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STATE TIMES

NIA arrests three insurgents for attack on security forces in strife-torn Manipur

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested three insurgents in a case related to a deadly attack on security forces that killed two police commandos and injured several others in ethnic violence-hit Manipur last year, officials said on Sunday.

The three men, along with their associates, planned, conspired and executed the

attack on an Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) post and security forces at Moreh in Tengnoupal district on January 17, 2024, they said.

Among the arrested accused is Thangminlen Mate, a resident of Tengnoupal district and member of the Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal (KIT) insurgent group, an official statement said. He played a key role in orchestrating and carrying

out the attack, it said.

"He was apprehended on May 19, 2025, from Silchar, Assam, and produced before the NIA court in Guwahati, which remanded him to custody until May 28. He is currently lodged in Guwahati Central Jail under judicial custody," the statement issued by the probe agency said.

The other accused, Kamgingthang Gangte, a

member of the Kuki National Army (KNA), and Hentinthang Kipgen alias Thangneo Kipgen, associated with the village volunteers' group in Churachandpur district, were arrested from Imphal on June 6, the statement said.

"They were presented before the duty magistrate, who granted a transit remand until June 9 for their transfer to the NIA special court in

Guwahati. The duo was part of the team that executed the deadly attack," it added.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the violence between the Imphal valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

The Centre imposed President's Rule in Manipur on February 13 this year after Chief Minister N Biren

Singh resigned.

The violence started after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley. Tribal Nagas and Kukis constitute a little over 40 per cent and reside in the hill districts.

CBI records statement of woman in Sandeshkhali case



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KOLKATA: A CBI team on Sunday reached Sandeshkhali in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district and recorded the statement of a local woman, in connection with a complaint she had earlier lodged against former TMC leader Sheikh Shahjahan, an official said.

Jhuma Mondal's statement was recorded by the CBI team and it would be probed, the official said.

"We have recorded her statement, which she wanted to keep personal. Her statement will be investigated," the CBI officer said.

"I had registered my complaint (with the CBI) long ago. Whatever I have told them is personal. We all want capital punishment

of Shahjahan. The women of Sandeshkhali are safe because Shahjahan is in custody. We are sure that once he is out, he will again start torturing us," she said.

Mondal was not present at her residence when the CBI team visited her home.

"She had gone to participate in a rally of BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, in Nazat in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district," he said.

Later, the woman's statements were recorded at a guest house at Dhamakhali, he added.

In January 2024, officers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were assaulted and their vehicles were damaged when they went to the residence of Shahjahan in Sandeshkhali to conduct a raid in connection with the multi-crore ration distribution scam.

Subsequently, several women in Sandeshkhali, a riverine island around 80 km from Kolkata had alleged land grabbing and sexual abuse by Shahjahan and his men, who are involved in fish farming and trading.

The CBI has taken over investigation in three cases related to incidents on January 5. Sheikh was arrested by the state police on February 29, 2024 and the CBI took him under its custody on March 6.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: Ahead of his historic journey to the International Space Station (ISS), Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla has termed the preparations for the Axiom-4 mission as an "amazing journey" and that he was extremely fortunate to be part of something that is "much larger than yourself".

The 39-year-old Indian Air Force pilot is all set to travel with three other crew members to the ISS onboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, mounted on a Falcon 9 rocket, that will lift off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on Tuesday at 5:52 pm IST.

Shukla, who goes by the nickname "Shux", will be the second Indian to travel to space, 41 years after his idol Rakesh Sharma undertook a spaceflight in 1984 onboard erstwhile Soviet Union's Soyuz spacecraft for an eight-day stay in orbit.

"It has been an amazing



journey; these are the moments that really tell you that you are getting to be a part of something that is much larger than yourself. I can only say how extremely fortunate I am to be a part of this," Lucknow-born Shukla said in a short video issued by Axiom Space ahead of Tuesday's launch.

Shukla's crewmates, commander Peggy Whitson and mission specialists Tibor

Kapu from Hungary and Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland, describe him as "operational-savvy", "focussed" and "wicked smart" when it comes to space technologies.

"Shux's wisdom, the knowledge he possesses, shows he could be 130 years old," said Kapu, the second Hungarian astronaut to travel to space since 1980.

"For me, having him as my

pilot in the dragon capsule is great. He is already operational-savvy, and he is just wicked smart when it comes to spacecraft technologies," said Whitson, a veteran US astronaut who has spent 675 days in space and undertaken 10 spacewalks.

Slawosz said Shukla is very focussed in his approach and quick to respond to situations.

