

Ibobi has lost control over his own Leviathan



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[Ibobi's Manipur](#) today resembles an Orwellian dystopian allegory and the world may witness the inflaming [Manipur](#) to re-read the Orwellian "Animal Farm" and one thing would be certain: the end is likely to be the worst entrapping in the self-inflicted world of dogma and delusion.

[Ibobi's](#) idea of [Manipur](#) is the idea of challenging the idea of "Nagalim" operating within the "greed" ideological subtext of grabbing the land of the hill tribals [as](#) the dominant class is precluded by law from buying the tribal lands. [Ibobi](#) shrewdly made his chauvinism work by manipulating the ethnic-socio psychological perception of the Meiteis and Kukis through disseminating rabid anti-Naga anecdotes and propagandas projecting the idea of "Nagalim" [as](#) "anti" to the idea of [Manipur](#) and Kuki identity.

Such dehumanizing political dogma can only be enforced in a "police [state](#)" like [Manipur](#). Perhaps, the law that adjudged the lawful mode of the tribals' (Nagas') protest in the hills [as](#) "unlawful" becomes silent and ceases to operate the moment it comes to the lawless mode of protest of the dominant class (Meiteis) in the valley. [Manipur](#) has always been at its height of lawlessness and hypocrisy.

Law and democracy have two different sets of meanings in [Manipur](#), one for criminalizing the democratic voice of the hill tribals and another for legalizing the lawlessness of the dominant class in the valley.

[Manipur state as](#) an institution itself is lawless and it expects the hill tribals to be lawful, but exonerates the lawlessness of the dominant class in the valley. Judiciary itself is a mere spectacle, more of an extension of the whims of the lawless executive. [Manipur](#) is the only [state](#) on earth where the notion of lawfulness and legality can be constantly maneuvered to suit the anti-tribal dogma of the dominant class.

The one classic example is the ongoing agitation of the Nagas which erupted in protest [against](#) the undemocratic creation of Sadar Hills and Jiribam districts slicing the Naga ancestral areas without consulting the Nagas in violation of the four MoUs signed between the Nagas and the Government of [Manipur](#). UNC [launched](#) the ongoing indefinite peaceful partial shutdown along the national highway in protest [against](#) the same. However, [against](#) all democratic norms, [Ibobi](#) announced the further creation of seven new districts and arrested the top two UNC [leaders](#) by coining the term “economic blockade” to criminalize the Naga political issue.

The Nagas in intensification of their agitation instantly rejected the seven districts [as](#) illegal, null and void ab initio [as](#) the move results in carving out of their ancestral territory reducing the Nagas to a mere minority in all these seven districts and dubbed the same [as](#) nothing but an invasion upon their ancestral land, identity and culture. No [doubt](#), the unprecedented formation amounts to redrawing of Naga boundaries without any constitutional jurisdiction [as](#) in violation of Article 371C of the Constitution and the [Manipur](#) Legislative Assembly (Hill Areas Committee) Order, 1972 [as](#) [Manipur](#) Government did not even consult the Hill Areas Committee (HAC), much less the affected Naga villages.

Meanwhile, [Manipur](#) Government instigated counter-protest in the valley to unleash ethnic and communal violence [against](#) the innocent Naga civilian passengers in the valley, sponsoring desecration and vandalization of Churches, daylight robbery and looting of the belongings and luggages of the innocent Naga passengers. [One](#) Church at Pangei was also set on fire and more than 70 private vehicles were also vandalized, destroyed and burnt down. Hundreds and thousands of innocent Naga civilian passengers were physically assaulted, stranded and held hostage for days [as](#) transit captives not permitting them to

leave [Imphal](#) valley. However, none of the communal rioters has been booked.

Far from being an isolated political [act](#), [Ibobi](#)'s anti-tribal (anti-Naga) [policy](#) is deeply entrenched, systemic and all pervasive. Best continuing example of it would be the last year's three anti-tribal Inner Line Permit (ILP) Bills and the present non-functional HAC, let alone the existing [Manipur](#) (Hill Areas) District Councils [Act](#) which is another legislative machination to render the special provisions of Article 371C of the Constitution redundant.

[Manipur](#) seemed to spare a ray of hope last year though in the symbol of [Manipur Tribal](#) Forum, Delhi (MTFD) signifying awakening of [tribal](#) consciousness and unity of the hills. However, the fact that today the Kuki brothers are celebrating the undemocratic creation of the seven districts at the cost of other [tribal](#) groups proved how illusive the notion of [tribal](#) unity in the State of [Manipur](#) is.

While the Nagas are already intensifying their agitation to “defend their land to the last man standing” by announcing peaceful picketing of all governmental offices with effect from themidnight of 31st December, [2016](#), the Meiteis, i.e. the dominant class, for the obvious reasons are celebrating [as](#) a political triumph [over](#) the Naga brothers. However, both the Meitei and Kuki brothers committed a common mistake in this tacit alliance [as](#) the two [victims](#) feel gratitude to their own oppressor for this gesture. Being entrenched themselves in the psychological pattern of “Stockholm syndrome”, they both are now forging identity with the oppressive regime of [Ibobi](#) forgetting that they too are the “common” victim of it. [Ibobi](#) with a stroke of pen has already destroyed and ripped [Manipur](#) into irreparable pieces but they direct their wrath [against](#) the “other” victim, the Nagas.

Be that [as](#) it may. Kuki brothers will gradually realize [as Ibobi](#)'s insidious political motive slowly unfolds. Prediction in politics is a stupidity, but [don](#)'t tell me by the way that this is a prediction. The momentum among the Meitei brothers is already in motion [as](#) is evident to pursue next for the tag of tribal status. This is likely to be followed by a new maneuver for expunging Article 371C from the Constitution. The rest is for the historians to record.

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