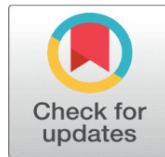


ETHNO-NATIONALISM IN MANIPUR AND ITS IMPACT ON MEITEI-NAGA RELATIONSHIPS

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ABSTRACT

Ethno-nationalism has become one of the major political movements in North east India and especially in the state of Manipur. It plays a crucial and critical role in the socio-political dynamics of Manipur which significantly gives impact to the Meitei-Nagas relationship. For the Meitei's ethno-nationalism strongly stands for preserving their cultural identity and defending Manipur's territorial integrity. On the other side and contrary to the Meitei feelings, the Nagas ethno-nationalism sought and vision for a unified homeland of Nagas communities which includes parts of Manipur and parts of other North Eastern states. Historical Factors such as the division of hill and valley administration by the external forces such as British colonial power and contemporary issues based on territorial disputes, land rights, and political representation, have encouraged few tensions between these communities. This Paper attempted to explore the historical roots of ethno nationalism, contentions, and identities between them. It also analysed the impact of ethno nationalism to Meitei and Nagas relations. Potential pathways for positive and peaceful co-existence and reconciliation are also examined. Focus is also given to socio political dialogue, decentralized of governance, and exchange of culture. The paper also extended it focuses on ethno-nationalism of both ethnic communities which can inspire unity if approached inclusively and positively. The Meitei-Naga relationship reflects broader challenges in fostering coexistence in multi-ethnic societies.

Keywords: Ethno-Nationalism, Meitei, Nagas, Identities, Contentions Reconciliation. Manipur

1. INTRODUCTION

Manipur is a state in Northeast India which covers a significant strategically important to India as it shares the international boundaries with other south East Asia countries. It's a home to the different cultural and ethnic diversity. Sometimes it is being praise and refers as golden land and a mother to different indigenous ethnic communities by many scholars. Its rich history and typical geography have shaped a society where multiple ethnic groups coexist, each carrying a distinct identity and set of aspirations. The Meitei's and Nagas represent two of the most prominent indigenous group among ethnic communities and their relationship is central to the state's socio-political landscape. Ethno-nationalism, or the assertion of identity based on shared ethnicity, has been a defining force in the dynamics between these communities. The significance of ethno-nationalism to the Meitei-Naga relationship is multi-faceted, covering historical legacies, cultural ties, territorial disputes, political aspirations etc. This paper explores and attempts to understand the roots and evolution of ethno-nationalism in Manipur, its impact on the Meitei-Naga relationship, and the potential pathways toward coexistence and mutual understanding.

2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 1) To examine the historical evolution of ethno-nationalism in Manipur.
- 2) To analyse the ethno nationalism of Meitei and Nagas and reason for contention.
- 3) To study the impact of ethno nationalism on Meitei Nagas relations
- 4) To propose the measure which can be used as reconciliation in between two communities?

3. METHODOLOGY

This study used qualitative research methodology, utilizing historical analysis and case studies to examine the role of ethno-nationalism in shaping Meitei-Naga relations. Both primary data and secondary data sources are used for this works. The research focused on a comparative approach to assess the impacts of ethno-nationalist movements in Manipur.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

The research adopts and used the various works on ethno nationalism. Naorem; N. (2025) works in ethno-nationalism in Northeast India which highlights the role of colonial policies, post-independence state formation, and insurgent movements in formation of inter-ethnic conflicts provide knowledge about the roots of ethnic politics in state. The works of Bhattacharya, S. (2012) and Sharma, S. K. (2021) which provide the knowledge on the set up nature of ethnic identities and the political mobilization of historical narratives are reviewed. Works of Singh (2018), which give more focused on Manipur by exploring the competing nationalisms of Meitei and Naga groups and their implications for regional stability including impacts, is studied. Many scholars, such Laishram, D. (2022) and Kamei, G. (2021) also provide strong and deep analyses of the intersection between ethnic identity and armed conflict in Manipur. Elangbam, T. (2003) in his works gives arguments that ethno-nationalism in Manipur state is a consequence of colonial and post-colonial state formations process where particular communities faced disadvantaged which in return contributed to separatist feelings. Shimray, A. S. (2020) in his works tries to point out the roles of insurgent groups in fuelling ethnic tensions and how the government's actions have impacted the way conflicts happen.

