

Protests, peace appeals mark a year of Manipur ethnic conflict

Guwahati: Seven women shaved their heads and cycled 19km to promote peace and unity in Manipur on Friday to mark a year of the ethnic conflict in the state, reports **Prabin Kalita**.

The women clad in black rode from Sekmai, a village on outskirts of Imphal, to historic Kangla. They carried placards reading "We want peace", "No to separate administration", "Protect territorial integrity", "Today we again remember the atrocities committed on farmers, daily wage earners...", M Sobita Devi, a Meira Paibi functionary said at Kangla.

Over 225 people have been killed and 60,000 displaced in the strife.

Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of all Kuki tribes, has submitted a memorandum to PM Modi underlining that a "separate administration is the only viable solution". It has also called for stringent safety measures to ensure safety of Kuki-Zo people, besides recovery of bodies or missing people.

China successfully launches lunar probe mission to collect samples for first time from far side of Moon

■ By K J M Varma

BEIJING/WENCHANG, May 3
(PTI)

CHINA on Friday launched a 53-day-long lunar probe mission to collect samples for the first time from the far side of the Moon and bring them for scientific studies.

The Chang'e-6 mission is tasked with collecting and then returning samples from the Moon's far side to Earth -- the first endeavour of its kind in



the history of human lunar exploration, China National Space Administration (CNSA) said. The entire mission would last for 53 days. The far side of the Moon is not visible from

Earth. An hour after the launch, an official announced that Chang'e-6's launch was "a complete success".

The lunar probe was carried by a Long March-5 Y8 rocket blasted off smoothly from the Wenchang Space Launch Site on the coast of China's southern island province of Hainan. The launch was telecast live by state-run television.

Chang'e 6 consists of four components: an orbiter, a lander, an ascender and a re-entry

module, according to CNSA.

After collecting dust and rocks on the Moon, the ascender will transport the samples to the lunar orbiter for transfer to the re-entry module, which will carry them back to Earth.

The CNSA said earlier that the mission is poised to make breakthroughs in key technologies, such as automatic sample collection, take-off and ascent from the far side of the Moon.

Red alert sounded for Kallakkadal in coastal parts of Kerala, south TN

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 3 (PTI)

CENTRAL agencies have issued a red alert for 'Kallakkadal', warning of sudden sea swells causing rough waves in coastal areas of Kerala and the south Tamil Nadu coast on Saturday and Sunday.

This marks the first time a red alert has been issued for the phenomenon of 'Kallakkadal' -- the sudden swell of the seas causing rough

waves -- by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in this part of the country, officials here said.

The officials have urged fishermen and coastal residents to take necessary precautions in response to the alert. "Red alert for swell surge warning has been received from NDMA-INCOIS," a Kerala Disaster Management Authority (KSD-

MA) official said. The coastal areas of Kerala and southern Tamil Nadu are likely to experience the 'kallakkadal' phenomenon from 2.30 am on Saturday to 11.30 pm on Sunday, weather agencies said, while issuing the red alert. There is possibility of extremely strong waves, rough seas and sea incursion during this period, they said.

The officials, however, said it was not a tsunami-like phenomenon.

Destruction of housing in Gaza unprecedented: UN

UNITED NATIONS, May 3 (AP)

THE world hasn't seen anything like the unprecedented destruction of housing in Gaza since World War II, and it would take at least until 2040 to restore the homes devastated in Israel's bombing and ground offensive if the conflict ended on Friday, the United Nations reported.

The UN assessment said the social and economic impact of the war launched after Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel on October 7 has been increasing "in an exponential manner."

It called the level of casualties - 5 per cent of Gaza's 2.3 million population -- "unprecedented" in such a short time. By mid-April, it said, over 33,000 Palestinians had been killed and more than 80,000 injured. About 7,000 others remain missing, most believed to be buried under the rubble.

"Every additional day that this war continues is exacting huge and compounding costs to Gazans and all Palestinians," said United Nations Development Programme Administrator Achim Steiner.

The report by UNDP and the UN Economic Commission for Western Asia paints a dire picture of the struggle to survive in Gaza where 201,000 jobs have been lost since the war began and the economy contracted 81 per cent in the last

quarter of 2023.

Abdallah Al Dardari, UNDP's regional director for Arab States, told a UN press conference launching the report that almost USD 50 billion in investments in Gaza are estimated to have been wiped out in the conflict, and 1.8 million Palestinians have fallen into poverty.

Gaza has been under blockade by Israel and Egypt since Hamas' 2007 takeover, putting tight controls on what enters and exits the territory. Even before the war, it faced "hyper-unemployment" of 45 per cent, reaching nearly 63 per cent among younger workers.

According to the report, the UN Human Development Index - which measures key issues for a long and healthy life, for gaining knowledge and for achieving a decent standard of living - has been pushed back more than 20 years in Gaza.

The "productive basis of the economy has been destroyed," the report said, with sectors experiencing losses of more than 90%. It estimated that the GDP of Gaza could decrease by 51 per cent in 2024. "The scope and scale of damages have been unprecedented and still mounting as the war still rages on," it said. At least 3,70,000 housing units in Gaza have been damaged, including 79,000 destroyed completely, along with commercial buildings, report said.

