

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 Wednesday: Heavy rain/snow likely over isolated places in Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm accompanied with hail and lightning likely over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, eastern Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	18.4	10.8
Ahmedabad	—	31.0	16.7
Aizawl	—	—	—
Allahabad	—	24.5	11.5
Bengaluru	—	—	18.9
Bhopal	—	—	—
Bhubaneswar	—	25.2	12.0
Chandigarh	8.6	14.6	11.1
Chennai	2.1	30.1	24.9
Coimbatore	—	32.0	21.6
Dehradun	11.2	15.1	10.1
Gangtok	3.3	—	3.8
Goa	—	33.0	24.3
Guwahati	—	—	—
Hubballi	—	29.0	19.0
Hyderabad	—	—	—
Imphal	—	—	—
Jaipur	—	23.3	12.8
Kochi	—	33.6	25.2
Kohima	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	21.6	12.2

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Kozhikode	—	35.2	25.0
Kurnool	0.2	31.6	22.2
Lucknow	—	23.1	12.2
Madurai	—	34.0	22.6
Mangaluru	—	—	23.0
Mumbai	—	34.4	19.6
Mysuru	—	—	20.8
New Delhi	—	19.1	11.6
Patna	—	19.8	9.2
Port Blair	1.3	30.4	24.6
Puducherry	1.0	30.9	22.6
Pune	—	30.3	16.3
Raipur	—	26.8	12.4
Ranchi	—	21.4	8.6
Shillong	—	—	—
Shimla	21.8	5.0	-0.1
Srinagar	—	—	—
Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	24.2
Tiruchi	1.2	31.0	23.4
Vijayawada	—	29.2	22.0
Visakhapatnam	—	27.5	20.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	65	30	40	139	148	—
Bengaluru	13	54	95	—	74	—
Chennai	—	30	42	73	—	—
Delhi	12	26	105	327	214	—
Hyderabad	2	62	42	124	103	—
Kolkata	24	79	28	290	219	—
Lucknow	46	102	70	386	—	—
Mumbai	13	39	41	232	141	—
Pune	76	30	83	230	153	—
Visakhapatnam	13	31	49	95	101	—

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 394 indicating a hazardous level of pollution. In contrast, Tirupati, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 34

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

'It is up to States to provide 10% quota'

Centre responds to charge that law is not implemented in T.N. and Karnataka

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI
The Centre on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that it would be the States' prerogative to provide 10% economic reservation in government jobs and admission to education institutions. "Whether or not to provide reservation to the economically weaker section in appointment to State government jobs and admission to State government educational institutions, as per provisions of the newly inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) of the Constitution, is to be decided by the State government concerned," the Centre said in an affidavit. The Centre was responding to a writ petition from Supreme Court advocate G.S. Mani complaining that the economic reservation law was not being implemented in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. However, the Centre said its Department of Social Justice and Empowerment "has no role in deciding the reservation policy of any State government". As per the notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training on

Quota cauldron: The law has been put in place for people not covered under the 50% reservation policy. • K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

January 19, 2019, persons whose family has a gross annual income below ₹8 lakh are identified as those belonging to the economically weaker section. It said the 10% reservation law was enacted to promote the well-

fare of the poor not covered by the 50% reservation policy for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

It has been nearly six months since a Bench, led by Justice Sharad A. Bobde, now the Chief Justice of India, has reserved orders on the preliminary question that whether a bunch of writ petitions challenging the economic reservation law should be referred to a Constitution Bench.

The court had refused to pass any interim order to stay or hamper the implementation of the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, which provides for the 10% reservation.

Celebrated painter and artist Akbar Padamsee passes away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE
Noted painter and artist Akbar Padamsee died at the Isha Yoga Center near Coimbatore late on Monday night. He was 91.

Paying tribute to the artist, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of the Isha Foundation, said: "Akbar Padamsee, a genius of color and craft, it has been our fortune to have you spend the last part of your life with us at Isha Yoga Center. Generations to come shall relish and be inspired by your magic of color."

No restrictions
Padamsee refused to be restricted to any artistic categories. He had once said, "Do not label me or my art." His paintings extensively depicted the elements and senses. "It is actually Shiva's Metascape," he said of a form

Akbar Padamsee

he had a special affinity to. "I came to know about Dhyanalinga through books. The moment I saw the picture of the Dhyanalinga temple on the cover of a book, I knew that I was looking at a 21st century temple," he once said referring to the famous yogic temple at the Yoga Center, an official release from Isha recounted. Though Akbar Padamsee was known for his radical

paintings, he was also a photographer, sculptor, filmmaker, engraver and lithographer.

But Padamsee was most recognized and decorated for his paintings which have found a place of prominence in eminent galleries in India and around the world. His brother was the late filmmaker and adman Alyque Padamsee.