Additionally, G. Kamei (2017) and Horam,(2017) in his works studies at Naga nationalism to the setting for Manipur's territory, displaying how Naga and Meitei history stories have often been at conflict with each other. Similarly, Bhattacharya (2019) in his works examines how ethnic unification as well as economic blockades has only made things worse between the Meitei and Naga groups, showing how economic issues play a major role in the ethno nationalist conflicts. Further scholars such as and Shimray (2005) examine and analysed the way that Manipur's sociocultural elements such as language, religion, and customs helps in reinforce ethnic identities. Zimik, T. (2023) in his works try to focussed on the peaceful way of sorting out the contentions and the conflicts between two communities. Their works focuses on the suggestion for dialog between cultures to reduce ethno-nationalism's negative impacts.

1) Historical evolution of Ethno-Nationalism in Manipur

Historical roots have been highly connected in understanding the ethno nationalism of Manipur (Kabui, 1991). Manipur can be divided into hills and valley in this understanding. The Meitei's predominantly inhabit the fertile Valley areas. The Meitei have a recorded history dating back over 2,000 years and their civilization flourished with a unique blend of indigenous traditions and later being influences by Hinduism. The Meitei community were highly centralized and do followed the elite governance which in return make the valley a cultural and political hub (Naorem, 2025, Singh, 2016). The majority of Nagas which encompass multiple tribes with distinct languages and customs have traditionally lived in near surrounding hills and above. Contrary to Meitei organised system of governance, The Nagas social and political organization were mixed with decentralized and clan-based system of governance (The Hills and Valley Divide, 2025, Shimray, 2007). The hills and valley were having good relationship because of cultural and historical ties. With the coming of British the relationship of hills and valley getting widened by various factors such as historical grievances, colonial and post colonials political system, identity politics, and demands for self-determination (Bhattacharya,2012).The division of administration by British colonial government during colonial period played a crucial role in shaping the current ethno-political landscape. The implement of the "hill-valley divide" separate

administrative policy by the British Raj created gap in the ethnic relationship of the valley and the hills. Directly system of government was enacted for the valley dominated Meiteis while for the Nagas and other tribes dominated hill areas, a degree of autonomy under the "excluded areas" policy were being set. This system of division by British colonial empire sowed the seeds of mistrust and competition between the two communities (Elangbam, 2003). The integration of Manipur into the Indian Union in 1949 after India's independence further complicated the matters. The Meitei's view the Meiteis sovereignty under the Manipur Kingdom felt a loss of autonomy on the other hand the dreams and the aspirations of unified Naga homeland or Nagalim by the Nagas get positive feeling (Singh, 2010). In future the Nagas pressurise for territorial claims that included parts of Manipur and north east states for a greater autonomy, leading to a mistrust and tension between them.

Additionally, from the historical viewed the seeds of mistrust between the Nagas and Meiteis can be traced back from the colonial era. The implements of separate administrative policies by British for the hill tribes and valley people and later the merger and integration of Manipur into the Indian Union in 1949 followed by the reorganization of north-eastern states encourages the divisions (Singh, 2010). More or less the feeling of discrimination in the unequal political representations in state assembly does weight the ton of mistrust between Nagas and Meitei. The Nagas believe that the state Govt. works on the aspirations of valley people and little importance were given to Nagas (Shimray, 2007). Furthermore, the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act 1960, which restricts valley residents from acquiring land in the hills has long been a source of Meitei frustration and the Meiteis believe that this act against the unity sentiment of Meiteis (Naorem, 2014). On the other hand socially and economically the Nagas view the Meiteis has good status while the Nagas were lagging behind. The lack of equal and uniform construction of infrastructures, road and communications including various institutions in past period do play as one of the cause of mistrust in between them. Frequent strikes and bandhs used as a means to fulfil the demands from state and central government by two communities creates exasperated in between them (Horam, 2017). Used of many unconstitutional means by both communities become a source of means to fulfil their demands. Blockades like economic blockades in two national highways for fulfilling certain demands by Nagas from the state Government do raise an annoyance to the Meiteis as it do increase the price hike of essential commodities in valley (Singh, 2010). Similarly the counter blockades used by Meiteis against Nagas do give the same amount of outraged to the Nagas. Although the differences in religion practice and beliefs do played a minor role. For the Meitei's, unity and mutual co-existence of all indigenous ethnics remain same (Shimray, 2007).