"He is very focussed. He will go one, two, three, four in record time. I don't even know how he gets there so fast," the Polish astronaut said.

Shukla heaped high praise on his crewmates, describing them as a "fantastic" squad, saying they would be his "friends for life".

SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket and the Dragon space capsule were rolled out to the launchpad 39A at the KSC in Florida on Saturday. The Axiom-4 (or Ax-4) crew checked on the spacecraft they will travel in to the ISS.

"Launch is targeted for 8:22 am ET, with a backup oppor-

tunity available on Wednesday, June 11 at 8:00 am ET," SpaceX announced in an update about the mission.

The Axiom Space video also showcases Shukla's journey from being a child to becoming an astronaut and being chosen for the ambitious space mission.

"This journey that I am on...it has been a long one for me. It started out somewhere I didn't know that this is the path it is going to finally take," Shukla said.

"I would say that I am extremely fortunate and extremely lucky to have got opportunities to first fly all my life, which is a dream job for me, and then to have the opportunity to apply for the astronaut corps, and now be here," he said.

Shukla said that, like his idol Rakesh Sharma, he would also like to inspire the next generation to take up space science as a career and strive to become an astronaut.

Bengaluru stampede: BJP demands special session of Karnataka legislature

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BENGALURU: Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka on Sunday demanded that the government call a special session of the state legislature for three days, to discuss the June 4 stampede that killed 11 people, as he pointed out that people are seeking answers.

The BJP leader, who reiterating the demand for resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, also announced that all his party legislators will contribute a month's salary to the kin of those deceased, who are in need, while urging the government to enhance the compensation to Rs 1 crore if it is not bankrupt.

The stampede occurred on June 4 evening in front of the Chinnaswamy stadium here, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations. Eleven people died and 56 were injured in the incident.

"People of the state are raising questions, who was at fault? So call a special ses-

sion of the legislature, let there be a discussion as to who was at fault, all the violations or flouting of laws need to be discussed, whether it was by police permission, DAPR, all of this should be discussed," Ashoka said. Speaking to reporters here, he said, let there also be discussion regarding providing compensation and all about the three inquiries that have been ordered -- magisterial enquiry (to be done by Deputy Commissioner), CID probe, and one-man inquiry commission under retired High Court judge John Michael D'Cunha.

"All inquiries are being given to Cunha, he is permanent...we had sought for an inquiry headed by a sitting judge of the High Court, we will continue to demand for it. Three days special session has to be called immediately. Leader of Opposition in Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and I will write a letter in this regard to the Assembly Speaker, Council Chairman and Chief Minister," he added.

Pointing out that the gov-

ernment has announced compensation of Rs 25 lakh to the kin of the deceased after criticism, Ashoka said, his party demands for compensation of Rs 1 crore each, if the government is not bankrupt. A team of BJP leaders will visit the families of the deceased and try to console them, he added.

Citing DCP Vidhana Soudha letter to the Secretary to the government on June 4, Ashoka hitout at the Siddaramaiah administration, and said, the government did not consider what the police had said, and disregarded the conditions laid out by them to organise the victory celebrations.

The DCP's letter clearly states as the celebration event is being organised on the grand stairs of the Vidhana Soudha in a "hurry", he said, it warns that lakhs of people may gather, about shortage of security staff, and that there will be problem in providing bandobast. The officer further stated that still if the event has to be held, the issuing of online or offline passes for visitors to Vidhana

Soudha should be completely stopped. Also, as there are chances of the secretariat staff getting their family members for the event, an order should be issued aimed at ensuring that this doesn't happen. It also seeks a holiday to be declared for secretariat staff to ensure that they too don't come, Ashoka pointed out.

"The letter also calls for installation of more CCTV cameras in the vicinity of Vidhana Soudha and nearby places in view of the large gathering expected; and highlights the need for an anti-drone system," he said and alleged that government thrown all these conditions into the "dustbin" and organised the event. Also conditions laid down by the PWD department that only 25-30 guests would be allowed on the dias was also completely violated, Ashoka said, "when the rules were flouted on the dias at Vidhana Soudha event, do you expect rules to be followed by the people at the KSCA stadium event, as you have blamed over crowding for the tragedy?"

"You people (in the govern-

ment) took the lives of innocent people, but police officers and the police commissioner were suspended," he chided. The victory cup was won by Virat Kohli and RCB team but the CM and Deputy CM tried to gain credit from it by organising victory celebrations at haste, Ashoka alleged and said, "if there was no friction between these two power centres, such a situation and deaths wouldn't have happened. Because of friction between these two we have seen the deaths."

