

Kuki-Zo Demand for Separate Administration: The Only Path to Lasting Peace in Manipur.

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Abstract

Ethnic tensions in Manipur have been a longstanding issue, exacerbated by historical grievances, political marginalization, and violent conflicts. The 2023 ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities highlighted the deep rooted divisions and governance failures in the state. The Kuki-Zo people, residing mainly in the hill districts, have long demanded a separate administration to address their socio-political and economic marginalization. This paper examines the historical background of the Kuki-Zo community, the colonial and post-independence policies that fueled ethnic divisions, and the recent conflicts that have reinforced their demand for self-governance.

Drawing from historical records, legal frameworks, and case studies of similar autonomy movements in India, this study argues that a separate administration is the only viable path to lasting peace in Manipur. The paper explores how the lack of political representation, uneven development, and ethnic targeting have left the Kuki-Zo people with no alternative but to seek self-governance. The study also addresses challenges such as opposition from the Meitei-majority valley and potential security concerns. By comparing successful autonomy movements like the Bodoland Territorial Region and Darjeeling Hill Council, the paper presents policy recommendations for a peaceful and democratic resolution to the conflict.

Key words: Separate Administration, Manipur Ethnic Conflict, Self-Governance, Political Autonomy, Indigenous Rights, Peace Process, Territorial Integrity, Insurgency, Armed Conflict, Internal Displacement, Ethnic Violence, Government Policies and Lasting Peace.

Introduction

Manipur, a northeastern state of India, is home to a diverse mix of ethnic communities, each with distinct historical, cultural, and political identities. The state's demographic landscape is primarily divided between the Meitei, who predominantly reside in the Imphal Valley, and the tribal communities, including the Kuki-Zo and Naga groups, who inhabit the surrounding hill districts. The ethnic composition and political dynamics of Manipur have historically been shaped by colonial policies, post-independence state formation, and deep-seated socio-political grievances. Over the decades, ethnic tensions have resulted in periodic conflicts, fueled by contestations over land, identity, political power, and governance structures.

The Rise of Ethnic Tensions between Meitei and Kuki-Zo Communities

The conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities has been intensifying in recent years. The Meiteis, who form the majority population, have historically dominated the state's political and administrative institutions. The Kuki-Zo tribes, however, have faced systemic marginalization, particularly concerning land rights, political representation, and economic development. The 2023 ethnic violence was a turning point, leading to large-scale displacement, destruction of property, and loss of lives. The violence stemmed from long-standing grievances, including demands for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status by the

Meiteis, which was perceived as a direct threat to the land rights of the hill tribes. Additionally, the eviction of tribal communities from forest lands and allegations of state-sponsored oppression have fueled a growing sense of alienation among the Kuki-Zo people.

Significance of the Demand for Separate Administration:

The demand for a separate administration by the Kuki-Zo community is not merely a reaction to recent violence but is rooted in historical and political struggles for self-governance. The call for an independent administrative unit gained momentum as Kuki-Zo leaders argued that the Manipur state government failed to protect their people during the conflict and that the valley-based administration had been systematically working against their interests. Given the constitutional provisions for autonomy under the Sixth Schedule and other precedents in India (such as the Bodoland Territorial Region and Gorkhaland), the Kuki-Zo demand for separate governance is viewed as a legitimate solution to ensure security, political representation, and economic development. The lack of trust in the current government structure has made integration within Manipur's existing framework increasingly untenable.

Research Questions and Methodology

This study seeks to explore the historical, political, and socio-economic factors behind the demand for separate administration. The key research questions include:

1. What historical events and policies have contributed to the Kuki-Zo community's demand for self-governance?

2. How did the 2023 ethnic violence shape the political aspirations of the Kuki-Zo people?
3. What are the legal and constitutional precedents for granting a separate administrative framework?
4. How can a separate administration contribute to long-term peace and stability in Manipur?

The research is based on a qualitative approach, utilizing historical analysis, policy review, interviews with community leaders, and case studies of similar autonomy movements in India. Secondary sources include academic books, journal articles, government reports, and media coverage on ethnic conflicts and governance in Northeast India. By analyzing these factors, this study aims to demonstrate why separate administration is the only path toward lasting peace and justice for the Kuki-Zo people.

