

## Current affairs 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 by Saurabh Pandey Sir

### President's Rule in Manipur Context of President's Rule in Manipur

The recent political upheaval in Manipur has culminated in the imposition of President's rule, a significant constitutional measure. This move follows the resignation of Chief Minister Biren Singh amid mounting political tension and unrest. President's rule allows the central government to assume control over the state's governance. It is typically invoked when a state's government is unable to function effectively. The provision is outlined in Article 356 of the Indian Constitution. Reasons Behind the Imposition The decision to impose President's rule has been propelled by several factors: Political Instability: The resignation of CM Biren Singh triggered a power vacuum. Civil Unrest: Recent protests and civil disturbances have created an environment of instability. Lack of Consensus: Political parties have failed to form a stable coalition government.

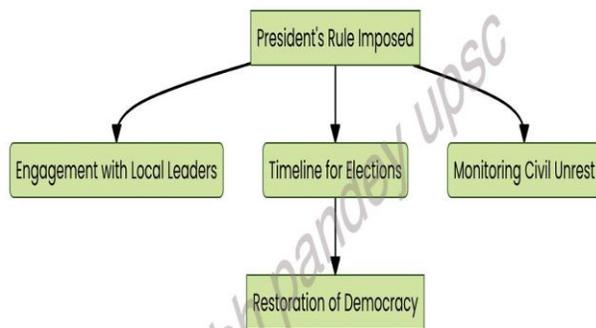
Historical Perspective Understanding the historical context of President's rule in Manipur sheds light on its implications: Previous Instances: Manipur has seen President's rule imposed multiple times in its political history. Impact on Governance: Each instance has had varying impacts on local governance and political dynamics. Public Reaction: Citizens' responses to such measures often reflect broader sentiments about governance and representation. Implications for the Future As President's rule takes effect, various implications arise for the state's future: Governance Changes: The central government will now oversee state administration. Elections Timeline: A timeline for future elections will need to be established. Political Dynamics: The balance

of power may shift among local political entities.

FAQs Regarding President's Rule in Manipur Here are some frequently asked questions to further clarify the implications and context of the President's rule imposed in Manipur: What is President's rule? President's rule is a provision in the Indian Constitution that allows the central government to take control of a state's administration if the state government is unable to function. Why was it imposed in Manipur specifically? The imposition was triggered by the resignation of CM Biren Singh amid political instability and civil unrest, leading to a governance vacuum. How does President's rule affect local governance? It effectively centralizes governance, with the Union government making decisions regarding administration, law, and order in the state. What are the historical precedents for President's rule in Manipur? Manipur has experienced President's rule on several occasions, often during times of political crisis or instability. What is the public sentiment regarding this decision? Public reactions vary; some view it as a necessary step for stability, while others see it as an overreach of central authority.

The Road Ahead The future of Manipur under President's rule remains uncertain, with several critical factors at play: Potential for Elections: The central government will need to outline a clear path for restoring a democratically elected government. Monitoring Civil Unrest: Maintaining peace will be paramount to avoid further unrest during this transition period. Engagement with Local Leaders: It's essential for the central government to engage with local

political entities to ensure representation and address public grievances



### Conclusion

The imposition of President's rule in Manipur marks a sign the central government steps in, the focus will be on rest unfolding events will undoubtedly shape the future of Mai

### The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

**Coastal State Recommendations:** The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) advises coastal states like Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to enhance protection for telecom assets against natural disasters. **Recent Report:** The recommendations were made in a report and policy brief released this week, highlighting the urgency of the issue.

**CDRI Background:** CDRI is a multilateral organization based in New Delhi, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit. **Impact of Climate Change:** The report emphasizes that natural disasters are becoming more frequent due to climate change, posing risks to critical infrastructure, especially telecom networks.

**Telecom Vulnerability:** Telecom networks are particularly susceptible to physical damage, and outages can hinder rescue and relief operations in other sectors.

