

3 killed in clashes over land dispute in Manipur's Ukhrul

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Three persons, including a Manipur Rifles constable, were killed and about 30 injured after a boundary dispute between the residents of two Naga villages in Ukhrul district of Manipur flared up on Wednesday.

The two villages, Hunphun and Hungpung, are close to Ukhrul town, the district headquarters about 80 km northeast of the State's capital Imphal. The two villages have been locked in a land dispute for a few years. Local people said Wednesday's conflict – a video of which showed some youth exchanging gunfire – was the fallout of an attack on one of the villages, in which four houses were damaged.

The gunfight started during 'social work' organised by a students' body

Shutdown brings Imphal Valley to a grinding halt

GUWAHATI

The 48-hour shutdown called by the Joint Action Committee over the alleged abduction of two Meitei youth affected normal life in the Imphal Valley, where shops remained shut and demonstrators blocked the streets. » PAGE 10

from Hungpung village. The villagers of Hunphun objected to the activity, claiming the area where it was being conducted fell under its jurisdiction.

The tense situation in the villages and Ukhrul made the government temporarily suspend Internet services in the district from 1.20 p.m. on Wednesday.

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Israel vows to hit Iran back, suffers fatalities in Lebanon

Eight soldiers were killed and seven injured in various attacks, says Israeli military; Netanyahu says Iran will pay for its 'big mistake' of firing missiles at Israel; Iran's Pezeshkian issues fresh warning that retaliation will invite a stronger response

Reuters
JERUSALEM/BEIRUT

Israel's ground incursion into Lebanon to battle Hezbollah left eight Israeli soldiers dead on Wednesday, while the region braced for further escalation as Israel vowed to retaliate against Iran's missile attack a day earlier.

The Israeli military said seven soldiers were killed in two separate attacks, without elaborating. Those deaths followed an earlier announcement of the first Israeli combat death in Lebanon since the start of the incursion - a 22-year-old captain in a commando brigade. Another seven soldiers, including a combat medic, were injured.

Together, the assaults were some of the deadliest against Israeli forces in



Tension mounts: People stand on top of the remains of an Iranian missile in the Negev desert near Arad on Wednesday. AFP

months. The announcements came on the eve of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish new year.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had said Iran's attack on Israel was "a big mistake", and vowed to make Tehran "pay for it". "Iran made a big mistake

tonight and will pay for it," he said hours after the attack, and warned: "Whoever attacks us, we attack them."

Iran said on Wednesday that the attack - its biggest assault on Israel - was overbarring further provocation, but Israel and the U.S. promised to hit back. "If it

India calls for restraint as West Asia crisis escalates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India is "deeply concerned" about the escalating situation in the West Asian region after Iran fired hundreds of missiles that hit targets in

and around capital Tel Aviv. A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs urged that the conflict should not take a wider regional shape.

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(Israel) wants to react, we will have a stronger response, this is what the Islamic Republic is committed to," President Masoud Pezeshkian said in a joint press conference with Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, in Doha.

Iran's state news agency

said three Israeli military bases had been targeted. Israel activated air defences against Iran's missiles.

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Imp News.

Israel declares UN's Guterres '*persona non grata*'

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel declared UN chief Antonio Guterres "*persona non grata*" on Wednesday, accusing him of failing to specifically condemn Iran's missile attack on Israel.

"Anyone who cannot unequivocally condemn Iran's heinous attack on Israel does not deserve to step foot on Israeli soil," said Foreign Minister Israel Katz in a statement.

"This is an anti-Israel Secretary-General who lends support to terrorists, rapists, and murderers," he said.

Following Iran's missile attack on Israel late Tuesday, Mr. Guterres condemned the "broadening conflict in the West Asia".

2 women Navy officers begin voyage around the world

They will attempt to circumnavigate the globe on the 56-foot boat *Tarini*, covering 23,000 nautical miles over eight months; Navy chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi flags off the expedition from Goa

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant Commander Roopa A. of the Indian Navy on Wednesday embarked from Goa on a challenging expedition to circumnavigate the globe, covering 23,000 nautical miles over 240 days.