Statement of the Problem

The Kuki-Zo community in Manipur has faced historical marginalization, social exclusion, and violent ethnic conflicts, primarily due to political, cultural, and administrative neglect. Despite their distinct identity, they have been subjected to systematic oppression by the dominant Meitei majority. This has culminated in the 2023 ethnic violence, which has intensified calls for a separate administrative framework to safeguard their rights, ensure political representation, and promote self-governance. The study seeks to address the challenges faced by the Kuki-Zo people in their quest for separate administration and analyze whether this demand is the only viable solution to lasting peace in the region. It also aims to explore how autonomy and self-rule

could benefit not just the Kuki-Zo community but contribute to overall peace and stability in Manipur.

Literature Reviewed

Ethnic Conflicts in Northeast India: Research by Hazarika (2010) outlines how ethnic conflicts in Northeast India, particularly in Manipur, have been fueled by historical grievances, socio-political marginalization, and territorial disputes, with particular focus on the Kuki-Zo community's struggles.

Historical Marginalization of Kuki-Zo: Chhetri (2016) discusses the historical exclusion of the Kuki-Zo people from political and administrative processes, highlighting their demand for autonomy as a response to persistent neglect and oppression.

Governance Failures and Ethnic Violence: Kumar (2016) elaborates on how the failure of governance in Manipur has exacerbated ethnic tensions, with the Kuki-Zo community facing significant marginalization by the Meitei-majority state government.

Autonomy Movements in India: Singh (2015) offers a comparative analysis of other autonomy movements in India, such as Bodoland and Gorkhaland, providing valuable insights into the potential for a separate administration in Manipur.

Impact of Colonialism on Tribal Identities: Baruah (2013) explores the colonial-era policies that reinforced ethnic divisions in Northeast India and the lingering effects on tribal identities like the Kuki-Zo.

State Responses to Insurgency and Autonomy Demands: Gupta (2014) reviews the Indian state's responses to autonomy demands and insurgencies,

which have often involved suppression rather than engagement or negotiation, influencing the Kuki-Zo community's push for separate governance.

Legal and Constitutional Framework for Autonomy: Lotha (2021) highlights the constitutional provisions that support the creation of autonomous regions in India, which could provide a legal basis for Kuki-Zo demands.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the historical, socio-political, and economic factors that have led to the demand for a separate administration by the Kuki-Zo community in Manipur.
2. To assess the role of ethnic violence and marginalization in shaping the Kuki-Zo community's aspirations for self-governance.
3. To analyze the potential for a separate administration to resolve ethnic tensions and create lasting peace in Manipur.
4. To evaluate the legal, constitutional, and comparative precedents that may support the establishment of a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people.

Historical Background

Colonial-Era Policies and Ethnic Divisions

The ethnic divisions in Manipur can be traced back to British colonial policies, which deepened the separation between the Meitei, who primarily inhabited the Imphal Valley, and the tribal communities, including the Kuki-Zo and Naga groups, who resided in the surrounding hill districts. During the colonial period, the British implemented a dual administration system, governing the valley under direct administration while allowing the hill areas to remain under

indirect rule through tribal chiefs. This system reinforced ethnic distinctions and ensured that the tribes had limited political and economic integration with the Meitei-dominated valley.

The Kuki Rebellion of 1917-1919 against the British further solidified the distinct identity of the Kuki-Zo people. The Kukis resisted British attempts to forcibly recruit them as laborers for World War I, leading to widespread conflict. Although the rebellion was ultimately suppressed, it became a foundational moment in Kuki-Zo political consciousness, reinforcing their aspirations for self-governance. In contrast, the Meiteis, who had long-established ties with British authorities, were given greater access to modern education and administration, further widening the socio-political gap between the two communities.

The Impact of Post-Independence Reorganization in Manipur

After India's independence in 1947, Manipur underwent significant political changes. The integration of Manipur into the Indian Union in 1949 was a turning point, as it transformed the region from an independent princely state into a part of India's democratic framework. However, this integration was marked by dissatisfaction among the tribal communities, particularly the Kuki-Zo and Naga groups, who feared being politically sidelined by the dominant Meitei population. In 1972, Manipur was granted full statehood, but governance remained valley-centric, with administrative and political power concentrated in Imphal. The hill districts, inhabited largely by the Kuki-Zo and Naga tribes, were economically and politically marginalized. Despite constitutional safeguards under the Fifth Schedule and provisions for autonomy through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), the tribal communities continued to

experience systemic discrimination, leading to growing demands for greater autonomy.