2) The ethno nationalism of Meitei's and Nagas and reason for contention in Manipur:

There are several factors which contributed the ethno nationalism of both communities in Manipur. We can study a few reasons of contention in between them.

Meitei ethno nationalism and its Identity:

The Meitei ethno-nationalism is deeply connected to the preservation of their cultural, mutual co-existence with various indigenous ethnic communities and territorial identity (Naorem, 2014). The Imphal Valley, though geographically smaller than the surrounding hill areas, is the heart of Meitei civilization. Over the years, concerns about demographic shifts, economic competition, and political marginalization have fuelled negative sentiments to Meitei ethno-nationalism. The primary Meitei ethno-nationalism in this contemporary world is the demand for self-identity determination of the people of Manipur without any distinction of ethnicity or communities that had been before merging to India in 1949. Further the Meitei ethno nationalist not only believes in equal treatment of its people but without the difference of caste and creed (Singh, 2010). The Meitei ethno nationalist believe in unified Manipur where different sections of community can exist freely without any fear and suppression. The Meitei always dream about freedom, liberty love and mutual co-existence with different communities rather than a concentric society based on specific ethnic Kamei, G. (2019). In recent years the demand of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status under the Indian Constitution has started by Meitei civil societies because of fear of assimilation and verse of extinction of its identity (Shimray, A. 2021). But prominent thinkers and many intellectuals argue that such a designation would protect their land rights and cultural heritage and believe it will help to diminish the differences based on caste and creed. Further it believe that the ST demand will sort out fear especially in the face of increasing pressure from influx populations and migrants from neighbouring countries though (Naorem, 2014). However many knowledgeable people from others communities negatively viewed this demand as an attempt to encroach upon the rights of the tribal populations, including the Nagas without any valid explanation, thereby creating a tensions. But in reality the Meitei focuses on serving the demand as purposes for the protection of indigenous Meitei ethnic people from foreign migrants and influxes. Meitei believes St

Status as a means to finish the artificial division created by external forces which live among indigenous ethnic communities from earlier times (Meitei ST Demand Committee, 2018, Ningthouja, M. 2022).

Furthermore, Meitei ethno-nationalism also manifests in the defence of Manipur's territorial integrity. It believes that any attempt to alter the state's boundaries to accommodate other ethnic aspirations, such as the creation of a separate Naga entity or greater autonomy for Naga-inhabited areas, is strongly opposed by the Meiteis. This opposition occurs because Meitei still believe in mutual coexistence of all indigenous ethnic communities and a desire to maintain the historical and cultural unity of Manipur rather than fragmentation of the state (Singh, 2010).

Naga ethno nationalism and its Identity:

The Naga ethno nationalism has some unique features and expression which is largely advocated for self-determination and the preservation of their distinct ethnicity, language and their traditional institutions. Contrary to the Meiteis the Nagas ethno-nationalism goes beyond state boundaries and its survival in this modern era (Horam, M. 2021). The Nagas, one of the indigenous tribes of North east including the state of Manipur often come into the idea of building and striving into single administrative entity. Being embodied by the idea of a shared cultural and historical identity the Naga ethno-nationalist dream and thrive of creating a Naga homeland called "Nagalim". This idea of a getting a sovereign homeland vision where all the Naga-inhabited areas in Northeast India and even some parts of Myanmar are put under single administrative entity (Kikon, D. 2019). This aspiration of getting a sovereign homeland for all Nagas by unifying all Nagas has been a cornerstone of Naga political movements since the starting of cold war till present post-cold war period (Shimray, A. S. 2020).

For Manipur Naga ethno-nationalism is primarily represented by the United Naga Council (UNC) and its other tribal organizations. These groups advocate and demand for greater political autonomy or else a matter of secession from the state of Manipur is widely put as the ultimate price (Laishram, D.2022). The "Alternative Arrangement," demands which seeks a separate administrative structure for Naga-dominated areas within Manipur has been continuously become a point of disagreement with Meiteis. The Nagas demand and quest for self-determination is closely connected with their relationship with the Indian state and their neighbouring communities. Their view of being distinct from the Meiteis and other groups and ambitions often clash with the territorial and political interests of Manipur as a whole. This has led to a prolonged conflict that continues to shape their interactions with the Meiteis (Kabui, G. 2020).

