



A man holds a placard reading 'Enough money for the weapons, let's stop them' as he takes part to a demonstration to protest against European rearmament, in Rome



Protesters hold banners and chant slogans as they march during a protest against the abuse of women and children in Matatiele, South Africa



Demonstrators jingle their house keys during a nationwide demonstration for the right to decent housing, held in 40 cities across Spain, in Madrid



People hold up placards during a #TeslaTakeDown protest against US billionaire Elon Musk, outside of a Tesla car showroom in central London

allovertheworld



A protester wearing a mask holds a placard during a 'Noisy Spring' march against pesticides in Paris

Burkina junta critic arrested in growing crackdown: Civil group

ABIDJAN: Burkina Faso authorities arrested a member of a civil society group critical of the country's military rulers, the organisation said Friday, the latest of numerous detentions targeting the junta's critics. The organisation, the Patriotic Front, said in a statement that officials identifying themselves as intelligence officers detained its deputy secretary general Romuald Yaro on March 30 at his workplace in the capital Ouagadougou. Burkina Faso has seen numerous kidnappings of people viewed as critical of the military authorities since the junta's leader Captain Ibrahim Traore took power in a coup in 2022. The group said it did not know the grounds for the arrest or where Yaro had been detained since.

UK comedian Russell Brand charged with rape

LONDON: British comedian and actor Russell Brand denied rape and sexual assault allegations on Friday after being charged with five offences by London's Metropolitan Police. Brand, 49, who became known internationally as the husband of pop star Katy Perry after forging a career in Britain with risqué comedy routines, was charged with one count of rape, indecent assault and oral rape and two counts of sexual assault, police said. The charges relate to offences alleged to have taken place between 1999 and 2005 involving four women. In a video response on X, Brand denied the charges. Jaswant Narwal, of Britain's Crown Prosecution Service, said prosecutors had "authorised the Metropolitan Police to charge Russell Brand with a number of sexual offences".

Nigeria gets 1 million meningitis jabs to fight outbreak

LAGOS: Nigeria has taken delivery of over 1.2 million vaccine doses to contain an outbreak of meningitis that has killed dozens and sickened hundreds others, UNICEF and the jabs supplier said Friday. The outbreak has already claimed over 70 lives and infected more than 800 people across 23 of the country's 36 states, the UN agency said in a statement. Nigeria, with a population of 220 million, is one of the continent's 26 meningitis hyper-endemic countries, an area known as the African Meningitis Belt that stretches from Senegal in the west to Ethiopia in the east. Meningitis infection leads to inflammation of the membranes or meninges that protect the brain and spinal cord. It has multiple causes including viral, bacterial, fungal and parasitic pathogens.

Tunisia shuts down large migrant camps

EL AMRA: Tunisia on Friday dismantled camps housing thousands of undocumented migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, police said, following a campaign against them on social media. Around 20,000 migrants had set up tents in fields in the eastern regions of El Amra and Jebeniana, national guard spokesman Houcem Eddine Jebabli told AFP. He said around 4,000 people of various nationalities had left one of the camps cleared by authorities, and operations would continue over the coming days. Some of the migrants had "dispersed into the countryside", with pregnant women and the infirm taken care of by the health authorities, he added. The camps had prompted anger from residents in nearby villages, raising pressure on the authorities.

Cambodia hails opening of naval base renovated by China

CAMBODIA: Cambodia's leader Hun Manet said Saturday there was "nothing to hide" as he inaugurated a naval base renovated in recent years by China, after Washington had voiced concern over Beijing's role in the upgrades. The United States has said the Ream Naval Base, located off Cambodia's southern coast, could give China a key strategic position in the Gulf of Thailand near the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing claims almost in its entirety. Cambodian senior officials have repeatedly denied that the base is for use by any single foreign power, following US media reports in 2022 saying that the new facilities at Ream were being built for the exclusive use of the Chinese navy. Military representatives from various nations attended a ceremony on Saturday marking the inauguration of the renovated Ream base, with Cambodia rolling out the red carpet for a delegation from China's People's Liberation Army. Prime Minister Hun Manet hailed the opening of the upgraded port at the event, where Cambodian and Chinese flags were flown.