Free-spirited
Born into a Muslim family, Padamsee embraced a free-spirited outlook, that was reflected in the versatile themes of his work. He was deeply influenced by Vivekananda's commentary on the *yogasutras* of Patanjali, and studied *Shilpa Shastra*, the ancient text on the art of sculpting. Padamsee was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2010.

IOB officials booked for illegal transaction

DEVESH K PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked a regional resource manager, two assistant managers and a clerk of the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) for allegedly helping a company and its proprietor get ₹90 crore illegally transferred to their accounts.

Timely action by other bank officials resulted in preventing the withdrawal of money from the accounts of accused persons.

Among those named as accused in the FIR are Green Valley Ministries Welfare Association (Visakhapatnam), a company named Bhaktinidhi and its proprietor Bellamkonda Murali Krishna Sharma, IOB regional resource manager Heli Veepuri, assistant managers Kandirathi Sreesha and Vuyyala Suresh and clerk

Mothukuri Adinarayana. It is alleged that in September last year, Mr. Veepuri got opened a current account in the name of Green Valley Ministries Welfare Association in another branch. He then allegedly got a cheque for ₹90 crore, dated October 24, 2019, in the organisation's name. The FIR alleges that Mr. Veepuri personally took the cheque to the bank's Mangalagiri branch the same day and without waiting for its clearance, got the amount debited and parked in the NEFT sundry creditors account. Through eight transactions, ₹89 crore was transferred to the account of Bhaktinidhi with HDFC Bank and ₹1 crore was diverted to that of Mr. Sharma's account with a different IOB branch.

IN BRIEF

'Onions being offered at ₹49-58/kg to States'

NEW DELHI
The Centre has imported 12,000 tonnes of onion that is being offered to State governments at ₹49-58 per kg to bring prices under control, Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said. By the month-end, an additional 36,000 tonnes of imported onion are expected to arrive. PTI

Nationwide trade union strike today

NEW DELHI
Terming the government's policies "anti-worker", central trade unions have given a call for an all-India general strike on Wednesday to oppose the labour codes being implemented, the proposed privatisation of public sector undertakings and the Citizenship Amendment Act.

T.N. CM defends action taken on 'kolam' issue

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Tuesday told the State Legislative Assembly that action was taken against those who drew *kolam* (with anti-CAA/NRC messages) in Chennai, because they chose to do it in front of others houses.

Thirteen girls escape from shelter home

BERHAMPUR
Two security guards and the warden of Utkal Balashram were terminated from their jobs after thirteen minor girls escaped from Utkal Balashram, a child care institution in Odisha's Berhampur, said District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Subodh Kumar Sadangi.

Army gets working on GOCO model to improve efficiency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Army has started identifying potential industry partners to implement the Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model for its base workshops and ordnance depots.

A Request For Information was issued on December 19, 2019 to shortlist service providers with experience in "warehousing, logistics and supply chain management" for Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur. The Army has also started evaluating the GOCO model for Army Base Workshops (ABW) to drive "higher operational efficiencies".

"The agenda of these interactions would be to understand from interest

ed industry participants their views on opportunities envisaged and issues/concerns if ABWs were to be run under GOCO model," the official notice says. The last date to send responses is January 10.

The tasks undertaken by these workshops include depot-level repairs; overhaul of T-72 and T-90, guns, mortars and small arms, vehicles, communication systems, radars, air defence systems, armoured personnel carriers; manufacture of spares and overhaul of aviation rotables.

The GOCO model was one of the recommendations of the Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (Retd.) committee to "enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure."

SC to hear pleas challenging Delhi HC order on ultrasonography

It mandated six months' training to perform the procedure

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear, in detail, pleas challenging a Delhi High Court decision removing the mandatory six-month training required under law for performing ultrasonography.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde scheduled the case for hearing on April 8.

In March 2018, the Supreme Court had passed an

interim order staying the operation of the High Court's February 17, 2016 order. The SC had said prima facie, the HC verdict transgressed into an area of legislative policy.

"The Training Rules 2014 were made by the Central government in exercise of the power conferred by Parliament. Prima facie, the Rules are neither ultra vires the parent legislation nor do they suffer from manifest arbitrariness," the court had observed

in its interim order.

The Supreme court had also observed that the High Court had "squarely impinged" on its November 2016 judgment in the *Voluntary Health Association of Punjab* case, which called for the strict implementation of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) (Six Months Training) Rules, 2014, to bring to an end the social evil of female foeticide.

Mega human chain planned

STAFF REPORTER
PATNA

The Bihar government has made it compulsory for all school students and teachers to participate in the over 16,000 km long human chain to be organized across the State on Jan. 19 to raise awareness about climate change.

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