



Agenda: Discussing the rising tensions in the state of Manipur with special emphasis on the refugee crisis

This is remind all who read shall be reading this guide the following points:

1. This is an introduction to the topic and should not be the basis for your research.
2. This guide will be an explanation of the concept. Refrain using data-points and statistics said henceforth. Read it as a story to understand the topic better
3. You should base your research on factual data-points from trusted places such as:
  - a) Press Trust of India (online site and news articles)
  - b) Relevant Government Reports
  - c) Spoken and/or written content that has been presented in either house of the parliament. This includes answers given during the no-confidence motion and any question hour and zero hours proceedings done.
  - d) Reports on DD news and channels that lie under its family.

Expectations:

As representatives of Indians of affected areas it is of grave need to find a consensus. Delaying this process of discussion and debate would lead us down a path on which turning back may be impossible. The following is expected from the committee at the end of the 2 days:

1. A concrete solution to the refugee crisis
2. A plan of action that needs to be taken for the displaced people

### History

Manipur has had a long lineage of rulers starting from the 12th century - partial independence and then its eventual succession into the Indian union. One country backed the issues to the 1st Anglo Burmese war of 1824, where the king Raja Gambhir Singh asked for British support against a local Burmese ruler. This led to the state of Manipur, becoming a British protectorate till 1826. After a slow, but steady incursion by the Britishers into Manipur it had finally become a satellite state in 1834 after the death of Raja Gambhir Singh, which left a power vacuum. This led to the Britishers installing their own pop it ruler who paid up particular compensation of ₹6350 after this issue started to arise again in 1890 when the Britishers sent an expedition of 400 soldiers to dispose of a major senapati. from here onwards, the Meiti people who had always been at the throne or in powerful positions lost their sense of power. Under the new British rule, the state of Manipur was under the influence of the governor of Assam who had actually signed the letter of Ascension to the Indian union. This is a small history of geo-politics of Manipur To understand the recent divisions among the people of Manipur, we need to understand who we are talking about. Manipur has three major tribes. Namely, the Kukie tribe, the Meiti tribe and

the Naga tribe. What had started out as a mutual symbiotic relationship between the mentioned tribes slowly started to turn sour for the following reasons. Firstly, although the ethnic people who live in the Imphal Valley cover only a very small percentage of the actual land of the state. They hold a majority in legislative and educational positions. This can be credited to an age-old policy of the British time. The after effect of this was that the remaining tribes had to be moved further into the hilly regions of the state. This has led to an asymmetric development programme of resources utilized by the state.

The Indian government did not take good care of its state back in 1947 after independence, the north East region was union territory directly governed by Delhi. This post had many challenges such as one, the distance of governing and the governed was too high; two the government couldn't understand the actual needs of the hour. On one hand, when your country was fighting war in Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, they completely ignored the other states of the region. For this led to poor development of infrastructure, educational opportunities, legislative opportunities et cetera. The reason the government did not make Manipur its own state till 1972 was that the government felt that the hill people were too backward in their politics and could not govern themselves efficiently.

This has led to some major problems such as lack of real infrastructure and connectivity into the state. As of today's date, the only access to Manipur is either by road or by air. Logical purposes suggest the only viable option is that of its road connectivity.

At this point, we should also address the elephant in the room and that is the people themselves. The valley people comprise the majority in the general assembly and that is 40 out of the 60. They live in urbanized cities as compared to the people. Another issue that has to be discussed later. If one had to pinpoint the point in time where the entire issue arose from - it can be traced back to the All Tribal Student March in May when they were protesting against the Meitei people who are demanding for ST status and given one by the High Court

### **Issues that the people of Manipur face today**

The average Manipuri today lives in 2 realms. one of a modern India where they live in urban centers and have availability and connectivity to the rest of the world, whereas on the other hand, some live in an India of the past. This power difference has led to what we today know of as the violence which has been raging on for the past year. To make you understand the differences of power I'll give you two examples. The valley people aren't allowed to buy land in the hill people's area. Tribes are reserved under the Scheduled Tribes category and by law you cannot purchase this land however, on the other hand the people have no such restriction on purchasing land in the Valley. As noted before the disproportionate representation of the people in the Parliament gives rise to resentment. The demands of the people have been regularly ignored over the past innumerable years and this has led to the situation in the state to become extremely volatile. After the military coup of Myanmar due to a porous border between the two nations, it has led to an influx of refugees. No today, every state can deal with their refugee crisis in their

own different ways. The state of Mizoram was extremely welcoming to all the refugees who ran from the military dictatorship. But on the other hand, the Manipuri people weren't happy with this idea. This can be traced back to the same issues. I have stated above. Why can refugees make their own villages in a new land in a new country, whereas the people of the same state cannot buy a small plot of that land for themselves. This has led to heightened tension among the people.

This was a short explanation of the entire topic and why, what and how a few simple questions have been answered. A few other things to be kept in mind is that one the government has reimposed AFSPA in the state, which stands for armed forces, special powers act. This act gave the Assam Rifles, a highly decorated military regiment, the charge of maintaining peace and order in the state after a breakdown of the local state police system due to the rights. One thing to remember is that the special powers act was implemented in times of war and states of constant terms such as Jammu Kashmir before the abrogation offices, article 370 and for the longest period of time in Arunachal Pradesh or what was then known as the NEFA region. Recently, the government has been trying to diffuse the situation but has been poor and its execution of plans. The state continues to burn down despite the issue now stretching over half an year..

One should understand that the purpose of this committee is to have a peaceful solution to the current refugee crisis, which has started to take place in the state. One must understand what refugee crisis is

Refugee crisis arises when a particular state or a country goes through political turmoil, mainly or even economic turmoil, leading to people leaving their homeland and seeking asylum in nearby regions, countries or areas. As it has been before, the country is no stranger to the refugee crisis. However, every state has their own flexibility to exercise however, they deem fit to take care of the issue.

Another point to remember is that mass displacement of people has also happened from the state of Manipur to areas away from those that affected violence. People have migrated to nearby towns, areas , states and some forest cases to cities like the capital et cetera. The displaced people do not have any sources of income expenditure and today live in ref centers that are over housing. The number of people that were originally went for. These people although illiterate and most can speak English and Hindi fluently yet cannot find suitable jobs for themselves for today. They have nothing to show educational qualifications for nor can they show any past records of employment. This can be attributed to the fact that they have lost everything and then shifted or went away from their areas. Many organizations both in the state of Manipur and in the country donate and help to rehabilitate these people. However, the task is simply too big for every day. For every new incident a new set of people will be dispatched to stop this one must understand and cut the tree from its roots.

## **Stands and other important points that need to be noted**

### Supreme Court's Views

The Supreme Court has regarded the Manipur crisis as a “humanitarian problem” and expressed concerns about the loss of life and property. The apex court had further noted that it is the President who has the power to designate a community as Scheduled Caste or Schedule Tribe and not the High Court. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) has urged the Centre and the Manipur government to undertake efforts to protect the people.

### Centre's stand

The Union Home Minister said that the order passed by the Manipur High Court will be studied and discussed with all stakeholders and appropriate decisions will be taken after consultation. The Indian Army has deployed Heron Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and helicopters to increase surveillance on the situation in Manipur and along the Indo-Myanmar Border.