

# Militants torch houses in Kamjong district of Manipur, residents flee

**At least one elderly woman sustained injuries while attempting to flee and two persons, including a woman, remain untraceable after they were taken away by the armed militants**

IMPHAL, May 7 (PTI)

HEAVILY armed militants attacked villages in Manipur's Kamjong district near the India-Myanmar border on Thursday morning, torching houses and forcing residents to flee, officials said.

According to police, the militants attacked the Tangkhul Naga

villages of Namlee, Wanglee and Choro within Kasom Khullen police station area around 4 am, prompting residents of the border settlements to take shelter in nearby forests.

The villages are located less than a kilometre from the international border.

At least one elderly woman sustained injuries while attempting to flee during the attack, officials said.

According to villagers, two houses in Namlee, three to four houses in Wanglee and several houses in Choro, except for a church, were reduced to ashes.

Security forces, including the Assam Rifles, later reached the area to assess the situation.

Phungyar MLA L Keishing alleged that the attack was carried out from across the border by Myanmar-based militant

groups Kuki National Army (Burma) and the People's Defence Force (PDF).

"So far, the State had been seeing internal conflicts, but today there has been external aggression. A combined force of Kuki National Army-B and People's Defence Force attacked four to five border villages at 3.30 am," Keishing told reporters.

"Several houses have been reduced to ashes, though there have been no fatalities. Two persons, including a woman, remain untraceable. Eyewitnesses said they were taken away by the armed militants," the Naga People's Front legislator claimed.

Calling it an "external aggression", the MLA said both the State and Central Governments should not remain silent.

"There is no presence of Manipur Police in the area," he

alleged.

Keishing accused the Assam Rifles of failing to protect the villages.

"Assam Rifles troops visited the villages yesterday, and the attack happened today. Villagers have expressed frustration over the developments," he said.

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister N Biren Singh claimed that the attack on the border villages was an act of cross-border terrorism carried out by forces from across the Indo-Myanmar border.

"Our indigenous communities continue to face this grave threat from a continued external aggression. Unless this issue is effectively tackled with firm resolve & strengthened border security, peace will continue to elude our State," he said in a post on X.

# India urges Dosh to expedite nationality check for nearly 3,000 immigrants

■ India has also opposed any Chinese involvement in projects related to the Teesta river

NEW DELHI, May 7 (PTI)

INDIA on Thursday conveyed to Bangladesh to expedite the nationality verification of nearly 3,000 suspected illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, days after Dhaka said it will take action if New Delhi forcibly pushes any such individuals.

New Delhi's comments came against the backdrop of a social media post by Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman on the issue on Tuesday in which he said Dhaka will take action if there any "push-in" inci-

dents from the Indian side.

"These comments must be seen in the context of the core issue of repatriation of illegal Bangladeshis from India. This requires cooperation from Bangladesh," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Over 2862 cases of nationality verification are pending with Bangladesh, some for over five years. Our policy is that all illegal foreign nationals staying in India must be repatriated as per our laws, procedure and established bilateral arrangements," he said. "We expect Bangladesh to expedite nationality verification so that repatriation of illegal immigrants can take place in a smooth manner," he said.

Jaiswal also responded to another question on possible

cooperation between Bangladesh and China on the management of the Teesta river.

"Between India and Bangladesh, we have 54 rivers that the two countries share. We have structured bilateral mechanisms to discuss all water-related issues. These bilateral mechanisms continue to meet at regular intervals," he said. Bangladesh's state-run BSS news agency reported on Thursday that Foreign Minister Rahman, during his ongoing visit to China, had sought Beijing's involvement and support for the Teesta river restoration project.

India has opposed any Chinese involvement in projects related to the Teesta river because of its location near a sensitive region of the border with Bangladesh.

The Teesta river flows from the eastern Himalayas.

