

Maharashtra among hottest places in India as heat streak continues

Agency: Parts of Maharashtra, especially locations in Vidarbha, were among the hottest places in India on Saturday as above-normal maximum temperatures continue to persist for over a month, taking a severe toll on those without air-conditioners and adequate cooling facilities.

The extended heat spell has been going on since early Feb, with sporadic instances when even night temperatures have been high. These high day temperatures have been coupled with a significant drop in humidity. For instance, in Pune, relative humidity has been in the range of 16-25% during afternoons, making it more uncomfortable. Experts said the combination of high temperatures and low humidity levels "creates a dangerous situation for the human body". When humidity is low, sweat evaporates quickly from the skin. This might give a false sense of comfort, but actually accelerates dehydration.

Friday's data confirmed the continuing trend, with

Chandrapur recording a scorching 41.4°C, making it not only the hottest spot in Maharashtra but also among the hottest in India. Most stations are recording temperatures 3-5 degrees above normal, with Amravati showing a departure of nearly 5 degrees and Wardha 6 degrees above the normal values. The Vidarbha region remains most affected, with seven spots there either touching or crossing the 40°C-mark.

"Heatwave conditions are likely to prevail in Vidarbha region for the next two days," said S D Sanap, scientist at IMD Pune. "We, however, do not anticipate heatwave conditions in Madhya Maharashtra, Konkan or Marathwada during this period. There are indications of light rainfall in Marathwada around March 20-21."

Several locations outside Maharashtra also recorded scorching temperatures on Saturday. In Odisha, Boudh reached 42.5°C, making it the hottest location in the state and among the hottest ones in India. On Saturday, over nine stations across Maharashtra crossed the 40°C-mark — Akola (41.3°C), Wardha (41°C), Chandrapur (42°C), Bramhapuri (40.8°C), Amravati (40.4°C), Nagpur (40.2°C), Solapur (40.3°C), Lohegaon (40.3°C) and Maledgaon (40°C).

The Vidarbha region

continues to bear the brunt of the heat, with six of its monitoring stations recording temperatures above 40°C. Temperature departures from normal remained significant, with Wardha showing the highest departure at 6 degrees above normal, followed by Chandrapur at 5 degrees, Bramhapuri 4.9 degrees and Akola and Amravati 4.6 degrees above normal.

"Heatwave conditions are likely to prevail in Vidarbha region for the next two days," said S D Sanap, scientist at IMD Pune. "We, however, do not anticipate heatwave conditions in Madhya Maharashtra, Konkan or Marathwada during this period. There are indications of light rainfall in Marathwada around March 20-21."

Several locations outside Maharashtra also recorded scorching temperatures on Saturday. In Odisha, Boudh reached 42.5°C, making it the hottest location in the country. Parts of Odisha experienced similarly extreme heat, with Sambalpur (42.2°C), Jharsuguda (41.8°C), and

Angul (41.7°C) registering temperatures well above 40°C. Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh recorded a maximum temperature of 40.5°C.

In Jharkhand, three locations crossed the 40°C threshold, including Chaibasa (41.0°C) and Daltonganj (40.7°C), Telangana's Adilabad also joined the list at 40.8°C.

Sanap explained that the current weather models were not yet showing clear signals for pre-monsoon showers in Madhya Maharashtra. "We are continuously monitoring the situation. At present, we have not issued any rainfall forecast for Madhya Maharashtra."

Sanap confirmed that day temperatures had

consistently remained above normal since Feb across most parts of Maharashtra. "We expect a marginal relief from the current high temperatures starting Sunday or Monday, though the decrease will likely be modest — around 1-2°C. Some moisture incursion has begun, which could influence weather patterns in the coming days," he said.

In Pune city, Koregaon Park (40.4°C) was the hottest location on Saturday, followed by Lohegaon. Shivajinagar recorded a day temperature of 38.7°C, but the location can expect a drop to 36-37°C in the coming days because of a forecast of partly cloudy skies in afternoon and evening.

Amazon and Flipkart warehouses raided Kitchen appliances, electrical equipment seized

Agency: India's Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has conducted extensive search and seizure operations at warehouses of leading e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart. The Consumer Affairs Ministry said in a statement that the raids are aimed to curb the distribution of non-compliant products through e-commerce platforms. The raids, aimed at curbing the sale of substandard goods, revealed some uncertified items, including toys, kitchen appliances, and electrical equipment.