5. REASON FOR CONTENTIONS

1) Land conflicts, Question of land Rights and Autonomy

One of the most important roots of the Meitei-Naga contention is territorial dispute. Because of division of administration sowed by British raj the contention of land rights become a source of disagreement (Sharma, S. K. 2021). The demand for "Nagalim or Greater Nagaland" in 1980s by Naga armed insurgencies which includes the integration of significant portions of Manipur's hill districts namely Ukhrul, Senapati, Tamenglong, and Chandel prove a source of disagreement with Meitei ethnics (Laishram, D. 2022). This demand of greater autonomy and proposal of segregation which threatens the territorial integrity of Manipur is considered as an indisputable threat to their identity, sovereignty by Meitei ethnics. The Meitei perceptions of unity and co-existence are derailed by such ambitions and steps of the Nagas (Kamei, G. 2021). In addition the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms (MLRLR) Act of 1960, which served to protect tribal land rights and prohibits valley residents from purchasing, land in the hill areas creates a widespread resentment to the Meitei communities. The Meiteis believe that this kind of controversial and biased act has led to create a barrier in the long-time relationship of Meitei's and Nagas (Singh, R. K. 2023). Furthermore the Meiteis feel they have been very much excluded from the extensive areas of the state's territory. On the contrary the Nagas claim that the act itself is an important in the preservation of their cultural and economic autonomy. Till now the question of land rights has been deemed as one of the disputable matter (Kabui, G. 2020).

2) Political participation as source:

From earlier the political structure of Manipur acts as a source of friction in between two ethnics. The Meiteis domination in the state's legislative assembly because of its big population size creates an unhappy sentiment to the hills people. The Nagas and other ethnic tribal groups feel a lack of representation and perceptions of being excluded. The Nagas argue that the underrepresented political participation has limited the Nagas in decision making (Shimray, U.A. 2021). Similarly a policy like Inner line permit system (ILP) in Manipur which has been re-introduced recently is viewed

with doubtful by Nagas. The creation of new Districts in Manipur for smooth administrations also creates a tension and resentments to the Nagas and believes in being marginalised (Laishram, D. 2022).

3) Cultural and Historical contradiction:

Different narratives have been made by both communities. The Meiteis highlight the historical unity and mutual co-existence of two communities in Manipur. The Meitei advocates the understanding of past cultural ties, bonds and mutual relationship with Nagas and other ethnic tribes (Ningthouja, M. 2021). The majority Meitei believes in the reconciliation of two communities through one mutual shared administration while the majority of Nagas focus on their pre-colonial autonomy and cultural distinctiveness. These differences in narratives further act as source mutual distrust and hinder the idea reconciliation dream by many people of both communities (Sharma, S.K. 2023).

4) Religious and beliefs:

From past immemorial days the both community embraces and practices the traditional tribal beliefs, ancestral worshiped based and animism (Parratt, J. 2005). But by the beginning of 15th century Manipur witnessed significant changes in religious and practices. The Meitei started to practice Vaishnavism, which is a sect of Hinduism, while the hills tribals remain in traditional tribal practice for long time till 19th century (Singh, M. K. 2018). The conversion of Christianity by the hills ethnic tribals and Nagas began in late 19th century and fully practiced in 20th century. Because of the changes in religious practices the two communities lost the shared cultural, religious practices that previously united them (Kamei, G. 2020). The differences in religious practices sometimes create distrust and lack of respect in between them.

6. THE ROLE OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT

The India government has played a complicated and often contradictory role in the Meitei-Naga relationship through governance, territorial administrations and security strategies etc. It has sought to address Naga aspirations through peace talks with insurgent groups like the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM). On the other hand it promised and assure the Meitei that the Manipur's territorial integrity will be upheld. Contrary to this, the extension of cease fire agreement in between NSCN-IM and Indian government in Manipur in 2001 creates a bloody political scenario in Manipur which in turn contribute ethnic tensions in between Nagas and Meiteis (Singh, B.2021). In addition to this the signing of Framework Agreement in between the Indian government and the NSCN (IM) in 2015 further fuelled the tensions and conflict feelings among the Meiteis. Though the agreement may aim to resolve the Naga issue but its lack of transparency and clear-cut resolution increases the mistrust and understanding among the Meiteis and other communities in Manipur (Shimray, U. A. 2022). Any apparent compromise to Naga demands is viewed as a betrayal, further polarizing the state's ethnic landscape. Furthermore the division of hill valley administration under the provision of article 371 C also contributed the rise of mistrust and tensions between them (Basu, 2020). The recent on-going border fencing along Indo Myanmar particularly in Manipur contributes minor sentiment in between them. The Nagas seems it has a threat to their Trans border ethnic unity while the Meitei viewed it as a means to curved illegal immigrants issues and cross borders drug trafficking issues.