The History of Kuki-Zo Self-Governance Aspirations

The demand for Kuki-Zo self-rule has deep historical roots. The community has long sought an administrative framework that ensures political representation, land rights, and economic development. In the late 20th century, several Kuki organizations began pushing for greater autonomy:

1. Kuki National Assembly (KNA) (1946) – This early political body sought recognition of Kuki land rights and administrative safeguards within the Indian system.
2. Kuki National Organization (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) (1990s-Present) – These organizations have consistently called for a separate Kuki-Zo homeland or territorial administration, similar to the Bodoland Territorial Region in Assam.
3. 1997 Kuki-Naga Conflict – Clashes between Kuki and Naga insurgent groups over territorial control further reinforced the Kuki-Zo demand for a separate administrative region. The Nagas, under the NSCN-IM, sought the creation of Greater Nagaland, which led to violent conflicts with the Kukis, resulting in mass displacement.

Despite repeated appeals to the central government, successive administrations failed to address these demands, leading to escalating tensions and militarization of the region. Armed Conflicts, Insurgencies, and Displacement of Communities Manipur has been one of India's most militarized states, with multiple insurgent groups fighting for autonomy or independence. The Kuki-Zo

conflict with the Meiteis and Nagas has been exacerbated by the presence of armed groups, leading to frequent outbreaks of violence.

1. ***1990s Ethnic Clashes*** – The Kuki-Naga conflict led to the killing of thousands of civilians and the displacement of many more. The lack of government intervention resulted in the formation of Kuki militant groups such as the Kuki National Army (KNA) and Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) to defend Kuki villages.

2. ***The 2023 Ethnic Violence*** – The latest wave of violence erupted over the Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, which the Kuki-Zo perceived as a threat to their land rights. This conflict led to the burning of villages, mass killings, and the displacement of over 50,000 people, most of them from the Kuki-Zo community.

3. ***Displacement Crisis*** – Thousands of Kuki-Zo people were forced to flee to Mizoram and other states, further solidifying the belief that coexistence under a single Manipur administration is no longer feasible.

The 2023 Ethnic Violence and Its Aftermath

Causes and Triggers of the Violence

The 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur was the culmination of decades of simmering tensions between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, rooted in political, cultural, and economic differences. Several factors converged to trigger the violence, with the Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status being the immediate catalyst.

Scheduled Tribe Status Demand

The Meitei community, who predominantly inhabit the Imphal Valley, began demanding ST status in the early 2000s. Historically, the Meiteis were recognized as a forward community in India, which limited their access to the affirmative action benefits that STs receive, such as reservation in education and government jobs. As the Meiteis sought to gain ST status, they argued that they faced economic marginalization in comparison to the hill tribes, particularly in the wake of the economic boom driven by industries such as mining, trade, and tourism.

However, this demand was fiercely opposed by the Kuki-Zo communities, who feared that granting ST status to the Meitei would lead to the encroachment of Meitei people into the hill regions, undermining their land rights and political autonomy. The Meitei population in the Imphal Valley was significantly larger, and the Kuki-Zo community felt that their land and resources would be further eroded if the Meiteis were granted ST status. The tension escalated when the State Government of Manipur approved a recommendation to extend ST status to the Meitei community in 2023, sparking anger and resistance from the tribal communities.

Religious and Political Divisions

In addition to the ST status debate, the political and religious rift between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities also contributed to the violence. The Meiteis, who are predominantly Hindu, and the Kuki-Zo people, who are largely Christian, have been culturally and religiously distinct. The rise of Christianity among the Kuki-Zo people during the British colonial period was perceived by some Meiteis as an imposition of foreign culture and religious beliefs. Furthermore, the political exclusion of Kuki-Zo tribes from key governance institutions in the state has made them feel alienated and marginalized.

Naga-Kuki Conflict

The Naga-Kuki conflict also provided an undercurrent to the violence. The Naga insurgency, led by the NSCN-IM (National Socialist Council of Nagaland – Isak Muivah), has long sought the creation of a Greater Nagaland, which includes parts of Manipur. The Kuki-Zo community had been caught in the crossfire between the Meitei and Naga factions, with both groups accusing the Kuki-Zo of supporting each other's enemies. These tensions were exacerbated in the months leading to the violence, as Naga and Kuki-Zo militias clashed over territorial control, further destabilizing the region.

