Extra judicial killings in Manipur

Why in news?

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The Supreme Court has directed a probe by the CBI into the alleged extra-judicial killings by security forces and police in Manipur.

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What happened in Manipur?

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- The court was hearing a PIL seeking probe and compensation for around 1,500 alleged extra-judicial killings in Manipur from 2000 to 2012.
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- The case was made against both the security forces and police.
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- Manipur is one of the states where the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is in place.
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- AFSPA confers special powers to the armed personnel which includes unwarranted arrest and search in disturbed areas.
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- Various reports and evidences have made serious allegations against armed forces personnel for constant rights violations.
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What is the need for a CBI probe?

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- Courts and commissions earlier have proposed elaborate measures to prevent the abuse of immunity.
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- The Army had earlier told the Supreme Court that it cannot be subjected to FIRs for carrying out anti-militancy operations in insurgency hit areas.
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- The army argues that local factors which are biased come in the way of the probe reports which went against the armed forces.
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- This has necessitated an independent probe by CBI.
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What impact does the case make?

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- AFSPA has kept the counter-insurgency operations in the north-eastern states opaque.
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- The apex court's decision has sent a clear message that AFSPA does not allow the security forces to use excessive force.
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- The Act must operate with due respect for the rights and freedoms of citizens.
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Source: The Indian Express

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