

The Strategic Used of Cyberspace by Narco-Terrorist Groups Belonging to Kuki-Chin-Mizo's in The Western Southeast Asia

Jurnal ISIP: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik

1-18

© The Author(s) 2026



Volume 23.1 Januari-Juni 2026

Publikasi online: 30 Juni 2026

<https://jisip.jurnaliisipjakarta.id>

Received: 14 Agustus 2025

Revised: 16 Januari 2026

Accepted: 23 Februari 2026

DOI : 10.36451/jisip.v23i1.450

Alka Singh¹, Oinam Ghanashyam Khumancha² , Yengkhom Ronald³ 

¹Jharkhand Raksha Shakti University, Ranchi.

²Jharkhand Raksha Shakti University, Ranchi; Yelhoumee College, Imphal

³Yelhoumee College, Imphal

Corresponding author:

Oinam Ghanashyam Khumancha. e-mail: Oinamthoujal@yandex.com

Abstract

This article explores the practical use of cyberspace by Narco-terrorist groups in Western Southeast Asia, to trouncing the physical limitation and legal barriers put up by Governments. The article employed Duncan Snidal's rational choice in international relations theory, Examining the rationale behind the use of cyberspace by narco-terror Using the qualitative literature review method, the article integrates academic works and credible sources to analyse the phenomenon. The article found that narco-terrorist belong to Kuki-Chin-Mizo's community had used cyberspace for various illegal activities, right starting from selling drugs, procurement weapons, contacting with its sponsors, and development of propaganda. The article concludes it is virtually impossible for any state to legally regulate cyberspace to entirely prevent illicit activities.

Keywords

Narco-Terrorist; Western Southeast Asia; Cyberspace; Kuki-chin-Mizo

Introduction

In a report published by the Atlantic Council in 2022, it finds Hamas are strategically using cyber space in the report in its operation for its endeavour (Simon Handler, 2022). It found that Hamas had strategically used the cyberspace as the physical world has triggered various limitations on various activities by state law and orders, preventing many illegal activities; and, with the development of cost-effective Information and Communication Technologies, Cyberspace has become a go-to ground for various illegal groups to conduct their daily business. This holds true for various organised ethnic-based narco-terrorist groups in Western Southeast Asia, particularly those belonging to the Kuki-Chin-Mizo community. This article tries to examine the strategic use of cyberspace by Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups in the Western Southeast Asia Region.

According to Duncan Snidal (2013) the rational choice theory in international relations, state actors or non state actors usually makes decisions by rationally calculating and analyzing to maximise its utilities or attain their goals and interests with careful consideration of choices or options based on gather information and intelligences. Every actor is presented with various options or steps to take for attaining their goal usually this option attested some constraints. Still, actor/s have to take action/s or choose (this includes manipulations of information) that will ensure its safest positions and position itself nearer to its goals.

For the past few years, the Kuki-Chin-Mizo narco-terrorist groups have been fighting simultaneously against India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. Waging a war is a costly affair, but here a few ethnically-based narco-terrorists' groups are waging war against three states, including India (a state considered by many as a middle power, if not a major power). As a matter of fact, these wars need funds, weapons and ammunition, motivating people to carry out all these things, and here cyberspace stands out as the breeding ground for neo-ethnic-based narco-terrorist groups to sell their drugs, buy their weapons, recruit its members, contact to its sponsors, and motivate its recruits; all these activities with just few computing devices in a space are called cyberspace behind the eyes of law and order enforcers. The Kuki-Chin-Mizo groups are already notorious for their menacing, minacious, monstrous, missions to subjugate the indigenous communities in Western Southeast Asia (Ghanashyam Khumancha, 2024).

Cyberspace is evolving to become a perfect space for various underground and illegal organizations to conduct their daily business. This holds true for various terrorist groups, organised illegal drug traders, and others. The invention of an internet communications system is to become user-friendly and maintain more privacy. However, with more advancement of Information Communication Technologies, it seems a smack of a mole type of game evolving between various nation-states or countries and illegal bodies; involving questions of moral ethics, rights, and others. In Western South Asian countries, like Bangladesh, Myanmar, and North-East India, a lack of resources and minimal interest is shown this causes the narco terrorist groups thrive in studying such phenomena and the narco-terrorist groups are thriving at this juncture.

In the Britannica, Bussell and Jennifer (2013) define Cyberspace as an “amorphous, purportedly virtual world evolved and created through linkages of various computing devices and computers, Internet-linked devices and apparatus, servers, routers, cables and other components of the Internet’s infrastructure”. It is obvious that cyberspace is evolving to become a hub of privacy from the state, from society, from the family, or just recreational; as with the development of new technologies and various updating laws, rules and regulations. While the state is originated or formed to create law and order, a structure in society, to make a sense of security, and limited deviance and unwanted elements in society; a cyberspace has become an anti-thesis of state philosophy.

In India as per the Government of India understanding, Terrorist or Terrorist group/s are those who engage in “Terrorist Act” defined under section 15 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 (TEWARI et.al., 2019). The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 defines “Terrorist Act” as “Whoever does any act intending to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, security (economic security) or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror in the people or any section of the people in India or in any foreign country” (Parliament of India, 1967). Daniel Boyce (1987) in his article “Narco-Terrorism” define “Narco-terrorism as the involvement of terrorist organizations and insurgent groups in the trafficking of narcotics, which has become a problem with international Implications..... the sales of illegal drugs help them to exert economic, political, and military pressure in the governments of the countries they are operating in”. With the understanding of terrorism and terrorist from point of view of the Government of India which delivered from “Terrorist Act” from UAPA 1967 and Narco-terrorism from the author who coin the term, this paper finds, almost all the armed Kuki-Chin-Mizo’s groups are of the categories of narco-terrorist group. They are involved in illegal drugs and narcotics, and threaten the peace, unity of various countries, strike terror to the indigenous communities living in the Western Southeast Asia.

