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# MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Situation Report - 6th May 2023

## INTRODUCTION

Manipur, a northeastern state in India, boasts a diverse populace of 35 distinct communities, each with its own unique lifestyles, dialects, and cultures. The Meitei community, primarily Hindus, reside in the Imphal valley and comprise the majority (53%) of the non-tribal population, while the Nagas and Kukis, predominantly Christians, account for 40% of the state's population and inhabit the hill districts. However, these communities have a history of ancient ethnic fault lines.

For the past two decades, the Meitei community has been demanding Scheduled Tribe status to access reserved quotas in government jobs and other benefits. In April, the Manipur High Court directed the state government to promptly decide on the ST status petitions for the Meitei community. However, the tribals, who have held the ST category status for an extended period, opposed this decision on the grounds that the Meitei community is more socially affluent, educated, powerful in economic parameters and has greater political representation in the state assembly.

The situation turned violent on May 3, 2023, when the All Tribal Students Union of Manipur (ATSUM) called for protests against the inclusion of the Meitei community in the ST category. Clashes between these communities erupted during the protest in Churachandpur and escalated into violent clashes in the following days. As law and order collapsed in the state, the Centre invoked Article 355 to safeguard the state against internal disturbances and external aggression.



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SITUATION

### INCIDENTS & AFFECTED

- On the 3rd of May, 2023, during the 'Tribal Solidarity March' organized by ATSUM in the Torbung area of Churachandpur district, violent incidents occurred. According to the police report, a group of armed individuals allegedly attacked people belonging to the Meitei community in Torbung, which resulted in retaliatory attacks and further escalation of violence throughout the State
- 9 of 16 districts are under curfew
- 54 Human Lives Lost
- More than 150 injured
- 5 Hill Based Militants killed
- 2 India Reserve Battalion Jawans Injured
- Internet services suspended
- Trains to Manipur cancelled
- Schools, colleges, offices and shops remain shut. However, market have started opening.
- Imphal East and West districts reported sporadic incidents of arson and attempts to establish blockades

### DAMAGED

- Several villages and urban localities are destroyed. Reports of burning of cars, buildings, vandalising shops, hotels and destroying churches.
- At least 27 churches burnt down.
- Miscreants looted items from vandalized or burnt houses, business establishments, shopping malls, etc
- Anglo-Kuki War Memorial Gate in Leisang destroyed
- Vaiphei houses in Kangvai village has been razed

## TRIGGERING FACTORS

- IRS - Institutionalized Riot system, wherein riots are prepared, activated and sustained with explanatory justifications
- Internal disturbance triggered by long unresolved inter-community conflict
- Protest against granting ST status to Meitei community
- Fear of losing primacy in traditional homeland valley area and granting by central govt. to implement inner line permit (ILP). The demand of which came from within Meitei community.
- Eviction notices in hilly regions issued by the state government on the basis of encroachment upon forest land. Churches were demolished during eviction drives.
- Withdrawal from ongoing tripartite peace talks and agreement (Suspension of Operations (SoO)) with United People's Front (UPF) and Kuki National organisation (KNO) by the state government
- Issues of illegal Burmese immigrants and drug cartels and burning of settlements in Moreh, Tourbung and Churachandpur
- Clashes in Myanmar and migration
- Effect of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act which has been imposed on that state for a very long time,
- Lack of development



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## RESPONSE MEASURES

- More than 10,000 army, para-military and central police forces have been deployed (12 companies, comprising around 1,000 personnel, of the Border Security Force (BSF), 3,200 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) teams, etc)
- Troops deployed with orders to "Shoot on sight" in cases where "all forms of persuasion, warning, reasonable force, etc have been exhausted"
- 13,000 people rescued and shifted to makeshift camps of army from Churachandpur, Moreh, Kakching and Kangpokpi districts
- People with injuries are being treated at RIMS and Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences
- Deployed airlifting anti-riot vehicles to the northeastern State
- Indian Air Force undertaking the sorties, employing C17 Globemaster and AN32 aircraft from 2 airfields in Assam
- Neighboring states (Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, etc) also taking measure to evacuation, giving access to highways, opening helplines, etc

## CHALLENGES

- Damages to houses and Displacement of people
- High fear and tension among communities
- Issues of rehabilitation in Temporary Shelter, arrangement of lighting, food items, clothes, etc
- Special care for Pregnant women, Children, Older adults, and differently-abled people
- Cramped due to lack of space in shelter/camps
- Safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and other management concerns
- Maintaining the supply of essential commodities in case of blockades/curfew
- Disrupted communication channels, rail, and road
- Security concerns
- Education of children and job/ livelihood affected
- Safety, security, and privacy concerns
- Identifying the cluster in need of relief measures
- The situation is still grim in the worst-conflict affected districts

## DOCTORS FOR YOU PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

### HEALTH

- First Aid Services
- Medical Health camps in makeshift camps
- Providing care to Anti Hypertensive and Diabetic patients

### WASH

- Distribution of Sanitary napkins for adolescent girls and women
- Water and other WASH provisions

### RATION

- Family Food Packets comprising of ready to use eatable items such as Grams, Biscuits, Jaggery, Peanuts, Rice flakes, Puff rice, etc)

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