

Manipur Violence - Centre Signs Revised Pact for Peace

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Manipur Violence Latest News

- The Centre has signed a **revised Suspension of Operations pact with Kuki-Zo groups**, tightening monitoring norms and relocating camps to restore peace in Manipur.

Introduction

- Manipur, plagued by **ethnic violence** between the **Meitei** and **Kuki-Zo communities** since May 2023, has witnessed a major policy development with the Centre announcing a revised **Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact** with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups.
- The move comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the state, marking the government's most significant step to restore peace and stability.
- The new pact seeks to tighten oversight of cadres, relocate militant camps, and ensure compliance with the constitutional framework while opening channels for dialogue.

Free Movement and Confidence-Building Measures

- The Centre claimed that Kuki civil society groups had agreed to allow **free movement along National Highway-02**, a vital lifeline for commuters and essential goods in the state.
- This move was seen as the beginning of normalcy, but the **Kuki-Zo Council (KZC)** issued clarifications stating that the highway had never been officially blocked and that its appeal was limited to the Kangpokpi district stretch.
- While the government portrayed the development as an agreement on “free movement,” Kuki groups insisted that **buffer zones** between Meitei and Kuki areas would continue to be respected, highlighting persistent mistrust and the fragility of peace.

About The SoO Pact

- The new SoO pact was signed on **September 4, 2025**, between the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, the Government of Manipur, and **24 Kuki-Zo insurgent groups** under the umbrellas of the **Kuki National Organisation (KNO)** and the **United People’s Front (UPF)**.
- **Key Features of the Revised Pact:**
 - **Stricter Monitoring:** A **Joint Monitoring Group (JMG)** led by the Manipur Principal Secretary (Home) will conduct physical verification of cadres, maintain detailed lists, and ensure removal of foreign nationals allegedly present in Kuki camps.
 - **Relocation of Camps:** The pact mandates reducing the number of designated camps to **six each** for KNO and UPF, relocating them away from highways, populated areas, and the Myanmar border.
 - **Financial Transparency:** Cadres will receive stipends only through **Aadhaar-linked bank accounts**, ensuring payments are restricted to those physically verified at camps.
 - **Restrictions on Activities:** Groups are barred from recruiting new cadres, carrying weapons outside camps, associating with other armed outfits, or engaging in offensive operations.
 - **Respect for Constitution:** The preamble emphasises that all signatories must **abide by the Constitution of India** and respect the **territorial integrity of Manipur**.

Political and Security Dimensions

- The signing of the pact has raised concerns among civil society groups.
- The **Zomi Council**, based in Churachandpur, rejected the KZC’s claim of representation, arguing that it does not legitimately represent the Zo people.
 - This reflects deeper divisions within Kuki-Zo society and complicates negotiations.
- For the Meiteis, relocation of camps from valley-fringe areas to the hills addresses a long-standing demand, as these camps were allegedly used to launch attacks in the valley.
- Simultaneously, Naga groups such as the **United Naga Council** have voiced their displeasure over exclusion from talks, and have even threatened a **trade embargo** in response to the border fencing issue with Myanmar.

Path Towards a Political Settlement

- The revised SoO pact is designed as a **confidence-building framework**. It will be followed by a **tripartite dialogue** among the Centre, the Manipur government, and Kuki groups to pave the way for a **negotiated**

political settlement within the Constitution.

- Parallely, the Centre is working with other insurgent groups such as the **United National Liberation Front (UNLF)**, for whom designated camps are being set up. This signals a wider attempt to bring insurgent movements under a structured peace process.

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