Methods

This article used the case study approach, in an attempt to understand the complex phenomena of usages of cyberspace by narco-terrorist groups. Cyberspace provides a good space for people, business, and government to execute various activities without physical presences. This article focuses on the strategic usages of cyberspace by Kuki-Chin-Mizo narco-terrorist groups for their agendas.

This article used a qualitative approach, the qualitative employing literature review as its primary method. Literature Review is usually an organisational pattern that joins both summary and synthesis; exploring, analysing and process data of theories and empirical studies relevant to the topic (ramdhani et al., 2014). This allows the researchers to blend various theories and viewpoints on narco-terrorism, and cyberspace.

The subject of this paper is the strategic usage of cyberspace by Kuki-Chin-Mizos narco-

terrorist groups for their agendas. The data in this article are derived entirely from secondary sources, including journals, academic books, think-tanks reports, government reports and policies, news reports and news interviews. The criteria include relevance to the article objectives, recency of the publication, and credibility of the sources. By evaluating various scholarly and empirical observations, the study aims in describing and interpreting the phenomenon of many non-state actors strategic use of cyberspace for their agenda.

Result and Discussion

Non States actors belonging to Kuki-Chin-Mizos have various options to execute in its pursuit of new Home-Land by crafting out of India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. Each option has its own pros and cons and complications. Selling their products of narcotics and its derivatives in open markets physically has many technical hitches. The question of meeting clients and payment in hard cash are very visual and risky affairs which they don't want to endeavour. Buying weapons attacks for their agenda in physical space also attack similar or more problems. Bringing technician to teach them to make weapons or developed ones is costly affairs and has many limitations. However, cyber-space opens up many opportunities and reduces cost. Asking for Physical donation, giving out physical pamphlet, books, to make their propaganda is also very unpleasant task which attract unnecessary attentions. Considering all of these issues the strategic use of Cyber-Space comes out as the optimum option.

Narco-Terrorist Groups activities in Cyberspace

Currently, various narco-terrorist groups belonging to Kuki-Chin-Mizo community engage in their vendetta (since their arrival in this region with the British Empire) with all the indigenous communities living in the Western Southeast Asian countries (Khumancha & Teresa, 2021), namely the Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar and with State also for the creation of "Zoland/ Zoram/ Kukiland/ Zalengam/ Zomiland", a land for Christian State in line with the "Crown Colony" Scheme of the British Empire of the 1930-40s (Chai-fong, 2001). According to Sreeparna Banerjee (2024) of Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Poppy are illegally cultivated in various district of Manipur (India) where Kuki-Chin-Mizo community predominately inhabited and the raw product are trafficked to Chin State of Myanmar where the Kuki-Chin-Mizo community dominate for process of raw opium product to heroin and others. According to Vicky Nanjappa (2025) of Organiser, it has been reported that about Rs 40,000 (Indian Rupee) crore per year (about 4.8 billion USD) worth of drug pass Mizoram (India) to Nepal and Bangladesh and this drug are controlled by various Kuki-Chin-Mizo armed groups. According to 'The Diplomat', Kuki-Chin-Mizo terrorist groups like Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) are cultivating and engaging illegal drug cartel in Manipur (India) and Myanmar (Bhattacharyya, 2023). According to S. Thangboi Zou (2012), armed terrorist like Zomi Revolutionary Front (ZRF), Hmar National Army (HNA), Zou Defence Volunteers (ZDV),

United Socialist Revolutionary Army (USRA), United Kuki Revolutionary Army (UKRA), Kuki National Army (KNA), Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA), Kuki National Front (KNF), United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF), Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) are all engaging in drug cartel, extortions, kidnapping and other sort of illegal activities since their inception in 80s and 90s. Again according to Pulokjyoti Hazarika (2024) of Vivekananda International Foundation, terrorist groups like Chin Kuki Liberation Army (CKLA), United Tribal Liberation Army (UTLA), Kuki National Organisation (KNO), Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) are engaging in drug cartel and trafficking; and most shocking part is that most of these narco-terrorist organisation are working with Government of India through some sort understanding under the so called "Suspension of Operation (SoO)" agreement.

According to NDTV, under this SoO agreement signed in 2008, the Government of India pays salary to cadres of these narco-terrorists groups, builds 14 camps, allocate funds for them in name of rehabilitation, and no legal action of any kind except when direct attack to India Armed Forces. In 2018, the salary given by the Government of India was Rs 6000/ month (Indian Rupee) per cadre. As per the SoO agreement, these narco-terrorists are practically free to do anything they want and for here the problems started (Achom, 2024).

A space for selling drugs

Cyber-Space acts as a very valuable platform to these narco-terrorist groups, as cyber-space provides a very effective means of communication without a physically presence in the same geo-location, just with a workable computing device like mobile phones, laptops, tablets, or even a desk-top with a working internet (4G or 5G) network. Cyber-space communication provides visual as well as audio except the touch. Current, cyber communication provides real time high-definition videos and audio, above that the internet network cost is very affordable and easily available. It is reported some Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups have been using the "Star-link" internet network system in mountainous jungle of the Western Southeast Asia region (Hassan & Ellis-Petersen, 2025). The Star-link internet network is different from normal network as it used direct satellite for internet connection. While the normal network used cable and tower for internet connection which sometime make accessible to government for turning switch on and off of the network when seem necessary.

