



CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

Date -1 December 2023

INSURGENCY IN MANIPUR

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details " Insurgency in Manipur". This topic has relevance in the Social Issues section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 2: Social Issues

Why in the news?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared the formalization of a peace accord with the Meitei separatist organization, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), in Manipur. Additionally, he conveyed optimism that this development would serve as a catalyst, inspiring other valley-based insurgent groups (VBIGs) to engage in the peacebuilding process.

Historical Background of Manipur:

- Post the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891, the Kingdom of Manipur was annexed by Britain.
- Manipur became a British protectorate and later joined India in October 1949, achieving separate statehood in 1972.

Rise of Insurgency:

- Manipur's integration into India resulted in the emergence of insurgent organizations. These groups advocated for an independent state within Manipur's borders, rejecting the merger with India as involuntary.
- Insurgency issues surfaced in the late 1960s and 1970s, with the founding of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) in November 1964.

Reasons for Insurgency:

- **Merger with India:**
 - Resentment among Meiteis, the majority community, due to declining influence post-Independence.
 - Meitei insurgency initiated in the 1960s against the merger with the Indian Union.
- **Ethnic Conflict:**
 - Diverse ethnic population with Meiteis in the Valley, Nagas in surrounding hills, and Kukis interspersed.
 - Overlapping territorial interests and conflicts between Kukis and Nagas, as well as Nagas and Meiteis.

- Demand for Nagalim (Greater Nagaland) includes Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur, while Meiteis seek to preserve historical unity.
- **Lack of Socio-economic Development:**
 - Topographical challenges hinder economic development and socio-economic transformation.
 - Persistent issues of corruption, mismanagement of funds, and failure to empower common people contribute to dissatisfaction.

Insurgency in Manipur



MEITEI DOMINATED

Thoubal, Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching, Bishnupur

KUKI-ZOMI DOMINATED

Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Pherzawl

NAGA DOMINATED

Senapati, Ukhrul, Kamjong, Noney, Tamenglong

CHANDEL TENGNOUPAL

have Kukis, Nagas, and Meiteis; Chandel has more Kuki-Zomi tribes while Tengnoupal more Naga tribes



Key Highlights of the Manipur Peace Deal

- **Peace Agreement Overview:**
 - The specifics of the peace deal have not been publicly disclosed, but experts suggest that it primarily centers around a Suspension of Operations (SoO).

- The SoO entails a mutual agreement between the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and security forces to refrain from conducting operations against each other.
- **Implementation of SoO:**
 - Both the UNLF and security forces commit to not engaging in operations against each other.
 - Identified areas within the valley will be designated for building UNLF camps where cadres can stay alongside their arms and ammunition, supervised by the Manipur government and armed forces.
 - Talks for a comprehensive peace accord will proceed following the establishment of SoO arrangements.
- **About UNLF:**
 - Formed on November 24, 1964, the UNLF is the oldest insurgent group based in the valley.
 - Originated with the secession demand from India, led by Arembam Samarendra Singh.
 - Initially proscribed and banned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.
 - Armed wing, the Manipur People's Army, established in 1990.
 - Two factions currently exist under the chairmanship of Khundongbam Pambei and NC Koireng.
- **Area of Operation:**
 - UNLF's operational areas encompass the valley regions of Manipur and some villages in the Kuki-Zomi hill districts.
 - Historically operated from camps and training bases in Myanmar's Sagaing Region, Chin state, and Rakhine state, with Myanmar military patronage.
 - Facing challenges in Myanmar due to attacks against the military junta by Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) and People's Defence Forces (PDFs).
- **Current Status:**
 - One faction of the UNLF faction led by Koireng remains opposed to peace talks.
 - The Manipur government withdrew from the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement in March 2023.
 - Tripartite SoO agreement reached in 2008, involving the Centre, Manipur state, and Kuki-Zomi insurgent groups, aimed at initiating political dialogue.
 - Withdrawal attributed to alleged influence on agitation among forest encroachers by the Zomi Revolutionary Army and the Kuki National Army.

Source:

[The pursuit of peace in troubled Manipur \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)

Q.1 In the context of Manipur's insurgency, consider the following statements:

1. The Meitei insurgency in the 1960s was primarily driven by resentment among the Meiteis due to declining influence post-independence.
2. Ongoing clashes between diverse ethnic populations, including Meiteis, Nagas and Kukis, are attributed to overlapping territorial interests and conflicts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C

Q.2 The United National Liberation Front (UNLF) is associated with which of the following:

- (a) Meitei
- (b) Naga
- (c) Kukis
- (d) Rohingya

ANSWER: A

Q.3 In the context of insurgency in Manipur, critically analyze the multifaceted factors contributing to the persistent unrest in the region. Discuss the historical background, ethnic complexities, and socio-economic dimensions that have fueled and sustained the insurgency.

Rishabh

