

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm/hailstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; with lightning very likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, north Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	...	26.4	14.0	Kozhikode.....	0.4	34.7	25.2
Ahmedabad.....	...	29.5	13.4	Kurnool.....	...	31.6	19.8
Aizawl.....	...	9.3	...	Lucknow.....	...	24.4	9.5
Allahabad.....	...	26.0	11.2	Madurai.....	...	29.9	23.7
Bengaluru.....	...	27.8	16.5	Mangaluru.....	...	36.5	22.9
Bhopal.....	...	26.5	12.6	Mumbai.....	...	32.5	21.8
Bhubaneswar.....	...	31.3	17.2	Mysuru.....	...	28.9	17.2
Chandigarh.....	...	21.5	8.0	New Delhi.....	...	23.2	7.9
Chennai.....	...	30.3	22.1	Patna.....	...	24.2	12.4
Coimbatore.....	...	30.2	20.2	Port Blair.....	...	29.9	25.4
Dehradun.....	...	23.0	7.9	Puducherry.....	...	31.2	20.2
Gangtok.....	...	14.7	7.7	Pune.....	...	31.2	18.0
Goa.....	...	34.0	23.5	Raipur.....	...	28.6	15.6
Guwahati.....	...	26.4	13.8	Ranchi.....	...	25.0	11.6
Hubballi.....	...	28.0	18.0	Shillong.....	...	14.0	5.1
Hyderabad.....	...	28.9	17.5	Shimla.....	...	13.3	4.5
Imphal.....	...	23.2	8.4	Srinagar.....	...	6.4	-1.4
Jaipur.....	...	24.3	10.2	Thiruvananthapuram.....	...	14.2	32.6
Kochi.....	...	32.4	24.6	Tiruchi.....	...	31.7	22.0
Kohima.....	...	24.4	6.4	Vijayawada.....	...	31.0	21.0
Kolkata.....	...	28.1	16.4	Visakhapatnam.....	...	30.2	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing								Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE		
Ahmedabad.....	66	35	11	140	108	...	■	In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh
Bengaluru.....	04	55	76	...	55	...	■	recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 449 indicating a dangerous level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 39.
Chennai.....	03	32	24	...	85	...	■	
Delhi.....	14	116	89	...	471	...	■	
Hyderabad.....	17	66	46	...	195	...	■	
Kolkata.....	17	98	25	...	225	...	■	
Lucknow.....	28	99	40	...	451	...	■	
Mumbai.....	...	109	40	...	237	...	■	
Pune.....	99	17	54	...	130	...	■	
Visakhapatnam	13	48	38	...	144	...	■	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Ban pre-wedding shoots, say Jains, Sindhis in M.P.

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Jain, Sindhi and Gujarati groups in Bhopal have called for a ban on pre-wedding photoshoots and male choreographers during marriages as they “violate traditions”, “rupture relations” and cause “embarrassment to families”.
“It’s not about the money, but the spread of ob-

scenity,” said Bhagwandeve Israni, president, Sindhi Central Panchayat, Bhopal. Pramod Jain, president, Digambar Jain Panchayat Committee Trust, said, “This is not acceptable to our elders.” Though such shoots are not as prevalent in the Gujarati community, they should be pre-empted, said Sanjay Patel, president, Gujarati Samaj.

Heavy metals contaminating India’s rivers

Samples from 65% of testing sites unsafe: survey

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Samples taken from two-thirds of the water quality stations spanning India’s major rivers showed contamination by one or more heavy metals, exceeding safe limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

The findings are part of a report, which is the third edition of an exercise conducted by the Central Water Commission (CWC) from May 2014 to April 2018.

Samples from only one-third of water quality stations were safe. The rest, or 287 (65%) of the 442 sampled, were polluted by heavy metals. Samples from 101 sta-

Pollution check

Instances when metals exceed the threshold value in some key rivers. The threshold value is an averaged index that captures the persistence of pollutants through the year as well as their lethal capacity

River	Chromium	Lead	Iron
Ganga	Exceeds		Exceeds
Yamuna			Exceeds
Brahmaputra			Exceeds
Ramganga		Exceeds	
Rapti	Exceeds		Exceeds
Narmada			Exceeds
Godavari			Exceeds

SOURCE: CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION STUDY



tions had contamination by two metals, six stations saw contamination by three metals.

