

## President rule in Manipur

### Why in news?

Recently, large scale violence has erupted again in Manipur.

### What are the needs of president rule provisions in Indian context?

- **President's Rule** -It is a provision under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution that allows the central government to assume direct control over a state's governance.
- It also known as State emergency or Constitutional emergency.
- **Origin** - Emergency power of President in present Constitution can be traced from section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935.
- Government of India Act, 1935 empowered both the Governor General (at the Federal level) and the Governor (at the provincial level) to deal with the failure of the Constitutional machinery.
- **Need of president rule**

*B.R.Ambedkar , Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, K. Santhanam, Thakur Das Bhargava stressed the necessity of president's rule provisions.*

- **Protect unity and integrity of the nation** - Parliamentary democracy is vulnerable to diverse and complex society of India.
- **Address governance breakdown** - Union intervention might be needed to ensure that states adhere to constitutional norms and maintain law and order when required.
- **Strengthen federalism** - To prevent federal units of the union resisting the central government and ensure cooperation among the states.

*Article 365 empowers the union government to impose presidents rule when states fail to comply with, or to give effect to, directions given by the Union.*

- **Protect individual's liberty** - when a state's machinery fails, depriving citizens of basic liberties, Union intervention becomes essential to safeguard their rights and restore peace
- **Uphold constitution** - To ensure values and principle of the constitution is respected and obeyed by the states.
- **Protect states** - To protect states against external aggression and internal disturbance.

*Article 355 provides that it is the duty of the Union to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance.*

## Article 356

• **President's Proclamation** (1) - If the President, by the report from the Governor of the State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the President may, by Proclamation.

- (a) Assume to himself all or any of the functions of state
- (b) Allow Parliament to exercise the powers of the State Legislature.
- (c) Make provisions necessary to enforce the Proclamation, including suspension of certain Constitutional provisions relating to State authorities.

• **Revocation** (2) - Any such Proclamation may be revoked or varied by a subsequent Proclamation.

• **Parliamentary Approval** (3) - Must be presented to both Houses of Parliament and will cease to operate after two months unless approved.

• If issued during Lok Sabha dissolution, it remains *valid for 30 days* after the new Lok Sabha's first session, pending its approval.

• **Duration** (4) - Proclamation so approved shall, be operate six months from the date of issue of the Proclamation.

• **Extension beyond one year** (5) - The Proclamation can be extended beyond **one year** only in the following cases.

- (a) A National Emergency in effect.
- (b) Election Commission certification that elections to the State Assembly cannot be held due to difficulties.

## Why is Manipur violence unique?

- **Continuous violence** - No State in India has seen such continuing violence among the common people.
- **Common man violence** - Unlike other violence in north eastern states common man is involved in Manipur violence.
- Ordinary people have become the victims of violence and also forced to indulge in violence to protect themselves.
- **Involvement of police force** - State police force began to divide based on ethnicity which increased the hostility between Meitei and Kukis.

## What are the necessities of president rule in Manipur?

- **Breakdown of constitutional machinery** - The government has failed to protect its citizen's basic liberties and maintain law and order.
- **Deprivation of fundamental rights** - 3 million people of Manipur are deprived of fundamental rights and their lives, liberty, dignity, and peace.
- **Judiciary failure** - In spite of Various judicial orders and directives the violence have not been controlled depriving.
- **Failure of governance** - Inability of the state government to control the violence in the state.
- **Internal disturbance** - The violence caused killing of more than 250 people and displacement of over a lakh of people.
- Hundreds of temples, churches, homes and other places have been destroyed.

*Article 355 imposed in 2023 which empowers the Union government to protect the state under any internal and external threat.*

- Meiteis are the valley people , constituting 65% of state population and Kuki are tribes living in hills constituting 35% of Manipur population.
- 90% of the state’s geographical area comprises hills.
- **Sectarian violence** - Conflict between the dominant Meitei and Kuki communities is majorly due to the imbalance in development across and protecting the ethnic rights of their community on the state.
- **Meitei demands** - They demand for ST status to preserve their ancestral land, tradition, culture, and language.
- They argue that they were scheduled tribes before 1949 and lost the status after the merger with India.
- The reduction their population invokes fear of marginalization among the community.
- **Refugee intrusion** - Influx of Kuki refugees from Myanmar have heightened tensions over demographic shifts and resource competition.

*Manipur shares nearly 400-km border with Myanmar.*

- **The sudden trigger** - In April 2023 the Manipur High Court recommended the state government should consider the demand of Meitei communities.
- **Kuki’s objection** - As Meitei account for half of Manipur's population and extending ST status to them would mean they would get a share of education and government jobs reserved for Kukis and Nagas.

*The conflict began after a peaceful protest march organized by the All Tribal Student Union of Manipur (ATSUM) against the Manipur High Court’s recommendation to recognize the Meitei as a Scheduled Tribe (ST).*

To know more about this, click [here](#).

### What lies ahead?

- Restore governance and protect citizens' rights in the state by curbing the violence.
- The government should act decisively to bring back peace, harmony, justice, relief and rehabilitation.
- Engage both parties to peace talks to stop the violence.

### Reference

[The Hindu | Manipur as A Case for Imposing Article 35](#)

