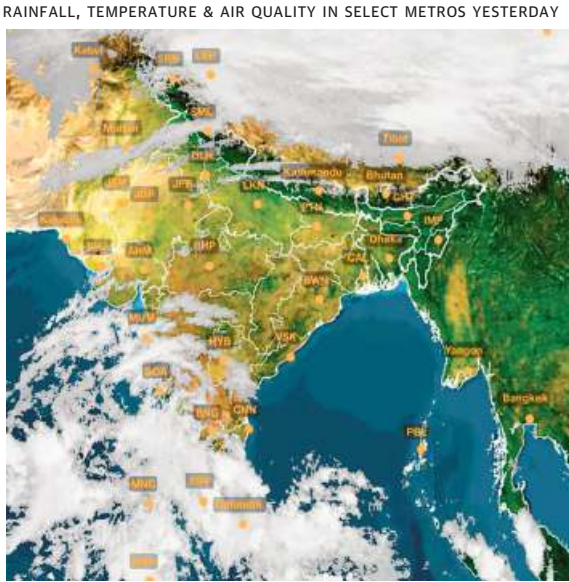


WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Saturday: Dense fog in isolated pockets likely over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, south Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, north Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and sub-Himalayan West Bengal. Cold day conditions likely in some pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	20.0	12.0	Kozhikode	.....	35.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	28.0	15.0	Kurnool	.....	31.0	20.0
Aizawl	19.0	8.0	Lucknow	.....	18.0	7.0
Allahabad	20.0	7.0	Madurai	.....	30.0	23.0
Bengaluru	26.0	16.0	Mangaluru	.....	36.0	23.0
Bhopal	25.0	11.0	Mumbai	.....	30.0	17.0
Bhubaneswar	27.0	12.0	Mysuru	.....	28.0	17.0
Chandigarh	17.0	10.0	New Delhi	.....	17.0	6.0
Chennai	30.0	25.0	Patna	.....	19.0	8.0
Coimbatore	30.0	20.0	Port Blair	.....	30.0	25.0
Dehradun	22.0	9.0	Puducherry	.....	29.0	21.0
Gangtok	14.0	8.0	Pune	.....	29.0	16.0
Goa	32.0	23.0	Raipur	.....	28.0	15.0
Guwahati	23.0	12.0	Ranchi	.....	22.0	7.0
Hubballi	28.0	18.0	Shillong	.....	15.0	6.0
Hyderabad	29.0	17.0	Shimla	.....	12.0	5.0
Imphal	23.0	7.0	Srinagar	.....	6.0	3.0
Jaipur	22.0	9.0	Thiruvananthapuram	.....	27.0	24.0
Kochi	33.0	24.0	Tiruchi	.....	30.0	22.0
Kohima	17.0	6.0	Vijayawada	.....	30.0	21.0
Kolkata	22.0	12.0	Visakhapatnam	.....	29.0	21.0

(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	46	37	17	227	162	■
Bengaluru	4	26	53	66	97	■
Chennai	7	34	27	102	---	■
Delhi	10	57	109	484	452	■
Hyderabad	3	76	44	166	---	■
Kolkata	14	57	36	232	156	■
Lucknow	29	8	47	372	---	■
Mumbai	17	109	33	247	185	■
Pune	81	30	74	216	142	■
Visakhapatnam	9	35	54	133	113	■

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

Irrigation scam: Ajit Pawar gets all clear

ACB says ‘no criminal liability’ has been found in its affidavit before Bombay HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed an affidavit before the Bombay High Court stating that “no criminal liability has been disclosed” on the part of Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar in its investigations into 12 irrigation projects in Vidarbha during his tenure.

The affidavit, filed before the Nagpur bench of the High Court on Thursday, was signed by ACB Director-General Param Bir Singh and is in response to a demand by Atul Jagtap, whose petition

before the HC led to a Special Investigation Team being formed to probe the alleged irregularities.

Mr. Jagtap had demanded that the probe be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation, as the ACB investigation was very slow. The ACB’s affidavit details the investigation conducted so far as well as its results, on the various tenders awarded by the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC).

24 FIRs filed
“Investigations have been completed into 102 tenders



Ajit Pawar

by the Nagpur SIT and 57 tenders by the Amravati SIT so far. Some of those tenders are of high value. Where cognisable offences are disclosed, FIRs have been registered. So far, we have registered 24 FIRs and re-

ferred 14 matters to the Water Resources Department for permission for registration of FIR as required under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Open inquiries into 45 tenders have been closed,” the affidavit said.

The affidavit also submitted that detailed questionnaires were provided to Mr. Pawar in connection with the 12 projects for which he was under the scanner, and his responses, along with the other evidence, had been examined.

“The ACB has also recommended departmental action against the concerned officials where procedural and administrative lapses are noticed. As regards the role of Respondent No. 7 (Mr.

Pawar), no criminal liability is disclosed during the course of enquiry/investigation by the Special Investigation Team,” the affidavit said.

Delay in probe
The document further refuted allegations of a delay in the probe, citing the time it takes for careful examination of various documents, statements of witnesses and legal aspects pertaining to the projects.

The development comes less than a month after the ACB ruled out Mr. Pawar’s involvement in nine other applications seeking an inquiry against him during his tenure as Irrigation Minister as well as the Chairman of the VIDC.

CBI court convicts rape accused after swift trial

Hearing finished in just over a month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A special CBI court in Ranchi on Friday convicted 23-year-old Rahul Raj for rape and murder, on the fourth anniversary of the Nirbhaya case, in a swift trial that was completed in a little over a month, officials said.

Special CBI judge A.K. Mishra found Raj guilty of raping and then murdering the victim, who was an engineering student at a college in Ranchi.

The quantum of punishment will be pronounced on Saturday, a CBI spokesperson said.

The body of the victim was found on December 16, 2016, in her house in the Booty Basti area, where she lived alone, said CBI officials.

The agency took over the case after over a year, when

the Central government issued a notification on January 25, 2018.

The case had triggered huge student protests in Ranchi and the victim had been named “Ranchi’s Nirbhaya.”

Several cases

During its investigation, the CBI came to know that Raj had 10 cases registered against him in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, officials said. He was arrested in Patna for an alleged sexual attack on a minor and was in judicial custody for over three years after he had jumped the bail.

The conviction came on the same day the CBI secured life imprisonment for expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar for raping a minor girl in Uttar Pradesh’s Unao district on June 4, 2017.

Will form Ayodhya trust soon: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has said it is working on the modalities for setting up a trust for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya, as mandated by the Supreme Court.

In its November 9 verdict, the court asked the Centre to set up a trust within three months. As per the judgment in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, the Centre must formulate a scheme with provisions for the setting up of a trust with a board of trustees or any other appropriate body, the functioning of the trust, the powers of the trustees, land transfer to the trust and all incidental and supplemental matters.

“A trust will be set up within the stipulated time,” a senior official said.

Villagers skip public hearing on JSW project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

A public hearing for a proposed steel project of JSW Utkal Steel Limited on land previously acquired for a POSCO project was held at Odisha’s Jagatsinghpur on Friday. However, about 80% of the residents of the Nuagaon, Gadakujang and Dhinkia gram panchayats did not participate.

Congress leader Lalatendu Mohapatra said the administration and the company were trying to move ahead with the project without consulting the residents, who had opposed the POSCO project for several years in the past.