3) Ethno nationalism Impact on the Meitei Nagas relationship:

Ethno nationalism gives many impacts in Meitei -Nagas relationship. The rise of ethno-nationalist ideas among these communities has contributed significantly to inter-ethnic tensions, especially over issues of territorial integrity, political autonomy, and historical narrative. Few of them can be studied in general:

- **Rise of Territorial issues:**

The ethno nationalism of both communities serves an impact on territorial claims. The Naga ethno-nationalist movement which is led by NSCN-IM strong demands for the integration of Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur into a larger "Nagalim" cause a bitter impact in the political relationship of two communities (Horam ,2021). Such claim is firmly opposed and stand against by Meitei's, who advocate and propagate that Manipur's territorial integrity remain unity and can't be compromised (Laishram, D. 2023). This exclusive territorial claim has impact a major blow in their relationships of two communities.

- **Creating tensions and protest on Communal basis:**

Ethno nationalism consciousness brings tensions and protests between two communities. The Indian government extension of the NSCN-IM ceasefire to Manipur during 2001 resulted in the eruption of large-scale protests and loss of

lives in Imphal. Meitei civil societies and different non Nagas communities groups together participated in mass protests to “protect Manipur’s integrity. Such rise of mistrust and periodic violence explains the impact of ethno nationalism in between two communities (Singh, B. 2021, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2002).

- **Forfeiting the past relationship:**

Ethno-nationalism brings a wide gap in past relationship of two communities. The two communities who thrives each other from time immemorial witnessed a cracks and gaps in their relationships. Mutual distrust and respect arises due to the identity contentions and their goals.

- **Drawing up distinct narratives about the past and present:**

Ethno-nationalism helps both Meitei and Naga intellectuals, historians to focus on the redrawing of history which support their respective nationalist ideas and believes. This kind of narrative writings and explanations further creates mistrust and paved the idea of communal division between them. The using and putting of selective historical memory, cultural symbols, and political myths helps in reinforcing group boundaries and justify exclusive claims (Kabui, 2003; Shimray, 2001). Both communities have engaged in rewriting the history to support their claims and understandings. This selective use of historical memory strengthens exclusivist narratives which in return might create oppositions.

- **Dilemma in political developments:**

Ethno-nationalism makes a dilemma in overall political development in state. It reduces willingness to share political power or autonomy arrangements in between them. Several suspicious demands and claims are arises from both of communities. Demands for greater autonomy by Nagas creates an opposition to Meitei visions of unity which in return serves a political chaos inside the state. More or less the Nagas demand is seen as secessionist movement by Meitei (Laishram, D. 2023).

4) Measures for reconciliation and to settle the Ethnic Tension between Meitei and Nagas:

Despite having issues and ethnic contradictions in between Meitei and Nagas, the path of reconciliation is not broken yet. Several steps can be taken to foster mutual understanding and reconstruct the past ties and coexistence.

- **Establishing an Inclusive Dialogue in between two communities:**

First of all a political dialogue is necessary in between two communities. It is important to include all stakeholders in this genuine and inclusive dialogue. This includes not only the Meiteis and Nagas but also other ethnic communities in Manipur. An open discussion platform with honest communication is suggested to build the past trust again. The civil societies of both communities must come forward and should discuss different problems occurring around them and should find mutual solutions and understanding to close the widened gap of relationships (Oinam, B.2022). Regularly communicate progress to prevent misinformation and to build trust. Establish a joint monitoring committee comprising representatives from both communities to oversee peace building initiatives and address emerging issues.

