

Press Conference

By

World Meetei Council (WMC)

at Press Club of India, 18th May 2023, New Delhi worldmeeteicouncil@gmail.com

Who are MEETEIs?

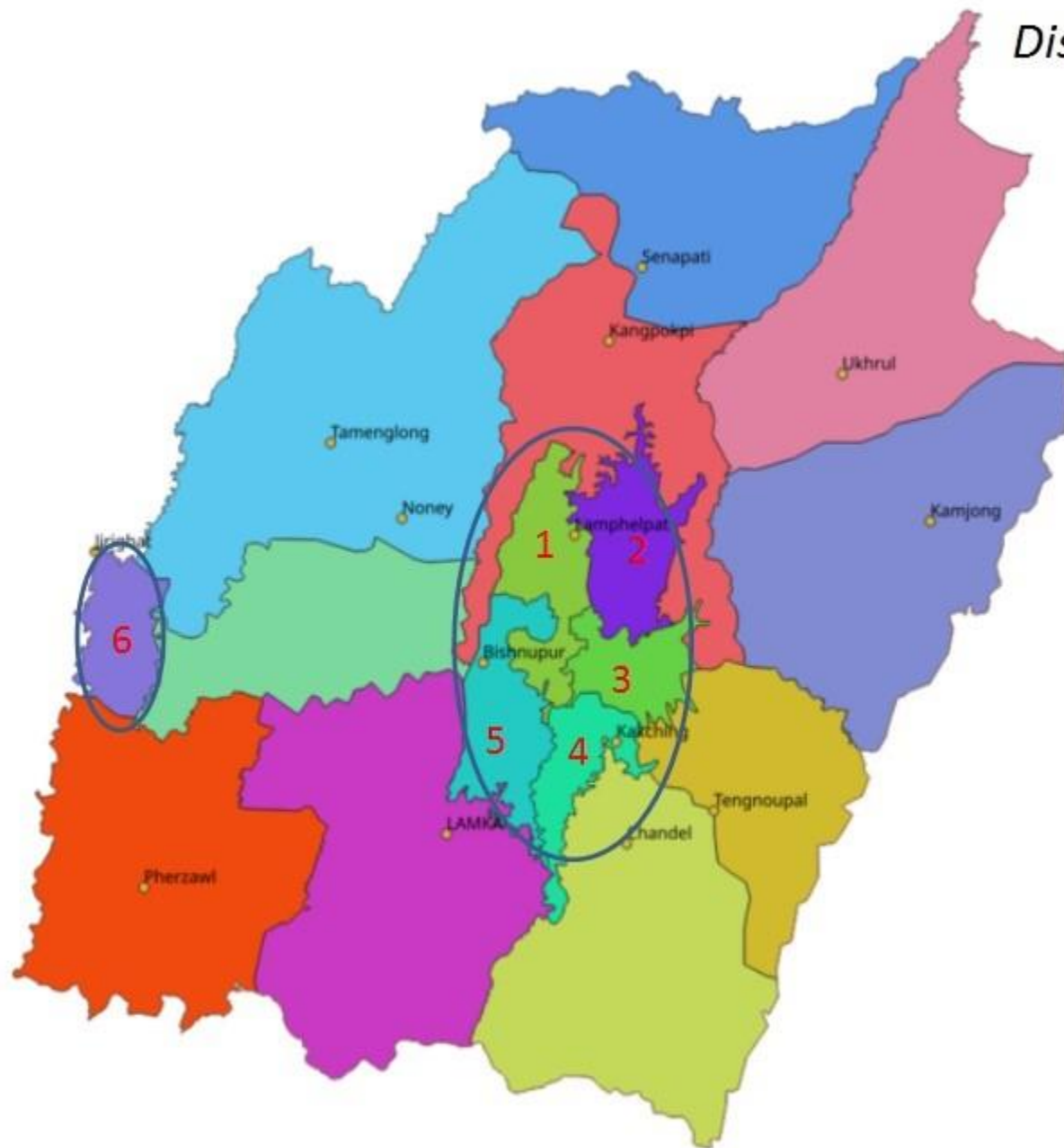
- The Meetei people, also known as the Manipuri people or Meitei, are one of the ethnic group of people in Manipur in Northeast India. They speak Meetei language

(officially called Meeteilon, also known as Manipuri), one of the languages included in the 8th schedule.

