

Fresh violence erupts in Manipur

Militants shoot sleeping man dead, 4 killed in exchange of fire, 3 militant bunkers destroyed

IMPHAL/KOLKATA, Sept 7 (PTI)

FIVE people were killed in fresh violence in Manipur's Jiribam district on Saturday, police said.

Security forces, on the other hand, destroyed three bunkers of militants in Churachandpur district on Friday after the insurgents launched rocket attacks in adjoining Bishnupur that killed one person and injured six others.

On Saturday, one person was shot dead in his sleep while four others were killed in subsequent exchange of fire between people of two warring communities in Jiribam district, a police officer said.

Militants entered the house of the person who lived alone at an isolated location around 5 km from the district administration headquarters and shot him dead in his sleep, the officer said.

After the killing, a heavy exchange of fire took place between people of the warring communities in the hills around 7 km from the district administration headquarters, leading to the deaths of four armed persons, including three



A team of Mobile Forensic Unit, Manipur collects evidence after what appeared to be a rocket attack in the Moirang area of Bishnupur on Friday. (ANI)

hills-based militants, the officer said.

Earlier this week, fresh arson took place in Jiribam district after suspected 'village volunteers' burnt down an abandoned three-room house of a

retired police officer at Jakuradhor in Borobekrapolice station area.

Tribal body Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Committee (Pherzawl and Jiribam) denied any involvement in the

incident.

The district witnessed fresh violence despite representatives of the Meitei and Hmar communities reaching an agreement to restore normalcy and "prevent incidents of arson and firing" in a meeting held at a CRPF facility in adjoining Assam's Cachar on August 1. It was, however, denounced by several Hmar tribal bodies based outside Jiribam district saying, they did not have any knowledge about it.

Meanwhile, security forces conducted operations in Mualsang and Laika Mualsau villages in Churachandpur district on Friday and destroyed three bunkers of militants.

Police teams and additional security forces conducted a combing operation in the adjoining hill ranges.

"Two bunkers at Mualsang village and one bunker at Laika Mualsau village of Churachandpur were destroyed," it said. Police teams including the Bishnupur SP rushed to the area and were fired upon by suspected militants but the law enforcers retaliated and repelled the attack.

'TAREEKH PE TAREEKH'

Four cases pending since 1954 and 9 since 1955

62,000 cases pending in HCs for last 30 years

NEW DELHI, Sept 7 (PTI)

THERE are nearly 62 thousand cases pending in various High Courts, which are more than 30 years old, including three awaiting disposal since 1952.

According to official data, there are four cases pending since 1954 and nine since 1955 in High Courts. Out of

the three cases pending since 1952, two are in the Calcutta High Court and one in the Madras High Court.

According to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), nearly 2.45 lakh cases are pending in High Courts which are 20 to 30 years old.

Addressing the national conference of district judiciary here earlier this week,

Justice Indira Prasad Murmu had called for a change in the "culture of adjournments" in the judiciary.

She said, long-standing pendency and backlog of cases is a big challenge before the judiciary.

"All stakeholders have to find a solution by giving priority to this problem," she said. As many as 58.59 lakh

cases, including 42.64 lakh of civil nature and 15.94 lakh of criminal nature, are pending across High Courts.

Addressing the same event, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal had called for breaking the perception that Indian courts follow the "tareekh pe tareekh culture".

He said, the Law Ministry has analysed that there were

cases pending since five, 10, 15, 20 and 30 years.

He said an analysis of pending cases mentioned on the NJDG shows that parties involved in litigation are either not present or not interested in taking the case forward. He said 25 to 30 per cent of such cases can be closed in one go. In this regard, some High Courts

have taken effective steps.

Referring to the concepts of 'ageing analysis' and 'clubbing of similar cases', he said these have helped settle pending cases in a time-bound manner.

More than five crore cases are pending in various courts, including district courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court.

Resetting military ties CDS Gen Chauhan holds talks with top Maldivian military commander

NEW DELHI, Sept 7 (PTI)

CHIEF of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Saturday held extensive talks with Maldives' Chief of Defence Force Major General Ibrahim Hilmy, focusing on a reset of military ties that came under severe strain after President Mohamed Muizzu assumed office in November last.

The talks between the two top military officials came a day after India and the Maldives held the fifth round of defence dialogue which decided to



CDS General Anil Chauhan



Major General Ibrahim Hilmy

expedite implementation of the ongoing defence projects.

Officials said, the talks were aimed at furthering

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the bilateral defence cooperation, especially on measures to strengthen regional security and bilateral training

opportunities. It is understood that cooperation in the maritime security domain dominated the discussions.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office around 10 months back.

Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of the Indian military personnel from his country. Subsequently, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians.

Open dialogue solution to India-Nepal ties: Oli

■ By Shirish B Pradhan
KATHMANDU, Sept 7 (PTI)

NEPAL'S Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli said on Saturday that the problems between Nepal and India could be resolved through open dialogue and warmheartedness.

"There exist few problems, not many, between Nepal and India, and they can be resolved, if we maintain warm heart and open dialogue," Oli said here at the launch of former administrator Surya Nath Upadhyay's book titled 'International Watercourses Law: A

Perspective on Nepal-India Cooperation'.

"India is our friendly neighbour and Nepal and India have rich cultures so we should have an open dialogue. The blame cannot be merely imposed on the geopolitical situation for our inability to speak openly. We should not be involved in any game meant for gaining and sustaining power," Oli said.

"Earlier, foreign relations were maintained and dominated by the country's

strengths. After the Hind World War, a country should present its national interests reasonably and justifiably in line with international treaties and agreements."

"There should not be a unilateral approach while working on common resources. It should be done based on consensus and bilateral discussion", Oli asserted.

Ties between the two countries came under severe strain in 2020 after Kathmandu pub-



lished a new political map that showed the three Indian territories - Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh - as part of Nepal.

The then Prime Minister Oli attempted to use the issue to fend off increasing domestic pressure.

Oli in the past had publicly criticised India for allegedly interfering in Nepal's internal matters.

Upadhyay said the Himalayan nation has yet not received the report prepared by the Eminent Persons Group of Nepal and India.

Massive oil, gas reserves found in Pakistani waters

■ **By Sajjad Hussain**

ISLAMABAD, Sept 7 (PTI)

A SUBSTANTIAL deposit of petroleum and natural gas has been discovered in Pakistan's territorial waters, large enough to change the country's destiny if it is explored, according to a media report.

A three-year survey was undertaken in collaboration with a friendly country to verify the presence of the oil and gas reserves, 'DawnNewsTV' quoted a senior security official as saying on Friday.

The geographic survey has

allowed Pakistan to identify the location of the deposits, and the relevant departments have informed the Government of the resources found in Pakistani waters.

Terming it an effort to benefit from what he called 'blue water economy', the official said that proposals for bidding and exploration were being studied, meaning that the exploration work can be started in the near future. However, he said the work of digging wells and actually getting oil out could take several years.

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Senior bureaucrat Tuhin Kanta Pandey is new Finance Secretary

NEW DELHI, Sept 7 (PTI)

SENIOR bureaucrat Tuhin Kanta Pandey was on Saturday



designated as the new Finance Secretary, according to an official order.

Pandey, a 1987-b a t c h I n d i a n

Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Odisha cadre, is cur-

rently the secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved designating Pandey as the Finance Secretary, the order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

The vacancy was created following the appointment of TV Somanathan as the Cabinet Secretary last month. As per the convention, the senior-most Secretary in the Union Finance Ministry is designated as the Finance Secretary.