**Infrastructure Standards:** The CDRI's framework suggests that telecom towers should be designed to withstand wind speeds between 150 km/h and 250 km/h. **Mapping and Repair Strategies:** The report calls for the mapping of fiber optic cables in Tamil Nadu and the provisioning of ships for quick repair of undersea cables, along with multiple cable landing sites for better resilience. **Summary:** The CDRI urges coastal states to bolster telecom infrastructure against natural disasters, emphasizing the need for robust standards and quick repair strategies.

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) The significance of disaster resilience In an era of escalating climate change, the fragility of our infrastructure has become increasingly evident. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) emerges as a beacon of hope, advocating for the integration of resilience into infrastructure development. With a mission to ensure that infrastructure systems are effectively designed to withstand disasters, CDRI is pivotal in shaping a safer future for communities worldwide. **Overview of CDRI's mission Vision of Resilience:** CDRI envisions a world where infrastructure can withstand natural disasters, thereby safeguarding lives and economies. **Global Collaboration:** By fostering partnerships among nations, CDRI aims to share knowledge and best practices in disaster resilience. **Sustainable Development Goals:** CDRI aligns its mission with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing the need for resilient infrastructure in achieving global sustainability.

What is CDRI? Founding background and objectives The CDRI was established in 2019

during the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York. Its inception is rooted in the recognition that robust infrastructure is a prerequisite for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. Objectives: To promote the resilience of infrastructure systems. To assist countries in integrating resilience into their infrastructure planning and development. To facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices among member countries.

Key stakeholders and partnerships CDRI comprises a coalition of nations, international organizations, and private sector entities, all committed to enhancing infrastructure resilience. Notable stakeholders include: Member Nations: Countries such as India, the UK, and Japan actively participate in CDRI initiatives. International Organizations: Collaborations with entities like the United Nations and the World Bank bolster CDRI's efforts. Private Sector Partners: Companies providing innovative solutions contribute to building resilient infrastructure.

### **Major Initiatives and Projects Notable projects led by CDRI**

CDRI has spearheaded various projects aimed at enhancing resilience across different sectors. Some prominent initiatives include: The Resilient Infrastructure Framework: A comprehensive guideline for nations to develop resilient infrastructure projects. Capacity Building Programs: Training sessions and workshops designed to equip policymakers and practitioners with the necessary skills for resilience planning

Impact assessments and success stories CDRI's initiatives have led to significant improvements in disaster preparedness and

response. For example: Case Study: India's Coastal Resilience Project: This project focused on strengthening coastal infrastructure to withstand cyclones, resulting in reduced damage and loss of life during disasters. Success in Urban Planning: CDRI has assisted cities in integrating resilience into urban planning, leading to more sustainable communities.

Global Collaborations and Partnerships How CDRI collaborates with other nations and organizations CDRI's strength lies in its collaborative approach, bringing together diverse stakeholders to build a more resilient future. Multilateral Partnerships: CDRI works with various countries to share knowledge and strategies, enhancing global disaster preparedness. Public-Private Partnerships: Engaging the private sector fosters innovation and investment in resilient infrastructure technologies. Case studies of successful collaborations India and Japan Partnership: Joint projects focusing on earthquake resilience in urban areas have yielded significant advancements. Collaboration with the World Bank: Funding and technical expertise have supported various CDRI initiatives, amplifying their impact

Emerging trends in disaster resilience As the world grapples with increasing environmental challenges, the future of infrastructure resilience is evolving. CDRI is at the forefront of integrating innovative practices and technologies to enhance disaster preparedness. Digital Innovations: The use of big data and AI for predictive analytics in disaster risk management is gaining traction. CDRI encourages member nations to adopt these technologies for better decision-making. Nature-Based Solutions: Emphasizing the importance of sustainable

practices, CDRI advocates for incorporating natural ecosystems into infrastructure planning to mitigate disaster risks. Strategic goals for the coming years CDRI has outlined several strategic goals aimed at amplifying its impact: Strengthening Global Networks: Expanding partnerships with international organizations and private sectors to enhance resource sharing and collaborative efforts. Enhancing Capacity Building: Developing comprehensive training programs focused on emerging technologies and sustainable practices to empower local communities.