- **Political presentation:**

An arrangement in increase in political participation and in decision making may curb the political underrepresented feeling amongst Nagas. Such an arrangement would allow communities to increase their thoughts in decision making which in return will reconstruct the sense of trust, unity and oneness among two communities. Reviewed should be made for fair representation in state governance. Recent state government policies of organising the sitting cabinet in different parts of hills districts should be continued (Shimray, U.A. 2021). Priority should be given in strengthening local governance structures for smooth decentralised governance.

- **Increase in development and infrastructure:**

Equal developments in educational infrastructures, good road connectivity, and communications are must. Setting of health institutions in remote areas of both hills and valley is needed. Constructions of local markets, availability of health care’s units should be given strong priority. Specials educational hostels for far distance hills student’s people should be constructed in valley. Sports complexes and sport institutions should be constructed in both hills and valleys for sportspersons (Singh, R.K. 2021).

- **Co-operation and increase exchange in economic:**

The Meiteis and Nagas Shared economic interests can serve as a bridge in between them. The Joint initiatives in areas such as development of tourism spots, agriculture, can create interdependencies that promote cooperation. Initiatives like Mao market day in Imphal, which initiated in 2015, could solve the economic gaps in between two

communities. Moreover constructions of special food storages in Imphal for storing the organics products produce by hill peoples should be done. Opening of economic exchanges or fares should be encouraged in both hills and valleys. Randomly changing the locations and venues of State level festivals like Sangai Festival to both hills and valleys should be put forward (Shimray, U. A. 2022).

- **Understanding the past history and Exchange of arts and culture:**

Arts and cultural exchange can promote sense of unity and revived the past mutual understanding of these two communities. Promoting cultural exchange programs that highlight the shared heritage and unique contributions of each community must be encourage (Zimik, T.2023). Cultural occasion like Mera-Houchongba which related the story of past emotional ties in-between Meitei and Nagas should be promoted and makes the younger generation study about the importance of the occasion. Further traditional occasions like Ningol Chakouba, Cheiraoba, Luira-phanit, Lui-Ngaini, Gaan-Ngai, Lounii, Chaga-Ngee, Chithunii and others traditional occasion should be promoted to participate by people of both communities. Religious festivals like Christmas and Lai Haraoba should be participate by both communities the inclusion of Meitei and Naga histories in educational curriculum and in arts and movies to promote mutual understanding must be taken important. More or less participation and exchange of culture during state level Sangai Festival should be encourage (Meetei, L. 2022). Educational institutions based on learning the past history of both Meitei and Nagas should be constructed where youths of both communities can study and earn the knowledge of past relationship

7. ROLE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE GOVERNMENT:

The Indian government and state government must adopt and use a transparent approach to negotiations and policymaking. Keeping all communities informed and involved in any policy making or decision can prevent misunderstandings and reduce tensions. Any policies which hamper the relationships of both communities should not be made or if possible tried to involve the stakeholders. The Indian government should ensure and conducts transparent negotiations with both communities. Moreover the state government should takes necessary steps to ensure the positives policies which in future will not make unhealthy sentiments by both communities.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

The two communities must be allowed to use the land they own in fields and be able to handle their own resources. Protection for the land rights of all communities while finding equitable solutions to territorial disputes must be taken steps by State and central govt, making sure that both Meiteis and Nagas feel safe in their own areas. Intermarriages between two communities should be encourages which will helps in reviving the past relationship. Neutral mediators such as civil organisations of both communities should be engaged in finding peaceful resolutions. The two communities should try to curb and minimised the use of harsh methods such as bandh, economic blockades, in demanding something from govt or any related authority. Using such harsh method may affect the daily economic and social lives of both communities. Moreover Inter-Ethnic Youth Programs which includes sports, leadership camps, and educational related steps should be promotes. Folklore presentations, relating folk stories of both communities to the younger generations must be encouraged.

9. CONCLUSION

The Meiteis and Nagas have trouble getting together, but this doesn't change the bigger problems and chances that Manipur faces. Ethno-nationalism, while a source of pride and identity, has also been a reason for division and conflict. Understanding its significance in shaping the Meitei-Naga relationship requires a clear appreciation of history, culture, and politics. As Manipur navigates the complexities of its multi-ethnic society, fostering a sense of shared destiny will be crucial. The Meiteis and Nagas can get past their differences and work toward a future of growth and living together by talking to each other and including everyone. The road to get the goal may be challenging, but the rewards of unity and harmony are well worth the effort.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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