

Israel tells Palestinians to leave northern Gaza

Military's unprecedented order ahead of a possible ground invasion triggers panic and mass exodus towards southern part; Hamas dismisses order as a ploy and tells people to stay on

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Palestinians began a mass exodus from northern Gaza on Friday after Israel's military told some one million people to evacuate toward the southern part of the besieged territory, an unprecedented order ahead of an expected ground invasion against the ruling Hamas militant group.

The United Nations warned that so many people fleeing *en masse* – almost half the Gaza population – would be calamitous.

Hamas, which staged a shocking and brutal attack on Israel nearly a week ago and has fired thousands of rockets since, dismissed the evacuation order as a ploy and called on people



Forced relocation: Palestinians flee after the Israeli Army's warning to leave their homes, in Gaza City on Friday. AFP

to stay in their homes.

The evacuation order, which applies to Gaza City, home to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, sparked widespread panic among civilians and aid workers already running from Israeli airstrikes and contending with a total siege of Gaza.

Israel has cut off all food, water and supplies and caused a territory-wide blackout.

"Forget about food, forget about electricity, forget about fuel. The only concern now is just if you'll make it, if you're going to live," said Nebal Farsakh, a spokesperson for the Pal-

Conflicts are not in anyone's interest: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said terrorism, for any reason, is against humanity. "[The world] is grappling with conflicts and confrontations, such a world full of conflicts and confrontations is not in anyone's interest." » **PAGE 15**

estinian Red Crescent in Gaza City. The war has already claimed over 3,000 lives on both sides and sent tensions soaring across the region.

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Northeast monsoon likely to set in over State between October 23 and 25

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The northeast monsoon is expected to set in over the State between October 23 and 25.

With the southwest monsoon retreating gradually over parts of Karnataka and Telangana, conditions are turning favourable for the onset of the northeast monsoon, which provides a major share of Tamil Nadu's annual rainfall.

While Tamil Nadu awaits monsoon reversal, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, has predicted that wet weather would continue over parts of the State till October 19.

A cyclonic circulation over south Tamil Nadu and its neighbouring areas would bring light to moderate rain. Ghat areas of Coimbatore, Theni and Dindigul districts may experience heavy rainfall in isolated places on Monday, and rain of heavy intensity may cover more districts, including Salem, Dharmapuri, Madurai and Erode, on Tuesday.

Weather pattern

Officials of the Meteorological Department said the weather pattern was being monitored for the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon. It may withdraw further from various parts of the country,

including Telangana and Maharashtra, in a couple of days. Both easterly and westerly winds prevailed in various regions due to the presence of the cyclonic circulation.

S. Balachandran, Additional Director-General of Meteorology, Chennai, said a wind shear zone was likely to develop over the region and sustain rainfall activity.

The onset of the northeast monsoon would be declared only if certain criteria are met. They include the complete withdrawal of the southwest monsoon; the setting-in of easterlies over the Tamil Nadu coast; and fairly widespread rain over Tamil Nadu, south coastal Andhra Pradesh and nearby areas.

It may be recalled that the IMD had earlier predicted that the northeast monsoon rainfall between October and December would be normal, logging 88% to 112% of the long period average, which is 33.4 cm, over the south peninsular region. According to IMD data from 1977 to 2020, the earliest onset date was October 5, in 1984.

Chennai would continue to experience light or moderate rain and thunderstorms in some areas till Sunday. On Friday, too, places like Meenambikam and West Tambaram received light rain.

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Israel has bombarded Gaza round the clock since Hamas' attack, in which its fighters massacred hundreds in southern Israel and snatched some 150 people to Gaza as hostages.

Hamas said Israel's airstrikes killed 13 of the hostages in the past day. It said the dead included foreigners but did not give their nationalities.

Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari denied that, telling *Al-Jazeera* Arabic that "we have our own information and do not believe the lies of Hamas".

Israel said on Thursday it would allow no supplies into Gaza until Hamas frees the hostages.

NGT bats for sustainable tourism policy on islands across country to check impact of climate change

G. Krishnakumar
KOCHI

An expert panel set up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to frame policies and measures to protect submerging islands due to the rise of sea level and global warming has recommended island-specific sustainable development and tourism policy keeping the climate risks in mind.

The panel was constituted by the Principal Bench of the tribunal after it took *suo motu* cognizance of *The Hindu* report titled 'India's sinking islands' published on March 19, 2023, in Kerala editions. The report had stated that several



Expert committee recommends a blue-economy-based activities on marine and coastal fronts. K.K. MUSTAFAH

of the country's 1,382 islands are under siege from unseasonal cyclonic storms, sea erosion and new development projects.

The panel consisted of

experts representing the CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO); National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Chennai; National Institute of Ocean Technology,

Chennai; National Institute for Geo-informatics Science & Technology; Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad; and IIT, Kharagpur.

In its report submitted before the Principal Bench on October 10, the committee recommended diversified economic development and controlled nature-based growth and blue-economy-based activities on marine and coastal fronts. It suggested alternative climate-resilient practices for livelihood on the islands and steps to explore nature-based ecosystem restoration.

It also recommended installation of GPS/GNSS sta-

tion with respect to each tide gauge station across the islands to estimate vertical land motion which can accurately quantify the future sea-level rise over the Andaman and Lakshadweep islands.

The committee recommended a nationwide island assessment study to understand accurate vulnerability of the coastal areas. It suggested conducting field-based topographic surveys to map the accurate inundation of islands under different climate change scenarios.

The research findings showed that all the islands in Lakshadweep are vulnerable to impact from sea-level rise.

Neeraj in for 'World Athlete of Year' award

The champion javelin thrower is among 11 nominees for the prestigious honour and five finalists would be decided by three-way voting process

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Olympic and World champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was on Thursday named as one of the 11 nominees for the 2023 men's 'World Athlete of the Year' award. The nominees were selected by an international panel of athletics experts, comprising representatives from all six continental areas of World Athletics.

A three-way voting process will determine the finalists. The World Athletics Council and the World Athletics Family will cast their votes by email, while fans can vote online via the World Athletics social media platforms.

Individual graphics for each nominee will be posted on Facebook, X, Instagram and YouTube this



Icing on the cake: It would be great way to cap off a rewarding season if Neeraj goes on to win WIA's big award. AFP

week; a 'like' on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube or a retweet on X will count as one vote. Voting for the World Athletes of the Year closes at midnight of October 28. At the conclusion of the voting process, five women and five men finalists will be announced by World Athletics on November 13-14. The winners will be revealed on World Athletics' social media plat-

forms on December 11.

Other nominees: Ryan Crouser (shot put, USA), Mondo Duplantis (pole vault, Sweden), Soufiane El Bakkali (3000m steeplechase, Morocco), Jakob Ingebrigtsen (1500m/5000m, Norway), Kelvin Kiptum (marathon, Kenya), Pierce LePage (decathlon, Canada), Noah Lyles (sprints, USA), Alvaro Martin (walking, Spain), Miltiadis Tentoglou (long jump, Greece) and Karsten Warholm (400m hurdles, Norway).