### Rare Case of "Foetus in Fetu" Detected in Maharashtra Overview of the Case

🏥 In January 2025, a rare case of "foetus in fetu" was identified at Buldhana District Women's Hospital in Maharashtra during a routine scan of a 32-year-old pregnant woman. 😊 "Foetus in fetu" is a condition where a malformed foetus develops inside another foetus, typically occurring in monozygotic twin pregnancies, yet it is considered a singleton pregnancy. Prevalence and Characteristics 📊 □ This congenital anomaly affects approximately 1 in 500,000 births, with fewer than 200 cases reported globally, including 10 to 15 cases in India. The condition arises from an anomaly during the development of monozygotic twins, where one twin becomes trapped within the other, drawing nutrients and blood supply from the host twin

Health Implications and Treatment ⚠️ The parasitic twin may exhibit some features of a normal foetus but lacks vital organs and cannot survive independently, potentially impacting the health of the host twin. □ Surgical excision of the parasitic twin is the standard treatment, requiring careful attention to the blood supply during the

procedure. Research and Challenges 🔍 The exact mechanisms behind "foetus in fetu" remain unclear, presenting challenges in diagnosis and necessitating further research into embryologic processes. Treatment is surgical excision of the mass parasitic twin — with special attention being given to the foetus' blood supply.

### Global Health Milestone: Georgia's Malaria-Free Status Key Developments in Malaria Eradication 🌍

Achievement: The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Georgia as the 45th country to eliminate malaria, marking a significant milestone in global health efforts. □ Ongoing Challenge: Despite the eradication of smallpox, malaria remains a persistent threat, with over 240 million cases and more than 600,000 deaths annually.

🔬 Historical Discoveries: Key figures in malaria research include Alphonse Laveran, who identified the Plasmodium parasite in 1880, and Ronald Ross, who confirmed mosquitoes as vectors in 1897. Vaccine Limitations: The RTS,S malaria vaccine, the first approved for large-scale use, has a limited efficacy of 36%, which is significantly lower than the 90-95% efficacy of vaccines for other diseases.

💰 Funding Challenges: Research into malaria vaccines is underfunded, particularly affecting low-income countries. The complexity of the malaria parasite further deters pharmaceutical investment. Parasite Adaptability: The malaria parasite's ability to adapt and evade the immune system complicates vaccine development, necessitating vaccines that target multiple stages of the parasite's life cycle. Resurgence Concerns: A resurgence of malaria is occurring due to changing mosquito habitats,

highlighting the need for improved vaccines, mosquito control, and treatment options for effective control.

Summary: The WHO's declaration of Georgia as malaria-free underscores the ongoing challenge in malaria eradication, including vaccine efficacy, research funding, and the parasite's adaptability.

### **DAM IN CHINA**

The ambitious construction of the Yarlung Zangbo Dam in Tibet by China has ignited a firestorm of concern in India and surrounding regions. This hydroelectric project is not merely an engineering feat; it represents a dynamic shift in the geopolitics of water resources in South Asia, potentially altering the flow of the mighty Brahmaputra River as it courses through India and Bangladesh. Understanding the ramifications of this mega-project is critical, particularly as it intersects with environmental sustainability and international diplomacy.

#### Geopolitical Implications of the Dam

The construction of the Yarlung Zangbo dam is a pivotal element in China's broader strategy to transition its energy infrastructure from coal reliance to a more sustainable renewable energy framework. Here's what this endeavor entails:

#### Strategic Motivations for China:

Aiming for carbon neutrality by 2060, China views this dam as a cornerstone in its quest for cleaner energy. However, this initiative raises alarms for India, which relies heavily on the waters flowing from Tibet.