Tension flares up in Manipur after village chief assaulted by suspected militants

PTI, IMPHAL: Tension flared up between two tribal communities in ethnic strife-torn Manipur on Saturday after a village chief was allegedly assaulted by suspected militants over a land dispute, officials said.

The incident took place around 12.15 pm when dozens of armed militants came to Konsakhul village in Kangpokpi district and assaulted several residents, including village chief Aimson Abonmai, they said.

The residents of Naga-dominated Konsakhul claimed that the militants, allegedly belonging to the Kuki community, were from neighbouring Haraothel village.

Abonmai was taken to state-run RIMS in Imphal, while eight other injured villagers were being treated at Khurkhul primary healthcare centre, the officials said.

Hospital officials said



Additional security forces keep vigil in Konsakhul village in Kangpokpi district in view of recent violence

they were out of danger.

Rongmei Naga Council, meanwhile, strongly condemned the assault.

"We appeal to the Kuki leaders not to allow such incidents in future. Such incidents have the potential to spark unrest in the hills at a time when the state is already witnessing ethnic conflict between the Kuki and Meitei communities. We strongly condemn the assault on a Naga village chief by Kuki miscreants,"

vice president of the council, Athuan Gangmei, told reporters.

Police, on the other hand, said additional security forces have been sent to the hill village to control the situation.

Over 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic conflict between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kukis in Manipur since May 2023.

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ISRAELI DRUG LORD HELD IN EARLY MORNING RAID

Atala was again arrested in April 2019 by the Anjuna police in an attempt-to-murder case. After the Additional Sessions Court dismissed his bail application in May 2020, Atala approached the High Court of Bombay at Goa and got bail in August the same year.

INDIA, LANKA INK DEFENCE & ENERGY DEALS

India has previously objected to Chinese submarines and research vessels which have called at the main seaport in Colombo. Sri Lanka has not allowed Chinese submarines to dock since 2014, after India raised concerns over two such visits.

Last year, Colombo imposed a ban on foreign research vessels following New Delhi's accusations that Chinese ships were being used to spy on India.

On Saturday, Dissanayake welcomed Modi -- the first foreign dignitary to visit Colombo since the leftist leader swept to power last year - with a 19-gun salute.

The two leaders also celebrated the start of construction of a 120-megawatt solar power project, developed as a joint venture between the two nations.

The solar plant, located in the island's northeastern Trincomalee district, had been stalled for years but was reinvigorated with New Delhi's backing.

Modi's visit comes as Colombo grapples with the competing interests of New Delhi and Beijing.

India has become concerned about China's influence in Sri Lanka, which it sees as falling within its sphere of interest.

Dissanayake's first foreign visit was to New Delhi in December, but he followed it with a visit to Beijing in January, underscoring Sri Lanka's delicate balancing act.

SHINDE JIBE: KAMRA SKIPS THIRD SUMMONS

"I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of your team to take the said artist out of your sale and promotion listing, thank you for even taking him out of the book my show search history. Your belief in maintaining peace and at the same time respecting our emotions has been instrumental," Kanal stated in a letter to Hemrajani.

He said Mumbaiers love and believe in every form of art but not personal agendas.

"Your personal touch and guidance by your team were invaluable in navigating and reaching a solution.

DAY AFTER, WHERE ARE THE BODY-CAM COPS?

If a rider is caught riding a two-wheeler with triple-seat or caught speaking on mobile phone while driving, then he/she will be imposed a fine of Rs 1,000 and the licence will be suspended for three months. The fine amount for driving without wearing a seat belt is also fixed at Rs 1,000 each and Rs 1,500 for the subsequent violation.

GOA ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT TAMPERED: MLA

These changes were reflected from April 3, 2025 at approximately 5 pm which detailed the major revenue receipt for the

State, he informed.

Further on April 3, at 10.30 pm, the Goa Vidhan Sabha website was updated once again, this time labelling the Economic Survey of Goa report as a corrected copy, he said.