# NITI Aayog provides detailed policy roadmap for India's education system

NEW DELHI, May 7 (IANS)

NITI Aayog has released a policy report that presents a comprehensive, decade-long analysis of India's school education system across key parameters such as access and enrolment, infrastructure, equity and inclusion, and learning outcomes, it was announced on Thursday.

NITI Aayog CEO Nidhi Chhibber released the report, titled 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement'.

The report provides a detailed policy roadmap comprising 13 comprehensive recommendations.

The 8 systemic recommendations encompass reforming school structure through composite schools and evidence-based rationalisation, strengthening school infrastructure,



undertaking governance reform and administrative capacity building, institutionalising a whole-of-society approach through State and District Task Forces on School Quality, strengthening School Management Committees, elevating teacher deployment and professional development, expanding digital and broadcast-based learning, and promoting equity and inclusion.

The 5 academic recommendations focus on transforming pedagogy, assessment, and foundational learning, emphasising holistic education and student

wellbeing, reimagining vocational education and skill integration, strengthening ECCE, and integrating AI for pedagogical innovation, according to a NITI Aayog statement.

The report draws on secondary data from UDISE+ 2024-25, PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, NAS 2017 and 2021, and ASER 2024, and is informed by the National Workshop on Quality School Education convened by NITI Aayog in February 2025, which brought together over 150 participants.

India's school education system today spans 14.71 lakh schools, serving over 24.69 crore students, making it the largest system in the world.

The report presents a comprehensive analysis across key dimensions of access, infrastructure, equity, inclusion, digital integration, and learning outcomes for all 36 States and UTs.

# Indian space-tech co Skyroot Aerospace becomes unicorn



NEW DELHI, May 7 (PTI)

HYDERABAD-BASED Skyroot Aerospace on Thursday announced that it had become India's first space-tech unicorn following its latest round of funding of nearly USD 60 million, taking its valuation to USD 1.1 billion.

The funding was provided by Sherpalo Ventures, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, the founders of Greenko Group and Arkam Ventures, among others.

In a statement, Ram Shriram, founder of Sherpalo Ventures, said, "Access to space is one of the key challenges of our time. Skyroot is building the foundational infrastructure for that future with the best cost-to-performance ratio in the orbital-launch industry, and what the team has achieved is remarkable." The funding round comes at a time when Skyroot is preparing to launch Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, for its maiden flight.

# Iran reviewing US proposal on ending war

## Trump pressures Tehran for agreement on deal

■ By Adam Schreck and Elena Becatoros

DUBAI, May 7 (AP)

IRAN has said it is reviewing the latest American proposals on ending the war, as US President Donald Trump threatened the country with a new wave of bombing unless a deal is reached that includes reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz to international shipping.

Hope that the two-month conflict could soon end buoyed international markets on Thursday, despite the US military firing on an Iranian oil tanker attempting to breach an American blockade of Iran's ports Wednesday. The price of Brent crude oil stabilised at around \$100 a barrel as investors waited to see whether the strait would reopen, allow-

ing tankers to deliver oil from the Persian Gulf again.

Trump posted on social media that the two-month war could soon end and that oil and natural gas shipments disrupted by the conflict could restart. But he said that depends on Iran accepting a reported agreement that he did

not detail. "If they don't agree, the bombing starts," Trump wrote.

A fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran has largely held since April 8. But in-person talks between the two countries hosted by Pakistan last month failed to reach an agreement. The war began February 28, when the US

and Israel launched strikes against Iran.

The Trump administration's messaging throughout the Iran war has been shifting and often contradictory. This week, the president and his aides presented a dizzying narrative over the US strategy to unblock the Strait of Hormuz and wrap up the war that drastically changed over the course of mere hours. Iran has effectively shut the strait, a vital waterway for the shipment of supplies of oil, gas, fertiliser and other petroleum products, while the US is blockading Iranian ports.

On Wednesday, a US fighter jet shot out the rudder of an Iranian oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman as it tried to breach the American blockade, US Central Command said in a social media post.

