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Manipur Sexual Assault Video Sparks Outrage Across The Country

Why In The News?

 Days After A Video Of Two Women From The Kuki Zomi Community Being Paraded Naked And Sexually Assaulted In Manipur Surfaced, Four People -Including The Prime Accused In The Case, Huirem Herodas Meitei - Have Been Arrested Over Their Involvement In The Case.



The Horrific Incident

- The Two Women, One In Her 20s And The Other In Her 40s, Are From The Kuki Zomi Dominated Hill District Of Kangpokpi. In The Video, They Can Be Seen Being Made To Walk Naked Down A Road And Towards A Field By A Mob Of Men. Some Of The Men Can Be Seen Dragging The Two Women Towards A Field And Forcibly Groping Them.
- While The Incident Had Taken Place In The Meitei Dominated Valley District Of Thoubal, The Victims Later Filed A Complaint At A Police Station In Kangpokpi District Where A Zero FIR Was Registered And The Case Forwarded To The Police Station Concerned In Thoubal.

- According To Their Complaint, While The Video Shows Only Two Women, There Was Another Woman In Her 50s Who Was Also Forced To Take Off Her Clothes By The Mob. The Complaint Also Alleges That The Younger Woman Was "Brutally Gang Raped In The Broad Daylight".
- In Their Complaint, The Victims Have Said That Five Members Of The Village -The Three Women And Two Family Members Of The Youngest - Had Fled Towards The Forest After A "Group Of 800 - 1,000 Persons Carrying Sophisticated Weapons Like AK Rifles, SLR, INSAS And .303 Rifles" Entered Their Village And Began Looting And Burning It On May 4 Afternoon, A Day After Violence Had Erupted In The State On May 3.
- They Said They Were Later Rescued By The Police And Were Being Taken To The Police Station But Were Stopped On The Way By A Mob And Seized From Police Custody Around Two Kilometres Away From The Police Station.
- They Stated That The Youngest Woman's Father Was Killed On The Spot And That "All Three Women Were Physically Forced To Remove Their Clothes And Were Stripped Naked In Front Of The Mob", After Which They Alleged That The Youngest Was Raped In Front Of The Others.
- They Also Alleged That Her Brother Was Killed While Trying To Help Her. The Three Women Were Later Able To Escape Through The Adjoining Hill District Of Tengnoupal And Are Currently In Relief Camps.



What Was The Response?

- In Response To The Release Of The Video, The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum

 A Conglomerate Of Registered Tribes In Churachandpur Demanded That The
 State And Central Governments, The National Commission For Scheduled Tribes,
 And The National Commission For Women Take Cognizance Of The Incident
 And Act Against The Perpetrators.
- As The Video Sparked Outrage, Irani Tweeted: "The Horrific Video Of Sexual Assault Of 2 Women Emanating From Manipur Is Condemnable And Downright Inhuman. Spoke To CM N Biren Singh Ji Who Has Informed Me That Investigation Is Currently Underway And Assured That No Effort Will Be Spared To Bring Perpetrators To Justice."
- **Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi Tweeted** That The "PM's Silence And Inaction Has Led Manipur Into Anarchy". "INDIA Will Not Stay Silent While The Idea Of India Is Being Attacked In Manipur. We Stand With The People Of Manipur. Peace Is The Only Way Forward," He Wrote.
- The Incident Has Sparked Nationwide Outrage, With The Opposition Mounting Pressure On The BJP Ruled Centre Demanding A Detailed Discussion On The Situation In Manipur.
- Earlier In The Day, PM Narendra Modi Described The Assault As "Shameful" And Called On State Governments To Ensure Women's Safety. The Supreme Court, Too, Expressed "Deep Concern" And Asked The State And Central Govts To Apprise It Of The Action Taken To Bring The Perpetrators To Book.
- In His Remarks, CJI Chandrachud Also Said That "Using Women As An Instrument In An Area Of Communal Strife For Inflicting Gender Violence Is Deeply, Deeply, Disturbing...".







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