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Actor Ajay Devgn during the bell ringing ceremony at the National Stock Exchange (NSE), in Mumbai

Eight booked for molesting woman social worker and her daughter

THANE: A 40-year-old woman social worker and her daughter were allegedly attacked and molested inside their house in Vashi by some individuals following a dispute over performing a ritual during a religious procession, police said on Wednesday. No arrest has been made so far in connection with the May 25 incident, an official said. The complainant alleged that eight persons attacked her house and molested her and her daughter after she insisted on performing "aarti" during a palanquin procession of the village goddess. Police registered a case against eight persons, who have been identified, under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty, voluntarily causing hurt, and intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace.

UP govt extends old-age home facilities to transgenders above 60

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh government Wednesday said it has decided to extend old-age home facilities to transgender individuals above the age of 60, a statement said. These elderly members of the transgender community will not only receive shelter but will also be ensured a dignified and secure life. They will be provided with pension, Ayushman Bharat health cards, routine health check-ups, nutritious food and mental health counselling, the government said in the statement. "The initiative is a reflection of a sensitive and forward-looking vision, aimed at supporting a community that has faced neglect and discrimination for decades," the statement said. The government said a State-level Transgender Protection Cell has also been formed for policy formulation and overall monitoring.

21 Manipur MLAs urge centre to restore popular govt for peace in State

PTI, IMPHAL: Twenty-one Manipur MLAs have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah separately, urging them to form a "popular government" in the north-eastern state, which is now under the President's rule, to ensure peace and normalcy.

The Centre had on February 13 imposed the President's rule in Manipur, where more than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

The imposition of the President's rule came after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned. The state assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation.

The letters, containing the same appeal, were signed by 13 BJP MLAs, 3 NPP legislators, 3 Naga Peoples' Front MLAs and two independent members of the assembly.

The letters stated, "The

KUKI-ZO GROUPS CALL SHUTDOWN IN MANIPUR ON MAY 3 TO MARK THE VIOLENCE SECOND ANNIVERSARY

PTI, IMPHAL/ CHURACHANDPUR: Two Kuki-Zomi student organisations have urged people to observe a shutdown of all educational institutions and business establishments in parts of Manipur on May 3 to mark the second anniversary of the beginning of ethnic violence in the state.

Zomi Students Federation (ZSF) and Kuki Students Organisation (KSO) said May 3, 2025, marks the completion of two years of the outbreak of the ethnic strife and urged all "to observe the day in silence by closing all educational institutions and all business establishments".

More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Meiteis and

Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

The imposition of the President's rule came after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned. The state assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation.

The student bodies also called for "hoisting black flags at the respective residences of all".

These organisations also said a "mass prayer would be observed at Martyrs' cemetery and a public gathering at the wall of remembrance in Churachandpur district headquarters", and asked the public to attend the programme.

Earlier, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) said May 3 would be observed as a "Separation Day".

people of Manipur welcomed the President's rule...with lots of hope and expectations. It's going to be almost three months since the President's rule was imposed, but no visible actions to bring peace and normalcy are seen so far.

"There is strong apprehension among the people

that the violence may recur in the state. Many civil organisations have come out openly against the imposition of the President's rule. They have been demanding installation of a popular government in the state," it said.

The legislators claimed in the April 10 letter that these organisations have

started "holding public rallies, street corner meetings, instigating the general public, blaming the ruling MLAs for not staking claim to form a popular government and fixing responsibility for the imposition of PR (President's rule) in Manipur".

The letters were received separately by the Prime

Guv reviews law and order situation in Manipur

PTI, IMPHAL: Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Wednesday reviewed the law and order situation in the state and strategised efforts to maintain peace, an official said.

The security review meeting was held at Raj Bhavan ahead of proposed programmes of several organisations belonging to Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities on May 3 to observe the second anniversary of the outbreak of the ethnic violence in the state.

The meeting, chaired by Bhalla, was attended by security advisor Kuldeep Singh, DGP Rajiv Singh, GOC 57 Mountain Division Maj. Gen. S S Kartikeya, SIB Joint Director Navdeep Meghachandra Singh criticised the 21 MLAs for writing the letter to the Centre, bypassing the governor.

He alleged that these legislators bypassed the Constitutional route in their "attempt to form a government in the state", currently under the President's Rule.

Five involved in drug deals, extortion held in Manipur

PTI, IMPHAL: Five people, including two cadres of banned outfits, were arrested in Manipur for allegedly being involved in extortion and drug deals, police said on Wednesday.

Three members of the newly formed Chin Kuki Mizo Army (CKMA) were apprehended for allegedly facilitating drug deals along the India-Myanmar border in Churachandpur district, a senior officer said.

"They are residents of Churachandpur and had facilitated drug deals from Phaisat in Myanmar," he said.

The CKMA outfit is relatively new, compared to other Kuki organisations, and an investigation is un-

derway to get more information about the group, the officer said.

Three firearms and ammunition, and three radio sets were recovered from their possession, he said.

One woman member of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (PWG) was also arrested from Kwaksiphai in Bishnupur district, another officer said.

She has been involved in extortion in Thoubal area, he said.

The police arrested an active member of the outlawed KCP (Noyon) from Sekmai in Imphal West district.

He was involved in extortion activities, the officer added.