"Instead of attending to the situation with deaths happening, and consoling the families of the deceased, while one went to the stadium to attend the victory celebrations there and kissed the trophy won by the RCB, the other had gone to eat Dosa," he alleged indirectly referring to Deputy CM and CM.

He slammed them for going on with celebrations both at Vidhana Soudha and the stadium thereafter, despite deaths due to stampede, and called them "inhuman".

People of Bihar will decide from which seat I should contest assembly polls: Chirag Paswan

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
ARA (BIHAR): Union minister Chirag Paswan on Sunday asserted that it is for the people of Bihar to decide from which seat he should contest the assembly elections due later this year.

Paswan, the minister of food processing industries, made the statement at a rally in Ara in Bhojpur district where his party, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), sounded the poll bugle.

"I will contest the assembly polls in Bihar. I will contest not just in Bihar but for Bihar and its people. I am the son of Ram Vilas Paswan. I will realise the dreams of my father and work for Bihar first, Bihar first' to change Bihar," he said.

"It is for the people of Bihar to decide from which seat in the state I should contest the assembly elections. Whenever I take a political decision, I take it for the sake of the state and its people," he added.

Paswan said his party will

make every effort to ensure that the NDA wins the assembly polls with a huge margin.

"My alliance is only with the people of Bihar, I will contest on all 243 seats to make the NDA stronger. I will live and die for Bihar and for the people of the state... for the pride of the state," he said.

Paswan also made it clear that his plans to contest the elections from an unserved constituency should not be construed as his chief ministerial ambitions.

"Let me make one thing very clear: My contest will only ensure a better strike rate for my party, which would help the NDA," he said. Without taking the name of his uncle Pashupati Nath Paras, Paswan said, "I was recovering from the grief of my father's demise. I am proud that I fought like the cub of a lion. My own family members had begun to bare their fangs soon after the death of my father.

It was quite clear that

they did it all because of their ambitions. "People tried to break me. I am the son of Ram Vilas Paswan and cannot be broken. It was only the people of Bihar who stood by me during challenging times."

Following a fallout between Paswan and his uncle after the death of his father, the Lok Janshakti Party split and the EC allotted new names and symbols to the two factions.

Reacting to Rahul Gandhi's comment that Bihar has become the "crime capital" of the country, Paswan said the Congress leader must speak about the 'jungal-raaj' (lawlessness) the state witnessed before 2005.

"It was Congress and RJD who were responsible for the 'jungal-raaj' in the state. The double-engine government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has changed Bihar.

Now, the image of the state has entirely changed. The state is witnessing overall development under the NDA rule," he said.

Gurjar mahapanchayat: Bainsla downplays protest, says happy with govt response

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAIPUR: Some members of the Gurjar community held a protest on rail tracks and stalled a passenger train in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district on Sunday after taking part in a Mahapanchayat to press their various demands including on reservation, officials said.

The meeting at the Karwari Shahed Memorial in the Pilupura area of Bayana was convened by the Gurjar Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti and a draft of the state government's response to their demands was read by Samiti president Vijay Bainsla.

However, after the Mahapanchayat concluded, a section of community members expressed discontent with the government's response.

The protesters gathered on the railway tracks and stopped the 54794 Mathura-Sawaimadhopur passenger train at Fatehsinghpura near Bayana town, West Central Railway Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) said.

"The train is halted for one and a half hours. Railway Protection Force (RPF), local police and railway and administrative authorities are holding talks with the protesters," the CPRO said this evening.

Asked about the protest,

Vijay Bainsla, son of the late Kirodi Singh Bainsla who had led several Gurjar agitations on the quota issue, said that the entire community and leaders are happy with the government's response on their main demands.

He said some people might have come on track. "I don't want to comment much on it," he said, downplaying the protest. "To get the 5 per cent reservation to Most Backward Classes (MBC) included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, a proposal would be recommended by the state cabinet and it would urge the Centre (to ensure its passage). The entire community wanted this. It is a legislative issue. We all are happy," Bainsla told PTI, adding it was their key demand. The Ninth Schedule contains a list of central and state laws that cannot be challenged in court. Bainsla said another demand was that a nodal officer should be appointed in every district to dispose of the police cases against community members during the Gurjar agitation. "The government has agreed to it," he claimed. Earlier in the day, the Samiti had issued an ultimatum to the BJP government to respond by Sunday afternoon to its demands. Rajasthan's

Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham had appealed to the Gurjar leadership to avoid agitation. "In a democracy, everyone has the right to express their views. But when the government is willing to hold talks without any Mahapanchayat or protest, what is the need for one?" he said. He also appealed personally to Vijay Bainsla, noting that he maintains close ties with party leaders.