Displacement and Humanitarian Crisis

The 2023 ethnic violence led to widespread displacement and a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented scale. Hundreds of villages, mainly from the Kuki-Zo communities, were attacked, looted, and burned down. The violence caused a mass exodus, with thousands fleeing to neighboring states such as Mizoram, Nagaland, and Assam, as well as to the capital, Imphal.

Humanitarian Impact

Reports estimate that over 50,000 people were displaced during the violence, with the majority being from the Kuki-Zo community. These displaced individuals sought refuge in temporary shelters such as camps set up by local authorities, NGOs, and the military. Women, children, and the elderly were particularly vulnerable, facing lack of access to basic necessities such as food, healthcare, and sanitation. The violence also resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries, many of which were not officially recorded due to the fear of further ethnic tensions and retaliation. The destruction of homes, businesses, and

agricultural land has left many families without livelihoods, exacerbating the economic hardship in the region.

International and National Humanitarian Aid

The Indian government and international humanitarian organizations such as the United Nations, Red Cross, and Medicines Sans Frontiers provided emergency aid in the form of food, medical supplies, and shelter. However, the lack of security and trust between the ethnic groups made it difficult for aid to reach the most affected areas. Moreover, many Kuki-Zo refugees who fled to Mizoram were denied government assistance in Manipur due to the perception of the violence as a "tribal conflict," thereby highlighting the political apathy toward the displaced Kuki-Zo people.

Government Responses and Interventions

The Government of India and the Manipur state government responded with a mixture of security measures and political interventions. Initially, the government imposed curfews, internet shutdowns, and deployment of paramilitary forces to restore order. These measures were deemed necessary by the authorities to prevent further violence and to maintain law and order. However, the government's response was met with widespread criticism, particularly from the Kuki-Zo community, who felt that the state failed to protect them during the violence. Furthermore, accusations were leveled at the Meitei-majority police force, alleging that the law enforcement agencies were biased and complicit in the violence. The Kuki-Zo people felt that their grievances and demands were ignored by the central government and that the responses were disproportionately weighted in favor of the Meitei community.

The Central Government's intervention, particularly through the Ministry of Home Affairs, called for peace talks and urged both parties to engage in dialogue. However, the lack of neutrality in the mediation process further polarized the situation. The demand for a separate administration by the Kuki-Zo community gained significant traction, as they felt that peace could not be restored within the current framework of Manipur's governance.

Perspectives from Different Ethnic Groups

The 2023 violence led to polarized perspectives among the different ethnic groups in the region.

Meitei Perspective

The Meitei community, who represent the political and cultural elite of Manipur, viewed the demand for ST status as a legitimate right to redress economic and educational disparities. They also felt that the Kuki-Zo people were using the violence as a tool to further their demand for separation. Many Meitei individuals believe that granting ST status would allow the Meitei people to compete fairly for employment, education, and land ownership.

Kuki-Zo Perspective

For the Kuki-Zo people, the violence was seen as a fight for survival and self-preservation. They viewed the Meitei ST demand as a direct assault on their land, rights, and autonomy, further marginalizing them in the state. The Kuki-Zo people felt the central government had failed them, leaving them with no option but to demand separate administration.

Justification for Separate Administration

The demand for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur is deeply rooted in the historical and contemporary political dynamics of the region. This demand reflects the community's ongoing struggle against political and administrative marginalization, exacerbated by escalating ethnic violence.

This section explores the political and administrative challenges faced by the Kuki-Zo community, the governance failures that have fueled ethnic violence, and comparative analyses with other autonomy movements in India. It also examines constitutional provisions that support such autonomy.

Political and Administrative Marginalization of the Kuki-Zo People

The Kuki-Zo communities, residing primarily in the hill districts of Manipur, have been politically and administratively sidelined for decades. The state of Manipur is largely Meitei-dominated, with the Meitei community holding substantial political, economic, and cultural power, especially within the Imphal Valley. The Kuki-Zo people, spread across the hill districts, have faced systemic exclusion from political power, resulting in their concerns and needs being overlooked by the state government.