RISKY JOURNEY



People walk across a temporary bamboo bridge after getting off from a ferry, near Fancy Bazaar ghat in Guwahati, Assam

Hotel flouted safety norms, say officials; authorities turned blind eye, allege oppn

PTI, KOLKATA: Brazen disregard for mandatory firefighting measures in certain commercial establishments and persisting lacunae from authorities concerned in maintaining the necessary safety checks seems to have led to the latest fire tragedy in Kolkata which claimed the lives of 14 unsuspecting people, a section of officials felt.

KOLKATA FIRE

What started as a minor blaze inside a virtual tinderbox of a property "operating without even basic firefighting provisions" quickly turned the six-storey low-budget Rituraj Hotel in Mechhua



Fire-fighters evacuate people after a fire broke out at a hotel, at Mechua in Kolkata, West Bengal

Falpatti area of Burrabazar in central Kolkata into a furnace of smoke, panic and death on Tuesday evening.

None of the victims, though, was charred by the

cornice, the remaining 13 bodies, recovered from the site on Wednesday morning, showed signs of death by asphyxiation, police said.

According to the list released by the Kolkata Police, nine out of the 14 victims could be identified till Wednesday evening.

The deceased, mostly occupants of the hotel rooms, hailed from diverse locations of Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.

A male toddler aged 3 years and a female child aged about 10 years, both hailing from Tamil Nadu, were also among the list of victims, police confirmed.

BJ medical college Pune suspends 3 PG students for ragging juniors

PTI, PUNE: Three postgraduate students of the state-run BJ Medical College in Pune have been suspended and removed from their hostel for allegedly ragging junior doctors, said an official from the institute.

The college took action after it received a complaint against three second-year PG students from the Orthopaedic Department, said Dr Eknath Pawar, dean of the medical college, which is attached to the Sassoon General Hospital.

Sources in the college told PTI that the accused targeted four junior medical students from their department. They allegedly harassed the juniors men-

Accused targeted four junior medical students from their department. They allegedly harassed the juniors mentally, sometimes physically, and even used intimidating language

tally, sometimes physically, and even used intimidating language, said the sources.

"The parents of the students first approached Mantralaya (state secretariat) in Mumbai. The college authorities received a complaint. We formed a committee to investigate the matter. Based on the findings, three PG students were suspended and removed from their hostel," said Pawar.

7 killed in temple wall collapse in Andhra

PTI, VISAKHAPATNAM: Seven people were killed when a rain-soaked wall collapsed at the Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Simhachalam here in the early hours of Wednesday, turning an annual ritual at the famous north Andhra shrine into a scene of both grandeur and grief.

The government said seven people died after the wall collapsed on the Rs 300 ticket queue line near the shopping complex on the ghat road from Simhagiri bus stand at around 3 am.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, among others, expressed grief over the incident. Both the Centre and the state government

announced ex-gratia to the families of those killed in the incident.

State Home Minister V Anitha, who was present at the site, said preliminary reports indicated that the wall collapse at the temple was triggered by soil loosening due to heavy rains in the area. According to government sources, one person sustained injuries.

CM Naidu expressed deep sorrow and said he had spoken to the Collector and SP and directed for treatment be provided to the injured.

"Deeply saddened by the death of seven devotees at Simhachalam...my condolences to the families. I'm closely monitoring the situation and have ordered continuous review and support for victims," said Naidu in a post on 'X'.

Gurugram gasps for air: Bandhwari landfill fire doused but toxic fumes fill sky

PTI, GURUGRAM: A fire that broke out at the Bandhwari landfill site in Gurugram two days ago has been doused but the locals are grappling with the effects of toxic fumes that have filled the air.

A local resident said the repeated fires in the garbage mountain in Bandhwari landfill site have caused more trouble for the people living nearby.

The smoke generated from these fires makes them gasp for air, the resident said.

The residents here have reported experiencing respiratory issues and eye-irritation.

"During summer and monsoon season, it became increasingly difficult to sit outside our homes. The waste also contaminated the water in the area and



Firefighters try to douse a fire that broke out in a slum area, near Dwarika Expressway in Gurugram

we couldn't bathe. But the government doesn't care about people at all," said Ravi Harsana, a resident of Bandhwari village.

According to officials, over 25 fire tenders were deployed to control the fire that broke out at the landfill

between March and June.

The Bandhwari landfill is built on an old mining pit which is close to groundwater aquifer and the Aravalli forest. It is an open dumping site, receiving approximately 1,800 tonnes of municipal waste every day from Gurugram and Faridabad. Repeated fires in the area further raise concern over pollution and ecological damage.

According to a Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) official, Methane gas builds up under garbage in landfills due to the decomposition of organic waste in the absence of oxygen. When it comes in contact with air, it catches fire immediately.

Due to the intensity of the fire, it becomes difficult to control it, he added.

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

SITUATIONS VACANT

Urgently required, Kitchen helpers, Utility Boys, Waiters, Barman, Assistant Cook, For a Bar and Restaurant in Salgao. Operational 12 months. Minimum 2 years experience required. For more details contact-9175952528.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Harman pure veg restaurant is looking for following positions: All rounder cook- 3, Tandoor cook-3, kitchen helper- 4, cashier- 2, service staff-6, Utility- 4 at Calangute/ Arpora. Interested candidate can send their cv on Harmanpunjabirestaurant@gmail.com/ 7972222797 .

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