

Crisis in Manipur

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Crisis in Manipur: Political Turmoil and Humanitarian Challenges

Context

On **February 13, 2025**, **Article 356** of the Indian Constitution was invoked in **Manipur**, placing the State under **President's Rule**. This meant that the **President of India** took over all **administrative and legislative functions**, replacing the **Council of Ministers**. However, the **State Assembly was not dissolved** but kept in "**animated suspension**," allowing time for the ruling **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** to resolve internal conflicts.

Reasons for President's Rule

- **Lawlessness & Ethnic Strife:** For **20 months** since **May 3, 2023**, communal violence persisted, yet the **Union government** took no action.
- **Constitutional Deadline:** **Article 174** mandates that the **gap between two Assembly sessions must not exceed six months**. The deadline expired on **February 12, 2025** after the winter session was skipped.
- **Political Crisis:** On **February 9, 2025**, **Chief Minister N. Biren Singh** resigned under BJP's central pressure due to internal dissent. This led to instability, with no consensus on his successor.
- **Governor's Action:** Manipur's **Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla** unexpectedly declared the **scheduled Assembly session "null and void,"** worsening the crisis.

With no functioning government and a lapsed Assembly, **President's Rule was inevitable**.

Political Landscape of Manipur

- Manipur has **33 Scheduled Tribes**, mainly **Naga and Kuki-Zo groups**, alongside **Meiteis, Meitei Muslims (Pangals), and other non-tribal communities**.
 - **Frequent Political Instability:** This is **Manipur's 11th time** under President's Rule, highlighting its **fractured political landscape**.
 - **Populist Politics:** Political factions have **exploited ethnic tensions**, further deepening divisions.
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Impact of Conflict & Displacement

- **58,000 people forcibly displaced**, living in **relief camps** across **Valley and Hill districts**.
 - **12,000 fled to Mizoram, 7,000 to Nagaland, Assam, and Meghalaya**.
 - **Breakdown in medical access**, forcing people to travel through Mizoram and Nagaland for healthcare.
 - **Lack of basic needs:** Food, clean water, and education remain severely affected in relief camps.
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Measures Needed

- **Humanitarian Aid:** External organizations must step in.
 - **Water Supply:** Urgent action needed as families spend a large share of income on water.
 - **Medical Evacuation:** Establish **humanitarian corridors** for critical patients.
 - **Restoration of Supply Chains:** Essential goods must be transported safely to affected areas.
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Conclusion

While the **BJP government may soon return**, deeper **structural and humanitarian challenges** persist. **Ethnic divisions, misinformation, and displacement remain critical issues**. Any long-term solution must **prioritize peace, inclusivity, and sustainable governance** over political maneuvering.

