

Meira Paibis

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About Meira Paibis:

- **Who are they?** The most visible organised face of **civil society activists** have been the Meira Paibis or “women torch bearers”, so called because of the flaming torches that they hold aloft while marching in the streets, often at night.
- They also known as **Imas or Mothers of Manipur**, are **Meitei women** who come from all sections of society in Manipur.
- Members of this group are widely respected and **represent a powerful moral force**.
- The Meira Paibis are loosely organised, **usually led by groups of senior women**, but have no rigid hierarchy or structure, or any overt political leanings.

What social role does the Meira Paibis play?

- The Meira Paibi was formed in 1977 presently it is one of the largest grassroots movements in the world.

- Its initial focus on **fighting alcoholism and drug abuse** has now expanded to countering human rights violations and the development of society at large.

Q1) What is the role of civil society?

Civil society plays a vital role in society by promoting democratic participation, advocating for human rights, fostering social justice, and addressing various social, cultural, environmental, and economic issues.

Source: [Who are Meira Paibis, Manipur's 'torch-bearing' women activists](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/meira-paibis/>

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