

Manipur students clash with security forces, 30 injured

BJP Office Set Afire On 2nd Day Of Protests

Prabin Kalita & N Benson Singh | TNN

Guwahati/Imphal: Protests over the disappearance and suspected killing of two students turned violent for the second consecutive day in Manipur as an angry mob torched a BJP office in Thoubal district, while clashes between security forces and protesting higher secondary students left 30 students, including several girls, wounded in Imphal city.

The clashes prompted the Imphal East and Imphal West district administrations to reinstate complete curfew after briefly relaxing it.

Police used tear gas, smoke bombs, and batons as thousands of students marched towards CM N Biren Singh's residence, with some of them throwing stones.

The chief minister attributed the killing of 17-year-old girl Hjam Linthoingambi and 20-year-old youth Phijam Hemjit, last seen together on a motorbike on July 6, to tribal militants.

"We tried to trace them, and seeing the complexity we finally handed over the case to CBI on August 28," he said in a video interview to ANI. "A viral video surfaced yesterday where the bodies of the two missing youths were shown, and the student com-



Complete curfew was reimposed in Imphal East and Imphal West districts after the clashes

Hills remain under Afspa, Imphal stays out of its purview

Guwahati: The Manipur government extend Wednesday the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (Afspa) in the state for another six months, beginning from October 1, reports **Prabin Kalita**.

However, it will not be enforced in areas under the jurisdiction of 19 police stations, maintaining the same status as the previous term that lasted from April to September.

The government chose to maintain the status quo, neither expanding the areas covered by the act nor lifting it from existing areas, fearing public backlash. This decision comes amid conflicting demands within the state. While one group had called for imposition of Afspa in Imphal valley and its

removal from the hill districts, another had rejected both demands.

The areas outside Afspa's purview covers 19 police stations in seven districts, including Imphal, City, Thoubal, and Bishnupur. The valley, particularly Imphal city, has been the theatre of intense protests, mob violence, and arson during the ongoing ethnic conflict. Most attacks in the sectarian violence since May 3 have occurred along the inter-district boundaries in the valley, which are now labelled as buffer zones patrolled by security forces. Security sources said Afspa remains in the hill areas because they border Myanmar, which serves as a haven for several insurgent groups.

munity is angry and saddened as we all are," he added.

He called for peace in the violence-hit state, while lamenting that the latest round of violence occurred when there was no exchange of fire from either side of the ethnic divide for the past one-and-half months.

He also mentioned that

Union home minister Amit Shah had called him, guaranteeing CBI intervention.

A nine-member CBI team, led by director Ajay Bhatnagar and DID Amarjit Kaur, arrived in Imphal to investigate the case. The team consists of officers with expertise in various fields, including special crime, crime

scene recreation, interrogation, and technical surveillance, along with experts from the agency's Central Forensic Science Laboratory.

CM Singh said: "They are visiting the sites of the incident. I want to promise to the people of Manipur that we will make sure the culprit is given maximum punishment."

Iran successfully launches imaging satellite

DUBAI, Sept 27 (AP)

IRAN claimed on Wednesday that it successfully launched an imaging satellite into space, a move that could further ratchet up tensions with Western nations that fear its space technology could be used to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran's Communication Minister Isa Zarepour said the Noor-3 satellite had been put

in an orbit 450 kilometres (280 miles) above the Earth's surface.

It was not clear when exactly the launch took place.

There was no immediate acknowledgment from Western officials of the launch or of the satellite being put into orbit.

The US military did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Iran has had a series of failed launches in recent years. Zarepour said

the aerospace arm of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which has had success in launching satellites in the past, had carried out the most recent launch.

Authorities released footage of a rocket taking off from a mobile launcher without saying where the launch occurred.

Details in the video corresponded with a Guard base

near Shahroud, some 330 kilometres northeast of Tehran.

The base is in Semnan province, which hosts the Imam Khomeini Spaceport from which Iran's civilian space programme operates. The Guard operates its own space program and military infrastructure parallel to Iran's regular armed forces and answers only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Indian Navy to unveil new indigenisation roadmap

NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (PTI)

THE Indian Navy will unveil an updated indigenisation roadmap next week, outlining its specific initiatives to ensure self-reliance in various critical technologies and platforms.

