**‘Indian forces using Kuki and Myanmar groups to wage war’**

The Indian armed forces were using a Kuki extremist outfit and a pro-democracy armed group in civil war-torn Myanmar to wage a war against the “Naga Army” along the India-Myanmar border, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) said on Thursday.

It said the National Investigation Agency, by alleging that the NSCN had been helping radical Meitei groups to fuel the year-old ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo groups in Manipur, was “spitting venom”.

The NSCN said the Assam Rifles (AR) and the Indian Army’s para regiment were using the Kuki National Army (Burma), or KNA(B), and the People’s Defence Force (PDF) for a proxy war to kill the Council’s members. This was a deliberate attempt to drag the NSCN into a conflict it had steered clear of while pursuing a political settlement to the ‘Naga political issue’ with the Government of India, the outfit said.

The KNA(B) had a Manipur-based wing called the KNA. The PDF was the armed wing of the exiled National Unity Government that was fighting the Tatmadaw or Myanmar military, which staged a coup on February 1, 2021.

“It is a matter of regret that the AR and the para regiment are openly standing out to collude with Kuki militant groups against the NSCN, creating a war-like scenario in the border areas of India and Myanmar. No such war-mongering situation was witnessed in recent history despite the area (being) prone to infiltration by different militant groups,” the NSCN said.