

I am not a political scientist,  
Who knows how to steal -  
Butter and bread from the have-nots.  
I am not a statesman,  
Who knows the art of diplomacy,  
For better governance of the privileged few.

I am just a common man,  
Who loves his land and his people,  
And uses his humble pen to write down,  
Their grievances and sufferings,  
To let the world be fully aware -  
"We will never surrender until we gain freedom!"