The roadmap will be released at the second edition of the annual 'Swavlamban' seminar to be held on October 4 and 5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the conclave. At a media briefing, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh said the Navy resolved to develop 75 technologies at the

'Swavlamban' seminar last year and the aim has been achieved.

"The promises made last year have been fully met," he said. Without divulging the details, Vice Admiral Singh said a number of policy decisions and new announcements will be brought out at the seminar.

"The Indian Navy is at the forefront of the Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) initiative. It (self-reliance) is the core principle for us," the Vice Chief of the Indian Navy added.

Listing various initiatives on the indigenisation front, he said the Navy now has an array of approved products.

'ISRO excels as no individual penalised for failures'

NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (PTI)

FAILURES are a very natural part of the space sector but no individual is penalised for it at ISRO which encourages scientists to take novel approaches in decision-making, the space agency's chairman S Somanath said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the 50th anniversary of the All India Management Association (AIMA), Somanath, who played a key role in the soft-landing of a spacecraft on the moon, noted that even he had faced failures several times, but never got criticised for it by his seniors.

"We make sure that no single individual is penalised for failures because no decision is made by a single individual. All these decisions are taken by collective wisdom," he said in an interactive session here. Somanath said in the space sector, there is a clear understanding that one person cannot understand everything which leads to collective decision-making.

"So, collective decision means that you own the responsibility of failures as well. Management owns the responsibility, it is not fixed on an individual. This is the first," he said. "So, people are courageous



ISRO Chairman S Somanath addresses at a session on 'Commanding New Heights: India's Space Odyssey' during the 50th National Management Convention of All India Management Association (AIMA) in New Delhi on Wednesday. (PTI)

enough to take a novel approach or decisions. Otherwise, everybody will move away from taking any risks," the space agency chief said.

He said at ISRO, the management was very clear that failures are a natural part of a process when work is being done and

the approach has always been to identify the reasons for the setback and make the necessary corrections.

"You have to give confidence to the people who have the courage to propose new things and support them. Once you do that, you can do wonders in any organisation," he said.

On identifying talent for the space programme, Somanath said he found that the commitment levels to excel in life of persons coming from a humble background were very high when compared with city dwellers. "If you get a person from a tier-3 institution and put him in the task, the growth rate of the person in terms of his ability, knowledge is substantially higher than I could see from a city dweller," he said. "Because the distractions that change a person from concentrating on his work are actually higher for a city dweller than for a villager," Somanath said.

"This is a very important learning that I have learnt from my organisation. If I take a person from a humble background, his commitment to excel in life is very very high, when compared with a person who comes from a top-notch institution," the ISRO chief said.

More than 40% of elderly in India in poorest wealth quintile: UN report

NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (PTI)

MORE than 40 per cent of the elderly in India are in the poorest wealth quintile – or one-fifth of the total – with about 18.7 per cent of them living without an income, according to a new UN report.

This level of poverty among the elderly may affect their quality of life and healthcare utilization, according to the

UNFPA's India Ageing Report 2023.

"Overall, more than two-fifth (sic) of the elderly in India are in the poorest wealth quintile—ranging from 4.2 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir and 5 per cent in Punjab to 40.2 per cent in Lakshadweep and 47 per cent in Chhattisgarh," the report said.

An analysis of their work, pension, and income status indicates that 18.7 per cent

elderly did not have any income. This proportion was above the national level in 17 states, ranging from 19.3 per cent in Uttarakhand to 42.4 per cent in Lakshadweep, the report said.

The report pointed out that a higher life expectancy among older women, a finding in line with the pattern across several nations. "At 60 years, a person in India may expect to live another 18.3

years, which is higher in case of females at 19 years as compared to males at 17.5 years," according to the latest UN report.

For instance, in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala, women at 60 years have a life expectancy of 23 and 22 years respectively which is four years greater than men at 60 years in these states – as compared to the national average differential of only 1.5 years –, the report said.