Political Exclusion

The Kuki-Zo community's underrepresentation in Manipur's legislative assembly, which is primarily composed of Meitei members, has left them without a political voice in the decision-making process. The community's lack of influence in policy formulation, especially in areas related to land ownership, education, and resource allocation, has contributed to their disenfranchisement. Furthermore, the imposition of policies without adequate consultation with tribal representatives has deepened their sense of political alienation.

Administrative Neglect

Beyond political exclusion, the administrative systems in the hill districts have been historically underdeveloped. Basic infrastructure, healthcare, and education services remain insufficient in Kuki-Zo areas. The Manipur government's neglect of these issues has only intensified the sense of marginalization. Moreover, the local administration has often been dominated by non-tribal officials, further distancing the Kuki-Zo people from governance processes.

Ethnic Violence as a Symptom of Governance Failure

The escalating ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, especially seen in the 2023 Manipur violence, is a stark indication of the governance failure in the region. The absence of inclusive governance, political representation, and the lack of a peaceful framework for ethnic coexistence have made the situation untenable.

Failure to Address Grievances

The Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status was the immediate trigger for the violence. However, this demand has a deeper connection with the historical grievances of the Kuki-Zo people. The Kuki-Zo community felt that granting the Meitei ST status would lead to further encroachment on their land and erosion of their autonomy. The government's failure to engage in meaningful dialogue and find a compromise has led to violent outbreaks.

Inability to Protect Minority Rights

The violence also highlighted the inability of the state government to protect the rights and safety of the Kuki-Zo community. During the 2023 clashes, the Kuki-Zo people were subjected to attacks, displacement, and loss of livelihoods, while Meitei forces were accused of using their political influence and control over the state's security apparatus. The violence was thus not merely an ethnic conflict but a symptom of governance failure, where the administration failed to prevent violence and ensure the protection of minority communities.

Comparative Analysis with Other Autonomy Movements in India

In India, autonomy movements have played a crucial role in addressing regional grievances and achieving peace. The Kuki-Zo community's demand for a separate administration draws strong parallels to similar movements in India, where the central government recognized the need for autonomy to preserve regional identity and promote peaceful coexistence.

Bodoland Territorial Region (Assam)

The Bodoland movement in Assam is a prime example of a successful autonomy movement. The Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) was created after decades of protests and violence led by the Bodo people, who sought political and cultural autonomy. The creation of the BTR allowed the Bodo community to manage their own affairs and ensure their rights were protected, without the constant interference of the state government. Similarly, the Kuki-Zo community's demand for a separate administration stems from the need to safeguard their cultural identity and political rights in a region dominated by the Meitei community.

Gorkhaland Movement (West Bengal)

Another example is the Gorkhaland movement in West Bengal, where the Gorkha community sought the creation of a separate state due to their long-standing grievances over political and cultural marginalization. After years of unrest and violence, the state and central governments recognized the need for Gorkha autonomy, culminating in the creation of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). The Kuki-Zo demand for a separate administrative framework aligns with this movement's pursuit of regional autonomy to preserve their distinct identity and secure their political and economic rights.

Darjeeling Hill Council

The Darjeeling Hill Council in West Bengal, which provides limited autonomy to the Gorkha community, is another example of the potential for administrative solutions to ethnic grievances. The establishment of such councils has helped maintain peace by providing a local governance structure, which could be a model for the Kuki-Zo community's demand for self-governance in Manipur.

Legal and Constitutional Provisions Supporting Autonomy

India's Constitution and legal frameworks provide several provisions that support the establishment of autonomous regions and communities. These include:

Article 244 and The Sixth Schedule

Article 244 of the Indian Constitution allows the establishment of autonomous District Councils under the Sixth Schedule. These councils have been set up in regions inhabited by Scheduled Tribes (STs) to ensure cultural protection and political autonomy. The Kuki-Zo community, which shares a historical and

cultural connection with other Scheduled Tribes, could benefit from this provision to manage their affairs without external interference.

Article 371C

Article 371C provides for special provisions for the state of Manipur, which allows the creation of a tribal advisory council. This could be expanded to grant the Kuki-Zo community greater autonomy in the administration of their territories, with more control over their resources and political representation.

The Kuki-Zo community's demand for a separate administration is not only a response to their marginalization and violence but is also consistent with India's constitutional framework for granting autonomy to ethnic communities. Drawing lessons from other movements, such as Bodoland and Gorkhaland, a separate administration could provide a viable solution to address the Kuki-Zo people's demands for security, self-rule, and cultural preservation.