Using the mediums in cyber-space like normal social media, email, call-on-net, online gaming platform, blogs, websites, e-commerce platforms and even darknet using Tor and other Onion technologies; these narco-terrorist groups sell their illegal drugs to buyer across the globe. For payment, they use PayPal, crypto-currency, bonds, Hawala, and other money laundering system and even UPI in some cases. They even allowed many You-tubers, bloggers, social media influencers, content creators like Nomadic Indian (video upload on 6 March 2021), Ginzkhongsai Channel (many videos deleted), Brown official Youtube channel (now not maintain and many videos deleted), Romin Haokip Official, etc. to shoot their content in illegal

opium farms, talk the rate of raw opium and how to get it and its derivatives in hills of Manipur and other parts of Western Southeast Asia. The buyers and narco-terrorist groups negotiate through various media in cyberspace, on price and quantity and mechanism of delivery and exchanges of goods and funds. The delivery mechanisms usually changes for every delivery, depending on the quantity also.

According to a police officer in Manipur, more than 2,000 mobiles phones per year have confiscated from drug cartel and traffickers in Manipur alone; and drug worth about Rs 1430 (Indian Rupee) crores (about 170 million USD) were confiscated in 2023. At above it was also mentioned that about Rs. 40,000 crores (about 4.8 billion USD) worth of drug pass through Mizoram only per year (Nanjappa 2025). It is virtually impossible to conduct all this transaction in cash as India and Bangladesh have a very strict cash law. The used of crypto-currency and other online exchange system seem natural. Various Armed Force of India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar have arrested many drugs traders and narco-terrorist members through various mean and normally weapons and drugs are confiscated but with cash are very few, especially in India and Bangladesh. In 2022 alone, Myanmar police force arrested 9600 drug traders with drugs worth around 645 million US\$, plus various guns and ammunition (Myanmar Narcotic Control 2023). In 2024, Mizoram Police (India) arrested 478 people in drug related cases with weapons, ammunition, and explosives (Mizoram Police 2025). In Manipur (India) around 3627 were arrested for drug trafficking from 2007-2023; it is estimated the drug economy of Manipur is around 62 million US\$ (Girish Linganna 2025).

A space for buying weapons and learning how to makes weapons

Normally, many weapons manufactures sell across the globe sells their product legally online through various channels in bulk or single product or accessory of weapon. According to Jenzen & McCollum (2017), weapons started from small hand-gun to anti-tank missiles are sold online. These online selling and buying often reduce interactions between the seller and buyer and these interactions between buyers and sellers are normally critical sources of data for law enforcement agencies. According to Matt Schroeder and Small Arms Survey (2018), normally arms and weapons traders use online payment services and crypto currencies; and some do their transaction only through payment of crypto-currency. The Western Southeast Asia Regions are notorious for porous borders, drug trafficking since the time of opium war in China, and sell of weapons online make it very easy for illegal groups to provide supply chain and logistic.

Even social media side like Facebook, Instagram, messenger were found running illegal guns advertisement for ages; even if Meta have its own internal policies regarding such advertisement (Schecter & Bladt, 2024). The first case of online weapons sold in India on a Facebook page called admins“Ludhiana Wale” admins were arrested for selling weapons in Facebook, few years back (Deogan, 2021). After that there are few more arrested cases of

selling guns in WhatsApps and Facebook like social media.

Facebook, Reddit, abandon gaming platform, specialised blog and websites in normal and darknet are normal hub for illegal weapons trade. If one page or group or blog or podcast is blocked or restricted by any international regulatory bodies another such platforms come up soon.

Another major concern arising from cyberspace and illegal weapons are advancement of 3 D printers and their printed products. On such printed products, authorities or government cannot have imposed the Rule and Regulations that they had imposed on the weapon manufactures, transporters, retailers, exporters etc. Many website, blog, social media, gaming site are full of creators that develop manual with step by step details of printing weapons, drones, fins for bombs and rockets, bombs, accessories. Any random individual can download 3 G printed weapons models files from the internet and print it in any random area with a workable 3 D printer in full stealth mode (Vice). Normally 3 D printers can be bought legally for various purposes and these printers can print various specified guns of their wish behind the eyes of law enforcers in any secluded place they wish. Usually, they print the gun, part by part, adopt the technique like “electrochemical machining” (ECM) for the barrels, and assemble it; the gun is ready to use (Gaither, 2024).

Cyber-space also allows sharing and transferring of information and blueprint of manufacturing and building weapons, improvising batteries and mortars, Improvised Explosive Devices, rockets or missiles, conversion of non-lethal and deactivated weapons into lethal weapons. Local made weapons and 3 D printed guns are also known as “Ghost Gun” as they have no serial numbers and minimum metal parts; due which it is almost impossible to trace and regulated.

With knowledge through CAL (Computer-Aided Learning) and CAE (Computer-Aided Engineering), Kuki-Chin-Mizo’s narco-terrorist groups build improvised mortars, rockets, land mines, hand guns, drones, howitzer etc.

Many Kuki-Chin-Mizo narco-terrorist groups which are also part of Myanmar’s terrorist conglomeration called People’s Defence Force who are fighting the military government from 2021; are also using 3 D printed guns in huge numbers. The most preferred 3 D printed gun model is FGC-9 series and Shutty or Derwood Shutty series. FGC-9 a model developed by German Terrorist known by call name “Jstark” and real name Jacob Duygu. Shutty series of 3 D printed gun model series is a person called name Darren Derwood Booth from the United States of America. FGC stand for “Fuck Gun Control” and “9” stand for “9 mm bullets” and a Queer activist from Australia by call name “QueerArmorer” designed the rail on top of FGC-9’s for putting optical scopes to these narco-terrorists (Ditto Nation, 2023). The model FGC-9 MKII Stingray is practically a carbine if not an all-out rifle (M, 2023).