- One of the oldest scriptures (puyas) – “Wakoklon Heelel Thilen Salai Amailon Pukok Puya”, shortly known as the ***Wakoklon*** is one of the most notable historical literary works for Meetei. It is verified that it was written in **1398 BC (3400 years ago)** by the National Archives, New Delhi.
- Meetei consist of seven big families known as salai-taret (7 clans).
- There are only two indigenous community in Manipur i.e., Meetei & Naga.
- Meetei were believer of Animistic religion, however, they became Hindu since 18th century.

Manipur Map

Districts where Meetei can live



Districts where Meetei can live:

1. Imphal West
2. Imphal East
3. Thoubal
4. Kakching
5. Bishnupur
6. Jiribam

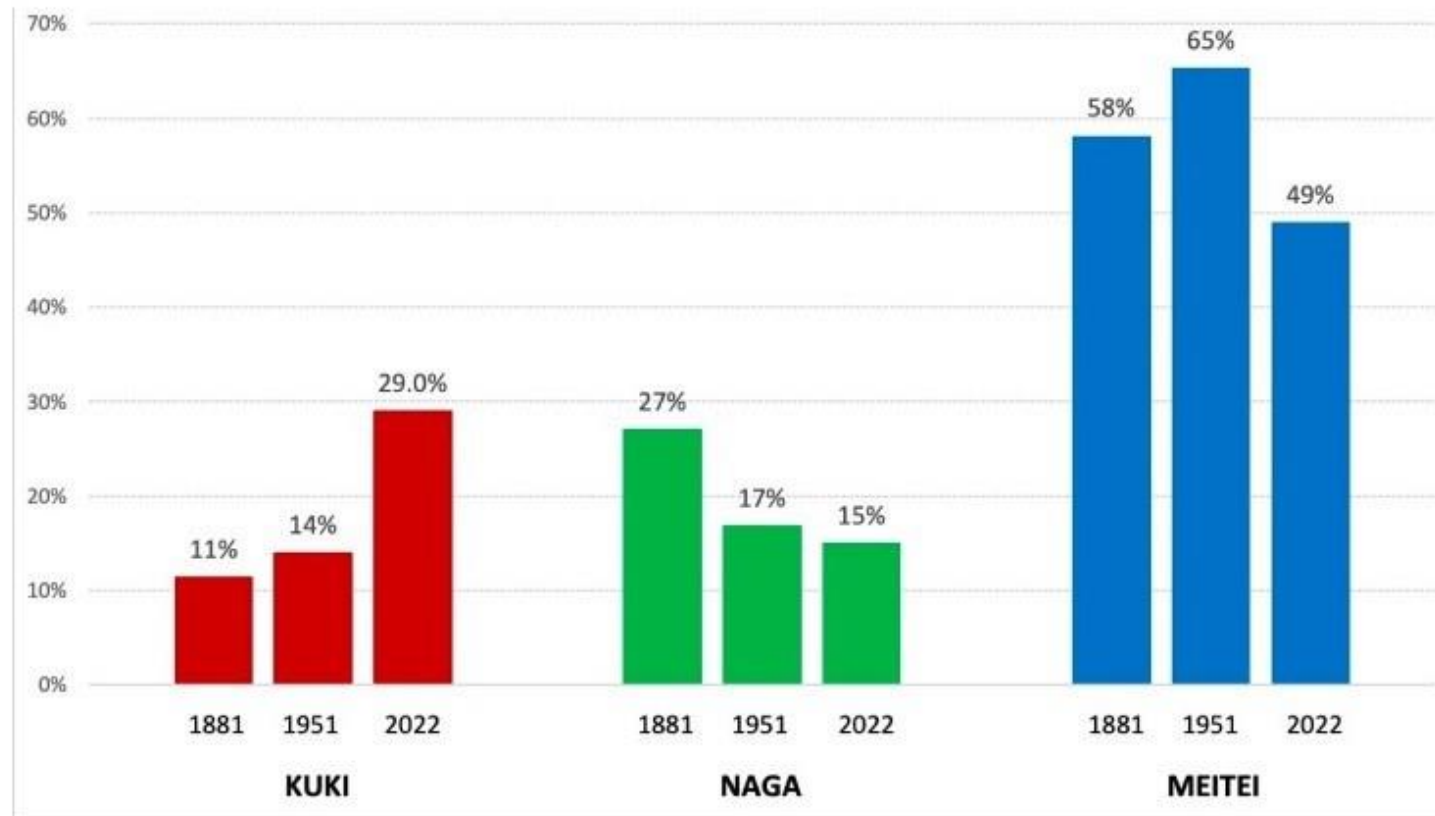
Why MEETEI needs constitutional protection?