#### Concerns of Lower Riparian States:

For countries like India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, the implications of the dam could be profound. India, a lower riparian state, is particularly vulnerable, as it depends on the Brahmaputra for a significant portion of its water supply

#### Legal Framework and International Water Law

The legal dimensions surrounding the Yarlung Zangbo Dam are intricate and multifaceted. Key points include:

#### International Treaties and Conventions:

The 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses emphasizes the necessity for equitable utilization of shared water resources. Both China and India, however, are not signatories to this convention.

#### Absence of Robust Agreements:

The lack of a comprehensive bilateral agreement complicates the situation, fostering distrust and uncertainty regarding water flows and usage.

#### China's Stance:

Official documents from Beijing assert that it adheres to principles of international cooperation and equitable sharing of water resources, yet many lower riparian states view this as a façade masking a unilateral approach to water management

#### Environmental Concerns Associated with the Dam

The environmental ramifications of the Yarlung Zangbo Dam are alarming, particularly given its location in a seismically active region:

#### Seismic Activity Risks:

The potential for earthquakes poses severe risks to the dam's structural integrity, which could lead to catastrophic failures.

#### Ecosystem Disruption:

The dam threatens to disrupt local river ecosystems by altering sediment flows and compromising biodiversity. Aquatic habitats face potential destruction, while terrestrial species may be displaced.

#### Increased Riverbank Erosion:

Changes to the natural flow of the river could exacerbate erosion, impacting communities and agricultural activities downstream.

#### Impact on Regional Relations

The geopolitical landscape in South Asia is delicate, and the Yarlung Zangbo Dam

further complicates this dynamic: India's Water Security: With a significant portion of its river water supply originating from Tibet, India views the dam as a potential threat to its water security. Bangladesh's Position: While Bangladesh has not raised major concerns, the changing political environment in South Asia could alter its stance. Ongoing diplomatic engagements between India and China may also influence regional perceptions. Expert Level Mechanism (ELM): This platform could serve as a crucial forum for dialogue regarding water management, but its effectiveness remains to be seen without a formal agreement.

### Conclusion

The Yarlung Zangbo Dam stands at the nexus of environmental sustainability and geopolitical stability in South Asia. As China pushes forward with its ambitious renewable energy strategy, the potential implications for India and neighboring countries cannot be overlooked. A cooperative approach to water management, rooted in mutual trust and international law, will be essential to navigate the complexities introduced by this monumental project



**Topic - Turmoil in DRC** The current turmoil in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has resurfaced to global

attention as the M23 militia, allegedly supported by Rwanda, seized the mineral-rich city of Goma. This conflict, which has resulted in a staggering loss of life and mass displacement, poses critical questions about the future of stability in the region. Historical Context of the DRC Conflict The roots of the DRC's turmoil can be traced back to the colonial era and the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Colonial Rule: Under Belgian control, tensions arose between the Hutus and Tutsis, leading to decades of strife. Rwandan Genocide: The aftermath of the genocide saw a massive influx of Hutu refugees into the DRC, exacerbating existing ethnic conflicts.

The Rise and Resurgence of the M23 Militia Formed in 2012, the M23 militia emerged as a result of failed agreements between the DRC government and Tutsi-led factions. Leadership: The group is commanded by Sultani Makenga and claims to protect Tutsi interests. Recent Activities: After a decade of dormancy, M23 has re-emerged, capturing Goma and threatening other regions. Humanitarian Impact of the Conflict The UN estimates that the ongoing conflict has led to significant humanitarian crises, with: Casualties: More than 2,900 deaths reported. Displacements: Close to 700,000 people forced to flee their homes. Injuries: Thousands more affected by violence.