According to ex-District Commissioner Nabakishore (2024), in Manipur (India) and Myanmar, narco-terrorist groups belong to Kuki-Chin-Mizo groups are using rockets and

lethal drones with component made through 3 D printers to target the civilians and government officials and buildings.

A Space to Contact its sponsors

According to Max Daly (2024) of the Vice, 3 D printed gun community of the United State of America and Germany who are mostly neo-Nazi or far-left are aiding the terrorist groups in Myanmar that includes the Kuki-Chin-Mizo narco-terrorist groups.

Many politicians of global north and their associated Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) through internet are connecting with the cadres and advisors of these narco-terrorist groups; and give political and leadership training under various name like leadership training program, peaceful settlement programs, Democratic Process program etc. These training are conducted physical and online and hybrid mode. For Physical and hybrid mode, the preferred modus operandi are called up the participant in the country of NGOs and give training there; and another method is to send a trainer as preacher or freelance doctors or to the advisor.

According to the Chief Minister of Mizoram Lalduhoma, many western mercenaries who fought for in the Ukraine-Russian Conflict from 2014 to till date are coming to Mizoram to support Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups fighting in the Western Southeast Asia Region (The Hindu Bureau, 2025). In May 2024, Aljazeera also covered a story of such activities (Lovett, 2024). And many videos are now viral in Facebook, whatapps, instagrams, and telegram of many armed western Caucasian participating in fighting in Indo-Myanmar region. Many western mercenaries fighting in Ukraine-Russian conflict are fighting for Ukraine and many of them are neo-Nazi (Kaunert et al., 2023). The Ukraine Government usually pays around 3500 US Dollar per month to each mercenaries (Izvestia, 2024), which is almost equivalent to Rs 3 lakh per month, somewhat more than the salary draw by the Chief of Army Staff (General) of India i.e. Rs 2.5 lakh. The western mercenaries who usually get about 3.5k US Dollar are willing to come to Mizoram and fight with these narco-terrorist groups mean two things; first, the narco-terrorist are giving them more salary than the Ukraine Government or second, they must be politically and ideologically align. The probability of initial physical meeting of western mercenaries fighting in Eastern Europe and narco-terrorist groups fighting in India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar are next to zero and the only logical meeting place are the cyberspace.

Many supporters of Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups have gone to North America and talked with pro-Khalistan groups and one of its video got leaks to media (Achom & Sharma, 2025). Later, it is not by accident that Khalistani groups such as Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) comes out supporting Kuki-Chin-Mizo.

Christian organisation like Federation of Indian American Christian Organisation (FIACONA) based in the United States stood behind the Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups. Indian-American like John Prabhudoss a CIA operative in Asia and his organisation like and the North American Manipur Tribal Association (NAMTA) (Rodrigues, 2024), and

Coalition Against Genocide (CAG). NAMTA work with its psychological and political religious allies like Kuki Inpi USA, United Zo Organisation, the Central Mizo Society of America, Zomi reunification International Organisation, National Association of Asian Indian Christians, Evangelical Free Church, Bibles of the World, Indigenous Tribals Leaders Forum (ITLF); and seem working with Refugee Services of Texas (RST), RST also get donations from George Soros's Open Society Foundation (OSF) and also collaborated with Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), and Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA). NAMTA also works with the Coalition Reclaiming Democracy in India, a United States based group and got huge media coverages from likes of India Today, The Wire, The Mooknayak, The Dallas Morning, International News and Views, Counter Currents, Deccan Herald etc. The European Parliament also used the same data produce by NAMTA to pass a resolution with native judgements against India (Disinfusr, 2023).

The United Kingdom based groups like Spirit Embassy International, Goodnews Church, Apex News World, and Premier Christian News are using its might to aid the Kuki-Chin-Mizo narco-terrorist groups in the Western Southeast Asia Region (Disinfusr, 2023). And according to Disinfusr (2023) many news agencies in Pakistan like Concept TV News, Dawn, Bol News, ARY News and AAJ TV News etc. Turkish News channel like the Al-Estiklal. The United States based news channel like Christianity Today and Christians Headlines are also roped in for their cause. Hong Kong based UCA News and European Union based Open Doors stood in their corners.

A viral video of an American ex-military Daniel Stephen Courtney and church pastor come in Manipur and donated bullet proof vests and drones to one of the Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups inside a church compound in middle of conflict (Uddin Shoaib Choudhury, 2024).

Many very detail investigations are needed to legally establish the links and proofs of relations between many cyber-space handlers and the narco-terrorist groups as the transfer of money are very tricky to establish. Still, dots are connecting by it and pictures are coming out for the people to understand.

A space to create narratives and spread its propaganda and idea

The general understand of war is that "those who control the narrative, wins the war" example, in American-Vietnam War, it is generally accepted that the United States lost the war but in most of the actual battlefields, it was the Vietcong that were losing. According to Kvernbekk and Boe-Hansen (2017), war cannot be fought before setting up a narrative; winning or losing is another matter. So, settings up various narratives are important for a war to begin with and end it by win. Emily Goldman views that a war narrative should be told many times, with strategic aims of creating memories, inventing new past-history and developing the audience for future actions and strategies. These narratives should be repeated multiple times to reach socio-

cognitive domain of the viewers (Goldman & SWJ Staff, 2024). War Narratives is complex mechanism that involves culture, politics, ideology, psychology, strategic communication, social and historical elements that is prepared and manufacture in such a manner it explains a conflict or encourages people to support it or third party to sympathetic with their causes with a future end goal. With humongous of funds earn from illegal drug trade, plus other illegal activities like extortions, ransoms, kidnapping etc. as exposed by S. Thangboi Zou (2012) and few expenditures to covered, and Narco-terrorist member's salary in India particular are already paid by the Government of India under the Suspension of Operations, the Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups have a lot of resources to spend anywhere they want. One of major area of their spending is observed to develop its narratives and spreads its propaganda and ideas.