The Benaulum MLA demanded to know who authorised this change and what specific corrections were made and under what legal or administrative framework was carried out. He asked, "Why was no official notice issued to legislators informing them of these changes?"

WAQF BILL GETS PRESIDENT'S ASSENT

They termed the Bill "anti-Muslim" as well as "unconstitutional", while the government responded that the "historic reform" would benefit the minority community.

The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was passed in the Lok Sabha early on Thursday, with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

Parliament had also approved the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod. The Lok Sabha had already given its assent to the Bill.

After the President gave her assent, it has also become a law.

Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday challenged the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Supreme Court, saying it violated constitutional provisions.

KERALA FIRM ACCUSED OF 'TORTURING' UNDERPERFORMING EMPLOYEES

The investigations were ordered to ensure the authenticity of the visuals.

However, in a twist, the man purportedly shown in the visuals as harassed and tortured, told the media later that there was no workplace harassment in the firm, contrary to what was depicted in the footage.

"I am still working in the firm... these visuals were from some months ago forcefully taken by a person who was working as the manager of the institution then. He was later asked to quit by the management and he is now using the visuals to tarnish the owner of the firm," he claimed.

He also reportedly gave the same statement to police and the Labour Department officials.

Earlier in the day, Labour Minister V Sivankutty ordered an inquiry into the undated incident and instructed the district labour officer to submit an immediate report on the incident.

The visuals purportedly showed a person using a leash to force a man to crawl on his knees on the floor, resembling a dog.

Later, some persons, claimed as employees of the firm, told a TV channel that those who fail to achieve targets were subjected to such punishments by the management of the firm.

GOAN-ORIGIN SCIENTIST SAYS SEWAGE, CLIMATE CHANGE ALTERING ARABIAN SEA BIODIVERSITY

She added too that sewage released in the waters is adding to the changes in the sea. "You also have these mega cities

around the Arabian Sea and nobody has sewage treatment plants. I have read that our Goa sewage plants are working at like 20 to 40 percent of their capacity. So, imagine the amount of organic matter that we are dumping into the oceans. It's a great environment for noctiluca, for scalps and jellyfish. So, everything is working like in their favour. Based on whatever studies we had, we know that the biodiversity of the Arabian Sea has changed drastically."

Having also worked on climate change, she said that the rising temperatures in Goa are similar to the unstable systems everywhere in the world. "It will not be persistently heat, but very unstable systems. It's already been predicted that we would have less rain, but then we will have incidences of very strong rainfall. We will not have persistent rainfall like how we used to have, we will have massive dry spells and then events of extreme rainfall and you've seen that already, last year I think, or the year before," she said.

Though her area of research does not involve rising sea levels, speaking on the NASA prediction that areas of the Goa coast could go underwater by 2100, she said, "That is very concerning because that is based on the fact that warm water expands and so it rises." Dr Rosario Gomes added, "I think one thing that will happen is that when the sea level rises, saline water will enter the rivers. Our rivers have got such amazing biodiversity, especially at the mouth. Right now if saline waters from rising sea level, and we are seeing that already, enter the mouth of the river, these delicate organisms shift. A sudden massive influx of saline water will not only impact the plankton, but impact other organisms that are on the banks, like, these tiseiro, khube, all our fisheries."

One reason for the increase in mangroves around Goa's riverine islands could be the incursion of saline waters as mangroves can tolerate much salinity. She said, "The rivers are also no longer flowing the way they used to. There are a lot of river networks, rivulets that keep the water flow nicely and keep the ecosystem in balance. But now the ecosystem is already out of balance, both in the Arabian Sea, and in these riverine systems, especially at the mouth of the estuary. What is happening at the top and what is happening here, is going to impact the estuary. And that is where our fish is."

She suggested that to reduce this inflow, Goa should ensure that the network of water is flowing and cautioned on the incursion of saltwater. "For saltwater to enter an estuary is, I think, nearly the death of the estuary as it is, then it just becomes an oceanic system and as salt intrusion goes up, the organisms are not able to withstand that as they are purely fresh water," Rosario Gomes said.