"He contested the Deoli-Unjara seat and attends party meetings. I urge him to resolve the issues through dialogue," the minister said. Due to the Mahapanchayat, traffic movement between Bayana (Bharatpur) and Hindaun City (Karauli) was diverted. Vehicles were rerouted via Karauli and Mahwa (Dausa) through Kalsada, avoiding the Pilupura area. Similarly, traffic from Karauli to Bharatpur was redirected via Hindaun-Kalsada-Bhusawar instead of the Bayana-Hindaun state highway.

Additional police force was deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

Kirodi Singh Bainsla led several agitations by the community on the reservation issue since 2006, stalling rail traffic for days on certain routes.

Internal reservation: Survey of SCs to continue at 'citizen centric services' centers

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BENGALURU: A provision has been made to continue the survey for gathering the empirical data, aimed at providing internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Karnataka, at the 9,400 state level 'citizen centric services' centers from June 9 to 22, the commission overseeing the survey said.

With about 10 per cent of the survey yet to be completed and amid requests for time extension, the commission headed by retired judge of the Karnataka High Court H N Nagmohan Das, who has been tasked to recommend to the government the internal reservation among SCs, has made this announcement.

"Currently, the 'Comprehensive Survey of the Scheduled Castes-2025', is being carried out across the state of Karnataka from April 5 onwards in 2 modes at special camps and online self-declarations. As of date i.e., June 6, an overall progress of 90 per cent has been achieved in the survey across the state," an official release dated June 7 that was released to media on Sunday said.

It said about 10 per cent of the caste survey is yet to be completed. In addition to this, some Scheduled Caste organisations have once again submitted representations, requesting for time extension to complete the said survey.

The commission, however, pointed out that in the wake of the schools reopening in the state, the teachers who were appointed as enumerators for the survey have been relieved from the survey work. "Thus, in order to facilitate the continuation of the SC castes' survey for those Scheduled Castes' households of Karnataka, who are yet to submit their data in the Scheduled Caste Survey, a provision has been made to carry out the same at the existing 9,400 state level 'citizen centric services' centers, such as, 'Karnataka One', 'Bengaluru One' and 'Grama One' and also at the 198 'BBMP ward offices', from June 9 to June 22," it said.

In order to submit the required information, the Aadhaar card or ration card of the citizen is required, it further said, adding that a separate camp will be set up

at each of the 198 Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) ward offices, to carry out this survey.

According to officials, the SC population in the state according to the 2011 census was 1.04 crore. In 2025, the projected SC population will be 1.16 crore and out of this 1.05 crore, have been enumerated. Apart from this, the same facility for the survey will also be provided at the Bapuji Seva Kendras, across the state. To enter the said information at the centres, the citizen's Aadhaar card or the ration card number is required.

Further, the time limit for Scheduled Caste families for submitting online self declaration has also been extended up to June 22. This can be done through the link: <https://chedulecastesurvey.karnataka.gov.in/selfdeclaration>. As per the government orders earlier and the terms of references, the Commission has to obtain empirical data regarding the representation of the 101 Scheduled Castes' in education and government services in the state of and has to submit a report with suitable recommendations on

internal reservation (sub-categorization) of the Scheduled Castes.

A section of SCs, like 'SC Left', have been demanding internal reservation, alleging that only a few influential sub-castes were taking away a majority of the benefits, while many communities were still marginalised.

The internal reservation is aimed at slicing up the 17 per cent reservation matrix given to 101 Scheduled Castes.

The government, in November last year, had appointed Nagmohan Das to head a commission to recommend internal reservation among SCs, after the Supreme Court last year allowed the states to provide internal reservation, and the state cabinet agreed to implement internal reservation.

In a landmark verdict delivered by the Supreme Court on August 1 last year, it held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the SCs, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward.

Woman misplaces bag with gold in local train, Mumbai railway cops manage to trace it

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
MUMBAI: A woman got her bag containing gold ornaments and other items cumulatively valued at Rs 4.23 lakh that she had left behind in a suburban train thanks to the alertness of the Mumbai railway police, an official said on Sunday.

The Satara-based woman had left the bag in a compartment of a CSMT-bound local train on Friday night and then alerted police after she realised it, he said.

"After being informed about it, we asked our constable at Dockyard Road station to check the train, and he called back saying a bag of the same description had been found," the Wadala railway police station official said.

"The bag contained a camera, gold ornaments and other items with total value of Rs 4.23 lakh. After we verified that it belonged to the woman, we handed it over," the official said.