Mineral Wealth and Its Role in the Conflict The DRC is home to vast mineral resources, notably Coltan, essential for modern electronics. Economic Significance: Nearly 40% of the world's supply of Coltan comes from the DRC. Conflict Dynamics: The control of Goma is pivotal for M23's access to these resources. Regional Responses and International Implications Reactions from neighboring countries and the international community have varied significantly: DRC's

Position: President Felix Tshisekedi has labeled the M23's advances as "an act of war." Rwanda's Stance: While never admitting complicity, Rwandan President Kagame hints at the legitimacy of M23's claims. Conclusion The conflict in the DRC, underscored by the activities of the M23 militia, requires urgent global attention. The intertwining of ethnic tensions and resource greed complicates the path to peace and stability in the region

What is the M23 militia? The M23 militia is a rebel group formed in 2012, claiming to represent Tutsi interests in the DRC. How has the Rwandan genocide impacted the DRC? The genocide resulted in a massive influx of Hutu refugees into the DRC, intensifying ethnic conflicts. What are the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing conflict? The conflict has led to thousands of casualties and widespread displacement.

### **Why is Coltan significant to the DRC's economy?**

Coltan is a vital resource used in electronics, and the DRC holds a significant portion of the global supply. What historical events led to the current situation in the DRC? Colonial tensions and the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide set the stage for ongoing conflict. How have neighboring countries reacted to the conflict? Responses vary, with some countries supporting the DRC and others appearing complicit. What role does the international community play in the DRC crisis? Global actors are urged to intervene to stabilize the region and address humanitarian needs

What are the prospects for peace in the DRC? Immediate resolutions hinge on international cooperation and addressing underlying grievances. How are civilians affected by the

ongoing violence? Civilians bear the brunt of conflict, facing displacement and violence daily. What measures can be taken to address the humanitarian crisis? Enhanced international aid and diplomatic efforts are necessary to alleviate suffering.

### **Coltan: A Critical Mineral with Complex Implications Overview of Coltan**

🌐 Coltan is a mineral composed of columbite and tantalite, essential for producing tantalum.

📱 It is crucial in manufacturing electronic devices like smartphones, laptops, and tablets. Environmental and Social Impact

🌿 Environmental Concerns: Coltan mining leads to deforestation and habitat destruction.

⚔️ Conflict and Human Rights: Mining is linked to conflict and human rights abuses, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. 💰 Economic Impact: The global demand has spurred illegal mining and exploitation of local communities.

#### **Mitigation Efforts**

🔄 Ethical Sourcing: Initiatives are underway to promote ethical sourcing and recycling of tantalum to reduce negative impacts.

📈 Market Dynamics: Coltan prices fluctuate due to market demand and geopolitical factors.

Summary Coltan is a vital mineral for electronics, but its mining raises serious ethical and environmental concerns.

### Seeking warmth



Japanese macaques, commonly referred to as 'snow monkeys', taking an open-air hot spring bath, or 'onsen' at the Jigokudani (Hell's Valley) Monkey Park in the town of Yamanouchi, Nagano prefecture. AFP

Snow monkeys,

- Snow monkeys, also known as Japanese macaques, are native to Japan.
- They are known for their thick fur, which helps them survive in cold climates, particularly in snowy regions.
- Snow monkeys are famous for their behavior of bathing in hot springs during winter to keep warm.
- Their diet consists of fruits, seeds, and insects, adapting to seasonal changes in food availability.
- They live in social groups, which can include up to 100 individuals, showcasing complex social structures.
- Snow monkeys are a popular subject for wildlife photography and tourism, especially in places like Jigokudani Monkey Park.
- They are considered a symbol of Japan's wildlife and are often featured in cultural references.

Summary: Snow monkeys, or Japanese macaques, are social primates known for their cold-weather adaptations and unique behaviors, such as bathing in hot springs

### Onsen

Onsen refers to a Japanese hot spring, often found in scenic locations. The water in onsens is geothermally heated and rich in minerals, providing therapeutic benefits. Onsens are traditionally used for bathing and relaxation, promoting wellness and stress relief. Many onsens are located near ryokans (traditional Japanese inns), enhancing the cultural experience. Visitors often follow specific etiquette when using onsens, such as washing before entering the communal baths. Onsens can vary in type, including indoor, outdoor, and private baths, catering to different preferences. They are popular tourist attractions, drawing both domestic and international visitors to experience Japanese culture. Summary: Onsen are traditional Japanese hot springs known for their therapeutic mineral-rich waters and cultural significance