One of common war narrative of Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups is that many of them have invokes religious and ethnic sentiments, and the concept of martyrdom, the common fight of all Kuki-Chin-Mizo's people for liberations from oppression and to establish a homeland as shared by Koubru (2025):

All of us know that we the Kuki-Chin-Mizo people are oppressed with hostility and endure injustices at the hand of Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslims and their supporters for ages. But the God of Israel and his son Lord Jesus Christ are with us; we should not have to surrender to the Armed Forces of India, Bengalis, and Burmese. If we pray hard and willing to sweat and bleed blood, the God of Israel and his son Lord Jesus Christ will bless us in attaining our goals of creating the Kingdom of Christ in this part of the world. Blessed are those who are willing to sacrifice in name of his holy and beloved Lord Jesus Christ.

All the Kuki-Chin-Mizo's frontier organisations will create fictional history and narratives which have little or no connection with the things happened in past and present. To create such narratives, they probably engaged scholars or journalist of their ethnic and other willing scholars/journalists for money, women, drugs, enjoyment, and other opportunities. These scholars will write cock and bull history in form of books, journal articles, news articles, magazine, videos etc. and always cited each other to make them look authentic in first layer for mass who just reads and hears but don't check and verified. They published these narratives in all types of journals, publications house possibly by using their paid editorial services or donations or directly paid in many cases or self-publications. These published narratives will have considered as fact and reality as they are already published and written by some academician or journalists. Portions of these publications will be used to post in various social media platforms, make you tube or Instagram videos, or audio and ensure them these narratives were got viral through channels. And above mentions partner news channels, TV channels, newspapers will pick these narratives and covered these narratives in loop, resulting in some uniformed and semi-informed people to consider them as fact, truth, and history.

Zalengam Media is one of the Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narrative outlet in social media like You-tube channel, Facebook page, and Twitter account, blog, and Instagram page; identify itself as a

channel to preserve and amplify the voice of Kuki-Chin-Mizo community with powerful stories (Zelengam Media, n.d.). The only problem with that channel, the narratives is its preaching is different from writing done by colonial historian, ethnographers, documents etc. In addition, all of its narratives are pure war propaganda and war narrative than history. According to them, Kuki-Chin-Mizo is one of the ten lost tribe of Israel and they are the original and real Jew. At the same time, they claim they are the indigenous people of the Western Southeast Asia but all the colonial authors that include British historian, ethnographer, official and local kings' documents and historian wrote stories about them being brought to the region by the British official to counter the ingenious tribes of the region (Johnstone, 1986; Dun, 1992). According to Haokip (2008), Kuki-Chin-Mizo tribes are migratory race of people and keep moving place to place to build new villages. They claim they are Christian; a religion they adopt after 1910s but at the same time they follow their traditional custom which is opposite site of a river bank. Like Zalengam Media, The Hills Journal, Khalvontawi News, The Assam Tribune, Books by Vijay Chenji called "The Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-19", and many other writers' claims that the Kuki-Chin-Mizo fought against the British Empire for their independence in 1917-1919 but according to the Government of India, there are no such record of such event in the Indian Subcontinent (Poknapham, 2023).

And according such war narrative and propaganda outlet, the Christian are marginalised and discriminated. But the fact and reality is vastly different from their war narrative. In India's Manipur, Christian population was increased from 11% in 1951 to 41% 2011 (Narendra, 2015); in Nagaland, the population of Christian population is increased from 24% in 1951 to 87.93% in 2011 (Centre for Policy Studies, 2011); while in Meghalaya, the Christian population increased to 75% in 2011 from 24% in 1951 (Centre for Policy Studies, 2011); the exception is Mizoram where the population of Christian is decreased from 90% in 1951 to 87% in 2011 (Centre for Policy Studies, 2011);. In Myanmar's Chin State also, the Chirstian Population is increased to 85.4% in 2014 (Department of Population & Swe, 2016) from 72% in 1983 (Census Division, 1987). The meteoritic increased in population is also an indication of negligible negative discrimination in the Western Southeast Asian Countries.

Two Indian Army General namely the Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi speaking in the Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2024 (Deshpande, 2025) and Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair on Interview (NEWS9 Live, 2024), denies the used of drones in bombing villages by Kuki-Chin-Mizo nacro-terrorist groups in Manipur and place it as a propaganda; While India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) reported more than 40 bombs were dropped through drones and arrested Khaigoulen Kipgen and Samuel Thongcian fao Vaiphei for conducting drone bombings and they belong to undisclosed Kuki-Chin-Mizo nacro-terrorist groups. It is reported that they bought these drone from Delhi based Raj Kumar and Rohtak Based Vikram Choudhary through online (Ratti & Gupta, 2025; Irom, 2025). Many unanswered questions were arise in this saga, as two Indian Army Generals are saying Kuki-Chin-Mizo

narco-terrorist groups are not using drone bombs; But the NIA of India is reporting more 40 drone bombs were dropped and two narco-terrorist were arrested and two drone supplier are also identified.

Shorts comings of the States

Most of the States in the Western Southeast Asian region namely India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar are facing internal problems and at the same time inadequate of qualified and semi-qualified law enforcement agents and actual lack of manpower in various laws enforcing agencies due various constrain like budget and other resources.

In Bangladesh, forming a stable government seem a luxury between two major political parties, military and student's bodies, since its inception. In India; states like Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, and Manipur always have some struggle to separate itself from the Union of India; and these struggle are sometime turn to armed struggle and it is an ongoing process since the formation of the Union of India. While, Myanmar is plague with ethnic civil-war in collision with Military Junta from the day it gets its independent from Britain or during the Second World War. These internal struggles within these counties limit its ability on various issues.