- Meetei do not have a second home except Manipur.
- The latest census shows the population of Meetei is 15 Lacs in Manipur.
- However, Meetei can live only in valley area which is about 9% of the total land area of Manipur.
- The immigrant Chin-Kuki people came to Manipur in 18th century but the major chunk of their population came after 1951.
- The Govt. of India mistakenly granted ST status to these immigrant community, this is the source of the whole problem.
- The continuous influx of these immigrant community from Myanmar poses a big threat to the demography as well as socio-economy of the indigenous community in Manipur.
- As the Meetei can live only in the valley area, on the contrary, every community can settle in the valley area including this immigrant community. This is a serious threat to the Meetei.
- The Meetei are not conversant with the modern trading, the 95% of the economy of Manipur which is controlled by the Imphal bazar area that belongs to non-Meetei community.
- Therefore, Meetei needs constitutional protection which is ST Status for the survival in our own home state.

The ill-effects of the illegal immigrants in Manipur

- The serious changes in the demography
- Is it the reason for current unrest due to the huge demographic shift in the population by the immigrants?

% Population 1881 vs 1951 vs 2022



Note: The 2022 data is derived using various data sources and extrapolation method

The ill-effects of the illegal immigrants in Manipur

- The deforestation and poppy cultivation in the forest lands.
- The sitting MLA of Manipur named “Kimneo Hangshing” who posed photo in poppy field, this photo was uploaded in social media, but later removed.



Husband of Saikul MLA Kimneo Hangshing, Chairman of Kuki Revolutionary Army (insurgent group in Manipur) David Hangshing along with one cadre arrested

They were arrested for allegedly firing several rounds of bullets during a victory celebration.

Pic- Madam MLA with Opium poppy



The ill-effects of the illegal immigrants in Manipur

- Participant of the peace rally by Kuki people on 3rd May 2023 at Churachandpur



Updates of the hearing in Supreme Court (17.05.2023)

- In reference to the order given by the Hon`ble Supreme Court, the case has been closed by the Supreme Court and the parties are directed to proceed in the High Court of Manipur.
- The next hearing date for the same is scheduled on 6th June 2023 in the High court of Manipur.

Root-cause of the violence

- The violence was erupted on 3rd May 2023 from Churachandpur
- The main root cause is narrowed down to the Govt. of Manipur`s action to drive out the occupants from reserved/ protected forest land of Manipur.
- They were upset due to this action and Meetei were targeted to divert the issue.
- The Chin-Kuki community is always been a trouble maker in Manipur, they attacked Naga in 1993 and now they attacked to Meetei exactly after three decades.
- There is a big nexus of Kuki militancy, poppy cultivation and drug dealers which may pose to serious national security if this is not checked by the Govt. of India immediately.

Appeal to Govt. of India by World Meetei Council

- Meetei needs constitutional protection – ST status.
- NRC need to be implemented in Manipur at the earliest.
- Immediate control of the Kuki Armed militants including the SOO (Suspension of Operation)

Demonstration by World Meetei Council @Jantar Mantar on 14th May`23



World Meetei Council (WMC) condemns

- The destruction of Meetei ancient temples.
- The demand for separate administration by the 10 Kuki MLAs.
- Inaction by the Govt. to rein the Kuki militants under SOO.

THANK YOU