The scientist also called for long term studies on understanding why these blooms are increasing in the Arabian Sea. "We know why they are happening, but often Indian scientists try to contradict us but there hasn't really been a concerted study on why these new organisms are appearing. There is no long term study on the impact of rising sea level on this. I think we should have a network of universities, maybe of colleges, masters students in science researching on how and why is salt water intruding into our systems," she said.

Meitei, Kuki groups hold first meeting since ethnic clashes

PTI, NEW DELHI: For the first time since ethnic violence started in Manipur nearly two years ago, the representatives of the warring Meitei and Kuki communities met face-to-face on Saturday as the Centre intensified efforts to restore peace and bring back normalcy in the northeastern state.

The meeting, which was held here at the aegis of the Union Home Ministry, discussed various aspects of the ongoing conflict and decided to continue their dialogue to find an amicable solution acceptable to people of the state, sources privy to the meeting said.

The sources said the meeting, which lasted for about five hours, was held as part of the central government's initiatives to resolve the ongoing conflict

between the two communities, which began in May 2023 and had worsened ethnic tensions.

The meeting was aimed at enhancing trust and cooperation between the Meiteis and Kukis and finding a roadmap to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur, they said. The discussions also stressed on maintaining law and order and facilitating reconciliation between the two communities, the sources said.

A six-member Meitei delegation comprising representatives from the All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation (AMUCO) and the Federation of Civil Society Organisations (FOCS) attended the meeting. The Kuki delegation comprised about nine representatives from the Kuki-Zo Council.

DABOLIM FLYOVER: NAVY TOLD NHAH TO STOP WORK 'IMMEDIATELY'

Sanjay Redkar, a local resident, expressed his satisfaction with the Navy's intervention. "Politicians tried to mislead the public, claiming that the flyover project was for the people. In reality, it was an anti-people initiative, aimed at shutting down the Dabolim Airport to benefit the real estate lobby. This Navy report is a major victory for us," Redkar said.

The controversy began when retired Commander Atul Pant filed a petition with the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court, claiming that the NHAH was proceeding with the construction without obtaining the necessary No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Navy. During the court proceedings, it was revealed that the Navy had issued a letter on January 17, 2025, informing the NHAH of the construction violations. Before disposing of the petition on February 24, the High Court requested the Navy to "expedite the consideration of issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC), if not already decided."

Pant also criticised the NHAH for proceeding with the project despite being aware of the Navy's objections. He added, "The NHAH has yet to submit a revised proposal to the Navy, but it has not been shared yet. They were fully aware of the Naval concerns, yet chose to ignore them and continue the work."

A joint inspection report by the Navy and NHAH, dated January 17, 2025, confirmed that parts of the flyover, particularly the pillars at chainages 8040 and 8180, were infringing the OLS. The report noted that pillars around 4.5 meters in height had already been constructed in violation of safety guidelines.

Local residents have voiced concerns about the long-term implications of the flyover project. "The construction was part of a plan to shut down Dabolim Airport under the guise of development," said Redkar. "While it may have been sold as a benefit for the people, it was really meant to boost real estate interests and help politicians."

Despite the Navy's clear instructions to demolish the illegal pillars, Pant revealed that the NHAH had yet to take any corrective action. "Other parts of the project are still ongoing, but the pillars violating the norms have not been addressed," Pant confirmed.

In the midst of the controversy, some positive news has emerged for Dabolim Airport. Several airlines from the Gulf region have reportedly decided to resume flights to Dabolim, offering a glimmer of hope for the local economy.

Taxi driver Eleterio Soares, who has long been critical of the project, expressed his relief: "The news that flights from the Gulf are returning is great. And now, with this latest development, we can all breathe a little easier. Unfortunately, politicians seem ready to sacrifice the interests of the people for their own gain."

Soares also credited the media for keeping the issue in the public eye, stating, "Had it not been for O Heraldo, we would still be in the dark about what's really going on."

In response to questions from reporters, Furtado, an NHAH authority in Goa, declined to comment further, stating, "I cannot discuss such matters without knowing who I am talking to. You will need to come to the office for me to answer your questions."