And the existence of Cyber-Space is a recent phenomenon, even the most developed countries also have not fully apprehended its limitations and possibilities and its regulations. The present understanding of Nation-State or Sovereign Countries cannot directly have fitted with the prism of cyber-space. Most of the understandings of Nation-State or Sovereign Countries are deal with physical elements like a boundary and people living within it. The cyber-space has no physical boundary at the movement but might be developed into two different cyber-space systems due to different in standard between the Global North and South (Khumancha, 2021).

Conclusion

It is observed and found that it is very complex and recourses demanding task to completely ban or control something in the cyber-space. Regulatory bodies and Authorities could somewhat reduce visibilities of something that the Authorities and Regulatory Bodies want, at most. The piracy of movies and case of "The Pirate Bay" (Nakamura, 2024) is prime example of it. If one page or group or blog or podcast or website is block or restricted by any international regulatory bodies or a country another such platform comes up in no time and VPN. Just as Snidal (2013) predict the actions of various actors based on rational choice theory, the Kuki-Chin-Mizo narco-terror groups strategically used the cyber space to forward its agenda.

As Cyber-space is establishing itself as an enabler in illegal drugs trafficking and cartel, it also enables the marketing of illegal or legal weapons. This development of Information and Communication Technologies are taking advantages by various States and Non-States Actors, for reasons that may be heinous or service or malaise. Physically meeting to client and buyer

are perilous precedent in this era; plus used of physically currency for various activity increase risk and make more visibility. Deeds in Cyber-space give rooms of denials for any actors (state or non-state).

The Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terror group have been strategically using this cyber-space to sell its illegal narcotic drugs for few decades, to buy its weapons, to develop its own weapons, or to print weapons, to contact to its sponsors and sympathisers, and to developed war narratives and propaganda and ensuring these narrative and propaganda goes viral and spread. The Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups are strategically using cyber-space for its menacing, minacious, monstrous, missions to subjugate the indigenous people in the Western Southeast Asia.

India is a major power in Indo-pacific region with various resources in Information Technologies though various agencies to promote cyber security and have working relations with all major Global North Countries; and claim itself as country committed to a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. However, India for some unknown reasons Government of India turn a blind eye in Physical and cyber-space related activities of Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist groups in India. While, many of officials inside the Government of Bangladesh and Government of Myanmar feel India is funding and training Christian Kuki-Chin-Mizo narco-terrorist organisations in India; which the establishment and continuations of understanding called "Suspension of Operations" (SOO) between the Government of India and many Christian Kuki-Chin-Mizo narco-terrorist organisations serve as self-evidence. These activities or the choose of the Government of India to do nothing against the Kuki-Chin-Mizo's narco-terrorist group make other neighbouring countries of India in the Western Southeast Asia to view India with suspicious lens and might be a rational choice in the changing geopolitics.

ORCID ID

Oinam Ghanashyam Khumancha  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2228-1176>

Yengkhom Ronald  <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-0324-1245>

Reference

- Handler, Simon. (2022). The cyber strategy and operations of Hamas: Green flags and green hats. Atlantic Council. Washington. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/the-cyber-strategy-and-operations-of-hamas-green-flags-and-green-hats/>
- Snidal, D. (2013). Rational choice and international relations. In *Handbook of International Relations* (pp. 85–111). Sage Publication. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781848608290.n4>
<http://ndl.ethernet.edu.et/bitstream/123456789/5648/1/47.pdf#page=110>
- Khumancha, O. G., & Teresa, O. (2021). Status of Maharaja of Manipur in British India Empire and current social status among peers. *Journal of History and Social Sciences*, 12(2), 74–84. <https://doi.org/10.46422/jhss.v12i2.172>

- Ghanashyam Khumancha, O. (2024, September 30). *Western Southeast Asian countries and native ethnic groups have a Kuki-Chin-Zo problem*. The Statesman. Retrieved February 4, 2025, from <https://www.thestatesman.com/supplements/western-southeast-asian-countries-and-native-ethnic-groups-have-a-kuki-chin-zo-problem-1503348517.html>
- Bussell, & Jennifer. (2013, March 12). *Cyberspace | Digital Communications & Security*. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved March 1, 2025, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/cyberspace>
- TEWARI, M., GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, & SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY. (2019). UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4937. *LOK SABHA*. <https://sansad.in/getFile/loksabhaquestions/annex/171/AU4937.pdf?source=pqals>
- Parliament of India. (1967). THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967. In *THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967*. <https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1967-37.pdf>
- Boyce, D. (1987). Narco-Terrorism. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 56(11), 24–27. <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/Digitization/107705NCJRS.pdf>
- Chai-fong, C. (2001). British colonial policy on frontier areas adjoining Assam and Burma: with special reference to the Crown Colony Scheme. *Journal of the Japanese Association for South Asian Studies*, 2001(13), 76–106. <https://doi.org/10.11384/jjasas1989.2001.76>
- Banerjee, S. (2024). From poppy fields to Black markets: Understanding the drug trade across India and Myanmar. In *Occasional Paper* (Issue No 450). Observer Research Foundation. <https://www.orfonline.org/public/uploads/posts/pdf/20241003213119.pdf>
- Nanjappa, V. (2025, March 7). How Myanmar created a menace of alarming proportion thanks to its drug cartels in Mizoram. *Organiser*. <https://organiser.org/2025/03/07/281306/bharat/how-myanmar-created-a-menace-of-alarming-proportion-thanks-to-its-drug-cartels-in-mizoram/>
- Bhattacharyya, R. (2023, June 29). Myanmar junta's drug trafficking links. *The Diplomat*. <https://thediplomat.com/2023/06/myanmar-juntas-drug-trafficking-links/>
- Zou, S. T. (2012). Emergent Micro-National Communities: The logic of Kuki-Chin armed struggle in Manipur. *Strategic Analysis*, 36(2), 315–327. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09700161.2012.646509>
- Hazarika, P. (2024, March 11). *Nexus between insurgency and Narco-Trafficking : A case study of Manipur*. Vivekananda International Foundation. Retrieved March 13, 2025, from <https://www.vifindia.org/article/2024/april/26/Nexus-between-Insurgency-and-Narco-Trafficking>
- Achom, D. (2024, March 11). *Blog: In Manipur, to SOO or not*. www.ndtv.com. Retrieved April 1, 2025, from <https://www.ndtv.com/blog/in-manipur-to-soo-or-not-5213160>
- Ramdhani, A., Ramdhani, M. A., & Amin, A. S. (2014). Writing a Literature Review Research Paper: A step-by-step approach. *International Journal of Basics and Applied Sciences*,