Guns bring 7-medal glory



(R to L) Gold medallist Indian shooters Esha Singh, Rhythm Sangwan and Manu Bhaker pose for photos during the presentation ceremony of women's 25m pistol rapid team event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou. (PTI)

HANGZHOU, Sept 27 (Agencies)

INDIAN shooters set the range ablaze with superb performance on Wednesday as they won 7 medals, including two gold in a single day at the Asian Games.

Sift Kaur Samra (Gold - Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions), Women's 25m Pistol Team (Gold - Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh, Rhythm Sangwan), Esha Singh (Silver - Women's 25m Pistol Individual), Anantjeet Singh Naruka (Silver - Men's Skeet Individual), Women's 25m Rifle 3



Gold medal winner Indian shooter Sift Kaur Samra with bronze medal winner compatriot Ashi Chouksey (R) after finals of the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou. (PTI)

Positions Team (Silver - Ashi Chouksey, Manini Kaushik and Sift Kaur Samra), Ashi Chouksey (Bronze - Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions) and Men's Skeet Team (Bronze - Angad, Gurjoat and Anant Jeet) were the medal winners of the day.

Markswoman Samra shot a world and Games record score of 469.6 to claim the yellow mettle while Chouksey managed 451.9 to bag the third position in the eight-women final.

Manu, Esha and Rhythm totalled 1759
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India will soon emerge as global economic powerhouse: PM

AHMEDABAD, Sept 27 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said his aim is to make India a global growth engine and expressed confidence that the country will soon emerge as an economic powerhouse of the world.

Speaking at an event to mark 20 years of success of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, Modi said they sowed small seeds of a "Vibrant Gujarat" 20 years ago, and today it has developed into a big tree.

Modi also said that Vibrant Gujarat became a success at such a time when the previous Central Government (UPA dispensation) was "indifferent" to the industrial progress of the State.

"We organised Vibrant Gujarat to make the State a growth engine of India. The country has seen this imagination becoming a reality. In 2014, when I was given the



(L) Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Aquatic Gallery at Science City in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. (R) Installations at Gujarat Science City park. Modi visited the park ahead of an event marking the completion of 20 years of the 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit'. (PTI)

opportunity to serve the country, my aim was to make India a global growth engine," Modi said addressing a gathering of industrialists and businessmen.

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state BJP

president C R Paatil were also present on the occasion.

"We are standing at such a phase that India will soon emerge as a global economic powerhouse," Modi said, adding that global agencies and experts are today talking on similar lines.

"In a few years, India will be among the world's top three economies. This is Modi's guarantee," the PM said.

He appealed to the country's industry to think of sectors where India can explore new possibilities or strengthen itself, and how Vibrant Gujarat can

give momentum to this mission.

Modi highlighted how from a humble beginning, the Vibrant Gujarat events have turned into an institution and many States later followed it by organising their own investment summits.

Swami Vivekananda said that every work passes through three stages- first it is mocked, later it faces opposition and finally it is accepted, especially when the idea is ahead of time, Modi noted, comparing the success of Vibrant Gujarat and how it passed through different stages.

Today the world can see the success of Vibrant Gujarat, he said.

"But when it was (first) organised, the then central Government showed indifference to Gujarat's development. I have always talked about India's development through Gujarat's development, but those in power at the Centre had also associated Gujarat's development with politics," Modi said.

The then Ministers in the Central Government used to refuse to attend the summit, he said.

"They told me personally they would join, but later

refused, perhaps after pressure from the top. Far from support, they were busy creating hurdles," he said, adding that even foreign investors were threatened not to go to Gujarat.

"Despite such threats, foreign investors visited Gujarat even when there was no special incentive here. They came here because they could experience good governance, fair governance, policy-driven governance, an equal system of growth, and a transparent Government in daily life," he said.

Recalling the first Vibrant Gujarat Summit in 2003, Modi said it became a success because of the state's people in whom he had huge trust.

He said he was a first-time Chief Minister and faced crises such as the 2001 earthquake, preceding drought years, collapse of cooperative banks, the 2002 Godhra tragedy and the Statewide violence in its aftermath.