Iron emerged as the most common contaminant with 156 of the sampled sites re-

gistering levels of the metal above safe limits. None of the sites registered arsenic levels above the safe limit.

The presence of metals in drinking water is to some extent unavoidable and certain

metals, in trace amounts, required for good health. However, when present above safe limits, they are associated with a range of disorders.

Long-term exposure to the above-mentioned heavy metals may result in slowly progressing physical, muscular, and neurological degenerative processes that mimic Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis.

20 river basins

The other major contaminants found in the samples were lead, nickel, chromium, cadmium and copper. The study spanned 67 rivers in 20 river basins. Lead, cadmium, nickel, chromium and copper contamination were more common in non-monsoon periods while iron, lead, chromium and copper

exceeded ‘tolerance limits’ in monsoon periods most of the time. “Arsenic and zinc are the two toxic metals whose concentration was always obtained within the limits throughout the study period,” the report noted.

Not all the rivers are equally sampled. Several rivers have only been sampled at a single site whereas others such as the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Godavari are sampled at multiple sites. Marked variation was found in contamination levels depending on the season.

Samples were collected in three different seasons: pre-monsoon, monsoon and post-monsoon.

The main sources of heavy metal pollution are mining, milling, plating and surface finishing industries that discharge a variety of toxic metals into the environment.

Visva-Bharati University set to shift its weekend

Varsity may shift it to Saturday-Sunday

BISHWANATH GHOSH
SANTINIKETAN

Visva-Bharati, started by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921, is likely to ring in the New Year with a heated debate as the University appears set to shift its weekend from Wednesday-Thursday to Saturday-Sunday.

Several meetings have taken place in the recent months regarding the shift. Though no formal announcement has been made, the change is expected to be effected from the beginning of 2020. “The decision is in the pipeline, though a notification has not been issued yet,” Visva-Bharati PRO Anirban Sircar told *The Hindu*.

The shift, if it happens, will mark a major departure from tradition. Santiniketan, in keeping with the Brahmo Samaj practice, has always observed Wednesday – and not Sunday – as the weekly holiday. When

Central universities began to have two days off in a week, Visva-Bharati first chose Sunday as the additional day-off before settling for a Wednesday-Thursday weekend.

This is detrimental to its functioning because Visva-Bharati, being the only Centre-run University in West Bengal, is unable to respond promptly to communications it receives mid-week from the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the University Grants Commission.

There are many who see this as an attack on tradition and on Tagore by the Centre. But, a large number of teachers appear to be in support of the idea. “Many teachers have their children studying and spouses working in non-Santiniketan institutions where the weekend is Saturday-Sunday,” said Sudipta Bhattacharyya, a professor of economics.

IN BRIEF



Shore temple facing severe sea erosion

CHENNAI

The shoreline on the northern side of the Shore Temple in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu is facing severe sea erosion. The Public Works Department is awaiting funds to construct groynes for coastal protection at a cost of ₹95.95 crore. According to PWD, every year, nearly 4-5 m of the shoreline near the temple is declining.

ED attaches properties linked to Iqbal Mirchi

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached properties linked to international drug dealer Iqbal Mirchi, who died in the United Kingdom in 2013. They are currently worth about ₹600 crore. The assets include the third and fourth floors of one Ceejay House and three flats at Worli, an office at Arun Chambers, and three shops at Crawford Market in Mumbai, besides bungalows and land in Lonavala, Maharashtra.

ED conducts searches in Punjab in bank fraud case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday conducted searches against a company and its related entities in Chhattisgarh in connection with a bank fraud running into crores. The searches were part of the probe on the basis of an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation in December 2018. The CBI had lodged the case on a complaint from the Central Bank of India.

Odisha’s Rushikulya sees first olive ridley nesting

BERHAMPUR

Marking the first sporadic nesting in the current season, an olive ridley turtle laid 149 eggs on a mass nesting beach at the Rushikulya rookery coast on Tuesday. While the first nesting has occurred on the coast, mass mating of the turtles has already started at sea. On November 2, another olive ridley had laid eggs on the coast, said officials.