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Army Chief Reviews Security in Manipur Amid Ethnic Violence

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Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi visited Manipur this week to assess the security situation amid ongoing ethnic unrest between the Meitei and Kuki communities. His visit underscored the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining peace, supporting civil authorities, and engaging with local populations during a prolonged period of tension.

General Dwivedi held meetings with key stakeholders, including Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, to review current security operations and evaluate coordination between civil and military agencies. He expressed appreciation for the professionalism, discipline, and restraint shown by troops under challenging and often volatile circumstances.

The COAS also attended the revival of the Durand Cup football tournament in Manipur after a two-year pause. His presence at the event emphasized the role of sports in promoting youth engagement and rebuilding community ties. Officials noted that the tournament's return to the state is seen as a strategic effort to foster normalcy, encourage unity, and build confidence between civilians and the armed forces.

Ethnic violence has disrupted daily life in Manipur for months, prompting repeated deployments of security forces. The Indian Army, in coordination with local police and paramilitary units, has been tasked with preventing further clashes, protecting civilians, and creating a stable environment for dialogue.

During his inspection, General Dwivedi visited forward bases and interacted directly with soldiers stationed across sensitive areas. He reviewed operational preparedness, surveillance capabilities, and civil-military coordination strategies. A Defence Ministry statement said the Army is focused on both immediate containment efforts and broader stability initiatives.

The Indian Army's approach in the region includes not only maintaining law and order but also facilitating long-term peace through outreach programs, youth events, and coordination with village-level leadership. Community engagement is seen as vital to reducing tensions and promoting reconciliation among affected groups.

General Dwivedi reiterated that the Army's presence in Manipur remains apolitical and neutral, dedicated solely to restoring peace and enabling constructive political processes. His visit reinforced the message that security, development, and social cohesion must move forward together in resolving the crisis.