

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Manipur is a state in the far North East corner of the country. What is much known about the state is that it is a state ridden with insurgency and violence and has remained on the throes of breaking up. It is also a state that is rich in heritage, culture art and natural beauty. Its sportsmen and women have contributed immensely in every sporting discipline. Historically, it had been an independent princely state and thus its accession to the Indian union in 1949 has never been taken kindly by the Manipuris. The cleavage that was formed then, continues till this day.

Of all that ails the state, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA) and the Inner Line Permit System are current in nature. There has been condemnation for the former in the state for decades now while the latter has developed currency in the past one decade. These two issues would be uppermost on the lips of every Manipuri that one is likely to come across. Yet, is the Centre serious on addressing these two issues, is a moot point.

The attempt in the course of this study has been to learn how these two issues have impacted Manipur and what the way ahead is. Are these two issues really low hanging fruits that can be addressed or should the perceived indifference to the state continue? Is it the geographical distance of this state that has relegated it to the posterior of the Indian psyche or are there some steps that can be taken? These have been consciously taken into consideration in the course of the study and some recommendations that have come out of the research have been put forth.