- 3(1), 47–56. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311735510_Writing_a_Literature_Review_Research_Paper_A_step-by-step_approach
- Hassan, A., & Ellis-Petersen, H. (2025, January 3). Smuggled Starlink devices allegedly used to defy India's internet shutdowns. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jan/03/elon-musks-starlink-satellites-allegedly-used-to-defy-indias-internet-shutdowns#:~:text=The%20north%2Deast%20Indian%20state,over%20the%20border%20in%20Manipur>
- Myanmar Narcotic Control. (2024). Annual Report 2023. Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. <https://drugmuseum.gov.mm/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2023-annual-report-english-30-5-24-.pdf>
- Mizoram Police. (2025) Analysis of Arrests by Mizoram Police (Sep 2023-Dec 2024). <https://police.mizoram.gov.in/uploads/attachments/2025/08/7e09f00eb9c12107dc7753a384c0d01d/crime-analysis-2112025.pdf>
- Girish Linganna (2025, October 07). Drug Trade lures traffickers to Manipur from across India. Mathrubhumi. <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/features/specials/manipur-drug-trade-narcotics-hub-india-lat8pqhx>
- Jenzen-Jones, N., & McCollum, I. (2017). *Web trafficking: Analysing the Online Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Libya*. Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. ISBN: 978-2-940548-35-4. <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-SANA-WP26-Libya-web-trafficking.pdf>
- Schroeder, M. & Small Arms Survey. (2018, February 16). *Beyond the Dark Web: Arms Trafficking in the Digital Age*. Medium. Retrieved February 18, 2025, from https://smallarmssurvey.medium.com/beyond-the-dark-web-arms-trafficking-in-the-digital-age-56ddd806587a#_ftn1
- Schechter, A., & Bladt, C. (2024, October 7). *Guns for sale on social media despite Meta's policies against it*. CBS News. Retrieved March 9, 2025, from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/guns-for-sale-meta-facebook-instagram-policies/>
- Deogan, T. S. (2021, October 10). Ludhiana: Illegal weapons' suppliers take to social media to hunt for potential buyers - Hindustan Times. *Hindustan Times*. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/ludhiana-illegal-weapons-suppliers-take-to-social-media-to-hunt-for-potential-buyers-101633891020298.html>
- Gaither, J. (2024, April 18). *The Revolution in Modern Warfare: Tactical use of 3D printing in Myanmar and Ukraine*. Observatory on Contemporary Crises. Retrieved March 3, 2025, from <https://crisesobservatory.es/the-revolution-in-modern-warfare-tactical-use-of-3d-printing-in-myanmar-and-ukraine/#:~:text=Still%2C%20support%20has%20fallen%20short,offensive%20capabilities%20and%20defensive%20readiness.>
- Ditto Nation. (2023b, February 18). *"Printed Freedom": 3D-printed firearm culture* [Video]. YouTube. Retrieved March 31, 2025, from <https://www.youtube.com/>

watch?v=xMUV4L7ha-I

- M, D. (2023, May 14). *FGC-9 MKII Stingray*. 3D Gun Builder. Retrieved May 5, 2025, from <https://3dgunbuilder.com/rifles/fgc-9-mkii-stingray/>
- Nabakishore, O. (2024, September 14). Use of drones and rockets by Kuki Zo militants in the conflict. *E-pao*. Retrieved June 10, 2025, from https://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=news_section.opinions.Opinion_on_Manipur_Integrity_Issue.Use_of_drones_and_rockets_by_Kuki_Zo_militants_in_the_conflict_By_Oinam_Nabakishore
- Daly, M. (2024, July 27). What unites organised crime in Europe with rebels in Myanmar? 3D-Printed guns. *VICE*. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/3d-printed-guns-gangs-rebels/>
- The Hindu Bureau. (2025, March 11). *Western mercenaries who fought in Ukraine war are entering Myanmar via Mizoram to train rebels, claims CM Lalduhoma*. The Hindu. Retrieved June 10, 2025, from <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/foreigners-are-entering-myanmar-via-mizoram-to-train-rebels-cm-lalduhoma/article69317639.ece>
- Lovett, L. (2024, May 17). Western volunteers join the battle against Myanmar's military regime. *Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/17/western-volunteers-join-the-battle-against-myanmars-military-regime>
- Kaunert, C., MacKenzie, A., & Léonard, S. (2023). Far-right foreign fighters and Ukraine: A blind spot for the European Union? *New Journal of European Criminal Law*, 14(2), 247–266. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20322844231164089>
- Izvestia. (2024, December 24). Captured AFU militant complained about high salaries of mercenaries. *Известия*. <https://en.iz.ru/en/1812759/2024-12-24/captured-afu-militant-complained-about-high-salaries-mercenaries>
- Achom, D., & Sharma, N. (2025, January 31). Khalistani terrorists incited Manipur Christians to secede: centre. *www.ndtv.com*. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/khalistani-terrorist-group-sikhs-for-justice-led-by-gurpatwant-singh-pannun-incited-manipur-christians-to-secede-says-india-7601677>
- Rodrigues, S. (2024, August 24). FIACONA using 'persecuted Christians' narrative to push CIA agenda in India - The Sunday Guardian Live. *The Sunday Guardian Live*. <https://latest.sundayguardianlive.com/investigation/fiacona-using-persecuted-christians-narrative-to-push-cia-agenda-in-india>
- DisinfoLab. (2023, August 25). *Manipur unrest*. DisinfoLab. Retrieved July 1, 2025, from <https://thedisinfolab.org/manipur-unrest/#rb-Chapter-5-Another-anti-India-Indian-American-Organization>
- Uddin Shoaib Choudhury, S. [Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury]. (2024, December 20). *#TerrorAlert* [Video]. X. Retrieved June 9, 2025, from https://x.com/salah_shoaib/status/1870004091474325579
- Kuernbekk, T., & Boe-Hansen, O. (2017). How to Win Wars: The Role of the War Narrative. In P. Olmos (Ed.), *Narration as argument* (pp. 215–234). Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978->