The second edition of the Navika Sagar Parikrama was flagged off from Ocean Sailing Node, *INS Mandovi*, by Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi. The two women officer set sail on the *INSV Tarini*.

The voyage will take the two women officers across four continents through three oceans and three challenging capes.

"I am pleased to note that Navika Sagar Parikrama will contribute towards progressing national scientific research in collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography for study on marine micro-



The journey will take the two women officers across four continents through three oceans and three challenging capes. PTI

plastics and ferrous content across the seas; Wildlife Institute of India for exploration on Mega Faunas or large sea mammals; Sagar Defence for their drones that promise us spectacular visuals of the voyage; and Defence Food Research Laboratory towards providing customised precooked Indian meals so that our valiant warriors always feel at home," Admiral Tripathi

told the gathering. He also released a special chart commemorating the expedition on the occasion.

It will unfold in five legs with stopovers at four ports for replenishment and maintenance. The five legs are Goa to Fremantle, Australia; Fremantle to Lyttleton; New Zealand to Port Stanley, Falkland; Port Stanley to Cape Town, South Africa; and from Cape Town to Goa.

INSV Tarini, a 56-foot sailing vessel built by Aquarius Shipyard Ltd., was inducted in the Indian Navy on February 18, 2017. The vessel has clocked more than 66,000 nautical miles (1,22,223 km) and participated in the first edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama in 2017, trans-oceanic expedition from Goa to Rio, Goa to Port Louis, and other significant expeditions.

The boat is equipped with advanced navigation, safety and communication equipment and has undergone necessary maintenance and equipment upgrade recently, the Navy said in a statement.

Both officers with a sailing experience of 38,000 nautical miles (70,376km) have trained vigorously for this epic voyage for more than three years. They have been trained on ocean sailing aspects of seamanship, meteorology, navigation, survival techniques and medicare at sea.

Best wishes!!

RS

200 major railway accidents took place in past five years, 351 people killed, show data

Amr Data

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

Over the past five years, 351 persons were killed and 970 injured in 200 consequential railway accidents, data shared by the Indian Railways from 17 railway zones reveal.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday, while inspecting the Kolkata-based PSU Braithwaite and Co, said that while 10 years ago there were 171 accidents per year, this had come down to 40 accidents now.

The Railways has disbursed ₹32 crore in compensation during the five years – 2019-20 to 2023-24. Of this amount, ₹26.83 crore had been given to the next of kin of those killed in train accidents and ₹7 crore to those who were injured.

The Railways defines a consequential train accident as one which has serious repercussions, including injuries, loss of life, disruption of rail traffic,



Railways has given ₹32 crore in compensation during the five years – 2019-20 to 2023-24. PTI

and damage to railway property. The accidents can include derailments, collisions, fire, and so on.

The data was shared in response to a Right to Information query filed by RTI activist Vivek Pandey.

As many as 297 persons were killed and 637 injured in 10 consequential accidents in the South Eastern Railway zone, including the Balasore triple-train tragedy in June last year.

The East Coast Railway zone saw 15 accidents that caused 20 deaths and 79 injuries. The most grievous of them was the Kanchan-

junga Express accident in July this year that claimed 10 lives.

In Central Railway, there were 22 accidents, with one death and two injuries.

In Eastern Railway, there were 12 accidents, with one death and nine injuries, while East Central zone saw 18 accidents, with eight deaths and 33 injuries.

In the North Central zone, 21 accidents were reported that caused two deaths and 49 injuries, while the Northern Railway reported 25 accidents, with five deaths and five injuries.

The South Central Railway reported 12 accidents, with one death and 26 injuries, while the South East Central zone reported nine accidents, with three deaths and six injuries.

The North Eastern Railway, Konkan Railway, South Western Railway, and Southern Railway were among the safer zones with no casualties.