Turkey halts trade with Israel over military actions in Gaza

ANKARA, May 3 (AP)

TURKEY on Thursday suspended all imports and exports to Israel citing the country's ongoing military action in Gaza and vowed to continue to impose the measures until the Israeli Government allows the flow of humanitarian aid to the region.

A Turkish Trade Ministry statement said, "export and import transactions in relation to Israel have been stopped, covering all products."

Turkish officials would coordinate with Palestinian author-

ities to ensure that Palestinians are not affected by the suspension of imports and exports, the Ministry said.

The Ministry described the step as the "second phase" of measures against Israel, adding that the steps would remain in force until Israel "allows an uninterrupted and sufficient flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza."

Last month, Turkey - a staunch critic of Israel's military actions - announced that it was restricting exports of 54 types of products to Israel, including aluminum, steel,

construction products and chemical fertilisers. Israel responded by also announcing trade barriers.

Earlier on Thursday, Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz accused Turkey of blocking Israeli imports and exports from Turkish ports.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "is breaking agreements by blocking ports for Israeli imports and exports," Katz wrote on the social platform X.

Katz said he had instructed officials to "immediately engage with all relevant par-

ties in the Government to create alternatives for trade with Turkey, focusing on local production and imports from other countries."

Erdogan's Government, which suffered major setbacks in local elections in March, is faced with intense pressure at home to halt trade with Israel. Critics accuse the Government of engaging in double standards by levelling strong accusations against Israel while pressing ahead with commercial relations.

Turkey recognised Israel in 1949.

Pro-Palestinian Encampments Spread To Campuses In Canada, Aus, UK & France

Student Activists Challenging Their Univs' Stances On Gaza War And Ties To Israel

Pro-Palestinian students at one of France's most elite universities, Sciences Po, occupied a campus building overnight. Like-minded protesters at University College London set up an encampment. And tents with Palestinian flags stretched out this week across campuses in Australia. The tensions gripping universities in the US appear to be spreading to other countries, where students have challenged their schools' stances on war in Gaza and ties to Israel.

Demonstrators at universities in France have put pressure on administrators to more forcefully condemn Israel's military offence in Gaza and review partnerships with Israeli universities and private donors. Police officers went into Sciences Po Friday to clear out a group of pro-Palestinian protesters who had occupied a campus building and refused to leave until their demands were met, according to a statement from the universi-



Demonstrators at an encampment on the University of Toronto campus

ty. The intervention came after a town hall debate about the war at the university failed to defuse tensions.

The university said students had breached an agreement not to disrupt classes and exams, and that it had made the "difficult decision" to involve police after multiple attempts at dialogue failed. Live video on Instagram showed students chanting, "We ask for justice! We get the police!" as officers pulled them out.

In Britain, small encampments have begun to spring up at universities in Bristol, New-

castle and Warwick. And a coalition of students and staff at University College London put up tents on the campus grounds on Thursday to pressure the school to divest from companies complicit in what they called "the genocide of Palestinians," among other demands.

A union representing students at Trinity College Dublin said the university had fined it more than 214,000 euros, about \$230,000, for losses incurred because of disruptive protests since last Sept, rising student fees and other issues. The university, a non-profit, cited the "negative financial impact" of protests blocking visitor access to the Book of Kells, a Medieval religious manuscript held at the university. Laszlo Molnarfi, president of the students' union at Trinity College, said the union could not afford the fine. He called it an attempt at intimidation, adding that the protests would continue. "We will be escalating," he said.

In Australia, encampments

have come up at major universities in Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. These protests have grown more tense as pro-Israel demonstrators have gathered nearby. University administrators have said they support students' right to protest, while warning them to abide by school policies.

In Canada, encampments have sprung up in some of the country's largest universities, including universities of Toronto, British Columbia and Ottawa. Organisers at University of Toronto said the encampment will stay until the university discloses its investments, divests from any that "sustain Israeli apartheid, occupation and illegal settlement of Palestine" and ends partnerships with some Israeli academic institutions. At Montreal's McGill University, the administration requested police intervention to dismantle camps, but law enforcement instead said it was monitoring the situation. NYT & REUTERS

Israeli officials weigh sharing power with Arab states in Gaza

For months, PM Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has avoided detailed public discussion about Gaza's post-war future. Trying to placate both his far-right allies, who seek to rebuild Israeli settlements in Gaza, and Israel's foreign partners, who want Gaza returned to Palestinian governance, Netanyahu has stopped short of any specific declaration.

Behind the scenes, however, senior officials in his office have been weighing an expansive plan for post-war Gaza, in which Israel would offer to share oversight of the territory with an alliance of Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as well as the US, according to three Isra-



Nepal currency includes map rejected by India

Nepal on Friday announced the printing of a new Rs 100 currency note with a map that shows the controversial territories of Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani.

On June 18, 2020, Nepal updated the country's political map by incorporating the three strategically important areas of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas by amending its Constitution, something India reacted to sharply, calling it a "unilateral act" and terming as "untenable" the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal. India maintains that the three areas belong to it. **P 10**