- Goldman, E. & SWJ Staff. (2024, September 18). *Strategic communication: a tool for asymmetric warfare*. Small Wars Journal by Arizona State University. Retrieved May 6, 2025, from <https://smallwarsjournal.com/2007/10/06/strategic-communication-a-tool-for-asymmetric-warfare/>
- Koubu, T. (2025, March 24). *Radical Chin-Kuki Christian Preacher incites his people not to give up on their war with Indian government* [Video]. X. Retrieved April 4, 2025, from https://x.com/koubu_lakpa/status/1904111357957656633
- Zelengam Media. (n.d.). *Zalengam media*. YouTube. Retrieved July 30, 2025, from <https://www.youtube.com/@ZalengamMedia/playlists>
- Johnstone, J. (1886). *My experiences in Manipur and the Naga Hills*. William Clowes and Sons.
- Dun, E. W. (1992). *Gazetteer of Manipur*. Manas Publications.
- Haokip, R. (2008). The Kuki-Paite conflict in the Churachandpur district of Manipur. In L. Jeyaseelan (Ed.), *Conflict Mapping and Peace Processes in North East India* (pp. 185–207). North Eastern Research Centre.
- Poknapham. (2023, August 6). No record of Anglo-Kuki war in Manipur: MHA. *Chronicle News Service*. <https://story.poknapham.in/posts/64ceb12fd741d9891edc37ae>
- Narendra, R. (2015, September 16). *Religious landscape in Manipur Part 1*. E-Pao. Retrieved May 22, 2025, from https://e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=manipur.Manipur_and_Religion.Religious_Landscape_in_Maniपुर_Part_1_By_RK_Narendra
- Nanjappa, V. (2025, March 7). How Myanmar created a menace of alarming proportion thanks to its drug cartels in Mizoram. *Organiser*. <https://organiser.org/2025/03/07/281306/bharat/how-myanmar-created-a-menace-of-alarming-proportion-thanks-to-its-drug-cartels-in-mizoram/>
- Centre for Policy Studies. (2011). The Christianisation of the Northeast: It all began on the eve of independence. In *Centre for Policy Studies* (p. 1). Retrieved June 1, 2025, from <https://cpsindia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Blog-28-Northeast-Web.pdf>
- Department of Population, & Swe, T. (2016). *The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census Census Report Volume 2-C The Union Report: Religion*. https://myanmar.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNION_2C_Religion_EN.pdf
- Census Division. (1987). Chin State: 1983 population Census. In *Department of Population*. Department of Population, Government of Myanmar. Retrieved April 1, 2025, from https://www.dop.gov.mm/sites/dop.gov.mm/files/publication_docs/1983_chin_census_report.pdf
- Deshpande, S. (2025, March 3). 'No drone bombs or infiltration', Army chief says 'battle of narratives' must be controlled in Manipur. *The Print*. Retrieved June 7, 2025, from <https://theprint.in/defence/no-drone-bombs-or-infiltration-army-chief-says-battle-of-narratives-must-be-controlled-in-manipur/2293865/>
- NEWS9 Live. (2024, September 9). *Lt Gen PC Nair, EX-DG Assam Rifles says explosives*

- not dropped by drone in Koutruk village* [Video]. YouTube. Retrieved June 8, 2025, from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGIhV_GTSo
- Ratti, P., & Gupta, M. (2025, February 24). *Over 40 drone bombs dropped by Kuki terrorists in September 2024 Manipur attack: NIA tells court*. News18. Retrieved June 10, 2025, from <https://www.news18.com/india/over-40-drone-bombs-dropped-by-kuki-terrorists-in-september-2024-manipur-attack-nia-tells-court-9238383.html>
- Irom, B. (2025, July 2). *Manipur drone attack: NIA arrests suspect in strike that killed housewife*. NorthEast Now. Retrieved July 15, 2025, from https://nenow.in/north-east-news/manipur/manipur-drone-attack-nia-arrests-suspect-in-strike-that-killed-housewife.html#google_vignette
- Khumancha, O. G. (2021). Statelessness and forced displacement in the era of post-globalization: A Case Study on Rohingya Crisis. *Electronic Journal of Social & Strategic Studies*, 02(03), 321–341. <https://doi.org/10.47362/ejsss.2021.2303>
- Nakamura, C. (2024, November 14). *What happened to Pirates Bay?* DevX. Retrieved June 28, 2025, from <https://www.devx.com/blog/what-happened-to-pirates-bay/>