



## President's Rule in Manipur

For Prelims: [President's Rule](#), [Article 356](#), [Kuki-Zo and Meitei](#), [Article 355](#), [Governor](#), [Simple Majority](#), [44th Amendment Act, 1978](#), [National Emergency](#), [Election Commission](#), [State Consolidated Fund](#)

For Mains: Constitutional provisions regarding President's rule and judicial interpretation.

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### Why in News?

The Centre has imposed the [President's rule](#) in Manipur under [Article 356](#) of the **Indian Constitution** and suspended the state assembly after the **resignation** of its **Chief Minister**.

### How President's Rule Can Help in Resolving Conflict in Manipur?

- **Neutral Administration:** Central rule will remove **allegations of biased handling of ethnic violence**, protecting both [Kuki-Zo and Meitei](#) communities.
  - Governor-supervised central forces can **prevent ethnic clashes** and maintain law & order in the state.
- **Electoral Stability:** Prevents governance erosion by **ending internal disputes** within the ruling party.
- **Rehabilitation:** Ensures **fair relief and rehabilitation** for 60,000 displaced people in camps for over 20 months.

Click Here to Read: [What led to the Manipur Unrest?](#)

### What is the President's Rule?

- **About: President's Rule** refers to the suspension of a **state government** and its **legislative assembly**, placing the state under the **direct control of the central government**.
  - It is imposed under **Article 356** of the **Indian Constitution**.
- **Constitutional Basis:** [Article 355](#) mandates the Central government to ensure that every state functions as per the Constitution.
  - If a state government **fails to function as per constitution**, the Centre can **intervene** under **Article 356** by imposing **President's Rule**.
  - President's Rule is also known as **State Emergency** or **Constitutional Emergency**.
- **Grounds for Proclamation:**
  - **Article 356:** The President can impose President's Rule if a **situation arises** where the state government **cannot function as per the Constitution**. This can be done:

- On the recommendation of the **Governor**.
- On the **President's discretion**, even without the Governor's report.
- **Article 365**: If a state **fails to comply with the Centre's directions**, the President can declare that its government **cannot function constitutionally**.
- **Parliamentary Approval**: A **proclamation of President's Rule** must be approved by **both Houses of Parliament** within **two months**.
  - If President's Rule is declared when the **Lok Sabha is dissolved, or if it dissolves within two months without approving** the proclamation, it remains **valid until 30 days after the Lok Sabha reconvenes**, provided the **Rajya Sabha approves** it during this period.
  - Approving or extending the President's Rule requires a **simple majority** in Parliament (majority of members present and voting).
- **Duration**: President's Rule lasts **six months** initially and can be extended **up to 3 years** with Parliament's approval every six months.
  - The **44th Amendment Act, 1978** allows extending President's Rule **beyond one year only if**:
    - **National Emergency is in force** across India or in any part of the state.
    - The **Election Commission certifies** that elections to the state assembly cannot be held due to difficulties.
  - For extension of President's Rule **beyond 3 years**, constitutional amendment is required. E.g., **67th Amendment Act, 1990 and 68th Amendment Act, 1991** was enacted to extend President's Rule beyond 3 years in Punjab during **Punjab insurgency**.
- **Impacts**: The **President assumes extraordinary powers** when the President's Rule is imposed.
  - **Executive Powers**: The President takes over state functions, with the **Governor administering** on their behalf, assisted by the **Chief Secretary** and appointed advisors.
  - **Legislative Powers**: The State Legislature is **suspended or dissolved**, with **Parliament** exercising its powers or delegating law-making authority to the President or a specified body.
    - Laws made during the President's Rule remain in force **unless repealed by the state legislature**.
  - **Financial Control**: The President **can authorize expenditure** from the **State Consolidated Fund** until it is approved by Parliament.
- **Revocation**: The **President can revoke President's Rule anytime** without parliamentary approval.

## What is the Supreme Court's Stand on Imposition of President's Rule?

- **SR Bommai Case, 1994**: The Supreme Court (SC) ruled that **Article 356 is subject to judicial review**, and state government's dismissal must be based on a **floor test**, **not the Governor's opinion**.
- **Sarbananda Sonowal Case, 2005**: Article 355's scope was **broadened**, enabling the Union to take **wider actions to uphold state governance** and constitutional principles.
- **Rameshwar Prasad Case, 2006**: The SC condemned the Bihar Assembly's dissolution **without a floor test** and criticized the **political misuse of Article 356**.
  - **Article 356 cannot** be used to combat social evils like **defection**.
  - Immunity under **Article 361** does **not prevent** the court from reviewing the **validity of actions**.

Click Here to Read: [Proper and Improper Use of Article 356](#)

## What are the Recommendations Regarding Imposition of President's Rule?

- **Sarkaria Commission (1987):** It recommended using **Article 356 sparingly**, only as a **last resort** when all **alternatives fail** to resolve a state's constitutional breakdown.
- **Punchhi Commission (2010):** It proposed "**localizing emergency provisions**" under Articles 355 and 356, allowing Governor's rule localised areas, like a **district or parts of it** for **up to 3 months**.
- **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC, 2000): Article 356 should not be deleted**, but it must be **used sparingly** and only as a remedy of the **last resort**.
  - President's Rule may continue even **without an emergency if elections cannot be held**. Article 356 should be **amended accordingly**.
- **Inter-State Council (Article 263):** The Governor's report recommending imposition of President's rule should be **detailed and explanatory**.
  - The state at fault should **receive a warning before President's Rule** is imposed.
  - A **special majority** should be required for ratifying the proposal to impose **President's Rule**.

Click Here to Read: [Sarkaria Commission](#), [Punchhi Commission](#), [Venkatachaliah Commission \(NCRWC\)](#)

## Conclusion

The imposition of President's Rule in Manipur aims to **restore stability** by ensuring **neutral governance, maintaining law and order, and facilitating political dialogue**. However, past judicial rulings and commission recommendations highlight the need for **cautious and minimal use of Article 356** to prevent political misuse and uphold federalism.

### Drishhti Mains Question:

Discuss the constitutional provisions and judicial interpretations regarding the imposition of President's Rule in India.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. If the President of India exercises his power as provided under Article 356 of the Constitution in respect of a particular State, then (2018)**

- (a) the Assembly of the State is automatically dissolved.
- (b) the powers of the Legislature of that State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament.
- (c) Article 19 is suspended in that State.
- (d) the President can make laws relating to that State.

**Ans: (b)**

### Mains

**Q. Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (2018)**

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