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## Curfew imposed, internet suspended in Manipur's Ukhrul after fresh violence

Fresh violence in Manipur's Ukhrul district has led to a strict security clampdown with curfew and internet suspension to restore peace. Residents fled their homes amid arson and gunfire, prompting urgent government intervention.

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**Babie Shirin**

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Edited By: Sonali Verma

Fresh violence in Manipur's Ukhrul district has triggered a security clampdown, with authorities imposing curfew and suspending internet services for five days after armed miscreants allegedly set houses on fire, forcing residents to flee their homes overnight.

The unrest erupted late on Monday after armed groups allegedly torched houses in Litan Sareikhong village and fired several rounds in the air, sending waves of panic through the hill district. Fearing further violence, many villagers fled with essential belongings to safer areas in neighbouring Kangpokpi district, while several Tangkhul villagers were also reported to have moved out.

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## INTERNET SHUTDOWN TO PREVENT ESCALATION

As tensions mounted, the Manipur government ordered a temporary suspension of internet services across Ukhrul district with immediate effect. The order, issued by the commissioner (home), said recent developments had caused serious disturbance, posing a threat to public safety and peace.

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"To effectively manage the situation and prevent the spread of misinformation that could exacerbate tensions, it is imperative to temporarily suspend internet services with immediate effect in the district," the order said. The suspension will remain in force for five days.

Curfew was also imposed in parts of Ukhrul district following the arson incidents, while security deployment was intensified to prevent further flare-ups.

### **PANIC AND OVERNIGHT FLIGHT**

Officials said armed miscreants fired shots near Litan Sareikhong village, triggering fear among residents. As word spread, families hurriedly packed belongings and moved out under the cover of darkness. Some Tangkhul villagers were also reported to have left the area amid rising tensions.

District police officials later visited affected villages and assured residents that steps were being taken to restore peace and normalcy.

### **POLICE FLAG 'MINOR FIRE' IN NEARBY VILLAGE**

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house. Security forces reached the spot promptly and brought the fire under control.

Police said the cause of the fire is under investigation and maintained that the overall situation remains normal.

## **VILLAGE BODIES SEEK INTERVENTION**

The Konsaram Village Authority condemned the incident and appealed to the state and central governments for immediate deployment of additional security forces, relief for affected families and firm action to restore law and order.

Authorities also moved to counter rumours circulating on social media. Police dismissed claims that residents of Konshakhul had fled to Kanto Sabal following the Litan incident, saying no mass displacement had occurred. They clarified that only a few students and families had shifted to temporary rented accommodation due to the start of the new school session.

The public was urged not to believe or spread unverified information.

## **TRIGGER FOR THE VIOLENCE**

Officials said the violence was preceded by an incident on Saturday night, when a member of the Tangkhul Naga community was allegedly assaulted by a group of seven to eight persons at Litan village. The matter was initially settled between the victim's side and the Litan Sareikhong village chief, with an understanding that it would be resolved through customary practices.

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However, a scheduled follow-up meeting on Sunday did not take place. Around

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retaliation, a few houses belonging to the Kuki community were also torched in a nearby area.

Authorities said security forces remain on high alert as efforts continue to prevent further violence and restore calm in the district.

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