Significance of the Contribution

The findings of this study hold significant value for scholars, academics, policymakers, and society:***For Scholars:*** It adds to the growing body of literature on ethnic conflicts, tribal autonomy, and governance issues in Northeast India, offering critical insights into the Kuki-Zo community's struggle for self-determination and its broader implications for regional politics.

For Academics: This research provides a comprehensive understanding of ethnic violence and state failure, contributing to debates on ethnic identity, political exclusion, and autonomy movements in the Indian subcontinent, encouraging further scholarly exploration.

For Policymakers: The study proposes a framework for resolving the ethnic conflicts in Manipur through autonomy and decentralization, offering policy recommendations that could inform the government's approach to peacebuilding and political stability in the region.

For Society: It underscores the need for social justice and inclusive governance, promoting mutual understanding between ethnic communities and fostering national integration. By highlighting the importance of addressing marginalized communities' needs, the research advocates for peaceful coexistence and social harmony.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

The demand for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur has emerged as a response to long-standing issues of political marginalization, administrative neglect, and escalating ethnic violence. The Meitei-dominated state administration, historically, has failed to adequately address the needs and grievances of the Kuki-Zo community, resulting in displacement, loss of autonomy, and a deepening sense of alienation. The violence that erupted in 2023 serves as a grave reminder of the failure of governance and the urgency of finding a solution to the longstanding ethnic divide in the state. The Kuki-Zo people's demand for separate administration is rooted in their desire for security, self-governance, and protection of their cultural identity.

Through a historical and comparative lens, this paper has examined how similar autonomy movements, such as Bodoland and Gorkhaland, have provided models for the peaceful resolution of ethnic conflicts. These movements highlight that the recognition of regional autonomy, coupled with constitutional safeguards, can contribute to political stability and promote peaceful

coexistence. Legal provisions, including Article 244 and Article 371C, provide constitutional backing for such demands, enabling the creation of separate administrative structures that respect the distinct identity and rights of the Kuki-Zo community.

The ongoing ethnic violence, political exclusion, and discriminatory policies faced by the Kuki-Zo people necessitate urgent intervention. The central and state governments must consider the establishment of a separate administrative framework as a conflict-resolution strategy, which will allow the Kuki-Zo people to manage their own affairs, safeguard their land rights, and preserve their cultural heritage.

Recommendations for Policymakers

1. Creation of a Separate Administrative Structure

The government should prioritize the creation of a separate administrative unit for the Kuki-Zo community, along the lines of the Bodoland Territorial Region or the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration. This would allow the community to exercise self-rule, particularly in matters related to land, law enforcement, and local governance.

3. Enhanced Political Representation

To ensure that the Kuki-Zo community has a meaningful voice in state affairs, political reforms should be implemented to increase their representation in the legislative assembly and local governance bodies. This could involve granting more seats to the community and ensuring that their interests are represented at the state level.

3. Dialogue and Conflict Mediation

The government must initiate a dialogue process involving Meitei and Kuki-Zo leaders, with the assistance of neutral third-party mediators. This dialogue should focus on peacebuilding, addressing historical grievances, and fostering mutual understanding between the communities. Ensuring that the voices of the Kuki-Zo people are heard at the negotiation table is essential to any lasting peace agreement.

4. Humanitarian Aid and Reconstruction

In light of the recent violence, it is imperative to provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced Kuki-Zo people. The government should launch reconstruction programs in the affected areas, ensuring that the Kuki-Zo people have access to basic services, healthcare, and education.

Possible Future Scenarios

If the demand for separate administration is acknowledged and implemented, Manipur could see a significant reduction in ethnic tensions, with the Kuki-Zo community gaining greater political representation and control over their own affairs. This would allow for better resource allocation, improved governance, and the protection of tribal identity.

Alternatively, if the demand is ignored, the ethnic violence could continue to escalate, possibly leading to a prolonged conflict that further divides the state. The Kuki-Zo community may continue to feel marginalized and disenfranchised, potentially resulting in more insurgencies or demands for independence.

The central government must act decisively to prevent further violence and promote peace in the region by supporting an administrative framework that respects the rights and aspirations of the Kuki-Zo people.

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