The operations, conducted in cities like Lucknow, Gurugram, and Delhi, targeted warehouses of Amazon and Flipkart, as well as facilities of Techvision International Pvt Ltd, a key supplier of these non-certified products. Notably, raids at Amazon warehouses in Lucknow and Gurugram resulted in the seizure of hundreds of uncertified toys, hand blenders, aluminium foils, metallic water bottles, PVC cables, food mixers, and speakers. Similarly, a Flipkart warehouse operated by Instakart Services Pvt Ltd in Gurugram was found to be stocking hundreds of uncertified stainless steel bottles, toys, and

speakers. BIS investigations traced the source of these non-certified products to Techvision International Pvt Ltd, leading to raids at two of their facilities in Delhi. "BIS's investigations into multiple violations on both Amazon and Flipkart traced non-certified products back to Techvision International Pvt Ltd," said the ministry. These raids uncovered approximately 7,000 electric water heaters, 4,000 electric food mixers, 95 electric room heaters, and 40 gas stoves, all lacking mandatory BIS certification. Brands identified in the seized products include Digismart, Activa, Inalsa, Cello Swift, and Butterfly, among others, as per the ministry statement.

The Consumer Affairs Ministry emphasized that BIS certification is mandatory for these products due to the potential hazards they pose.

Non-certified products, lacking the ISI Mark or bearing an invalid license number, have not undergone independent third-party testing to ensure they meet minimum safety and performance standards.

BIS has identified that several non-certified products are being sold on e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho, Myntra, and BigBasket. BIS has initiated legal action under the BIS Act, 2016, against the responsible entities, including filing two court cases against M/s Techvision International

Akal Takht panel asks Punjabis to reach Golden Temple on March 18

Agency: The five-member Akal Takht panel formed to elect new leadership of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) issued an appeal on Sunday morning, calling Punjabis to assemble at the Golden Temple, Amritsar, on March 18 to become members of the SAD. Manpreet Ayali, speaking for the panel, which also includes Gurpartap Wadala, Santa Umapuri, Satwant Kaur and Iqbal Jhunda, said the membership drive would begin on Tuesday.

"I appeal to the Sikhs, Punjabis and all supporters of the Panth to reach the Golden Temple, where the membership will begin at 11 am after 'ardaa', said Ayali. The SAD, in confrontation with the Akal Takht on the issue, had already started its membership drive on January 20. In an earlier statement, SAD spokesperson



cameras with Riibe walking arm-in-arm around 4:15 a.m. on the same night. A student of the University of Pittsburgh, she had been on

spring break since March 3, when she arrived in the Caribbean. Riibe, who was with her at the time, is not considered a suspect by the investigators, but rather a "person of interest" in the case. Authorities have

speculated that Konanki may have drowned after entering the ocean, where she is presumed to have drowned. However, authorities stated that the clothing showed no evidence of tampering. Konanki was last seen on the morning of March 6 at around 5:50 am with Josh Riibe at an upscale resort in Punta Cana. She was captured on the surveillance

Immigration Bill proposes 7-year jail for using forged passport

Agency: Anyone found using a forged passport or visa for entering, staying or exiting India will be punished with a jail term of up to seven years and a fine of Rs 10 lakh if the new immigration bill is approved by Parliament. The legislation, piloted by the Union Home Ministry, also provides for mandatory reporting of information about foreigners by hotels, universities, other educational institutes, hospitals and nursing homes to enable tracking of overstaying foreigners.

All international airlines and ships will also be required to submit at a port or place in India the passenger and crew manifest, the advance information of passengers and crew on board of such aircraft, vessel or other mode of transport.

"Whoever knowingly uses or supplies a forged or fraudulently obtained passport or other travel document or visa for entering into India or staying in or exiting from

Drugs worth Rs 88 crore seized

Agency: A massive consignment of methamphetamine tablets worth Rs 88 crore was seized and four members of an international drug cartel were arrested in Imphal and Guwahati zones, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday. In a post on X, Shah said there will be no mercy for drug cartels. He congratulated the NCB for the successful operation, stating that the drug haul is a testament to the stellar performance of the bottom-to-top and top-to-bottom approach towards investigation.

The first operation took place on March 13, when NCB Imphal Zone officials, acting on a tip-off, intercepted a truck near the Lilong area. After a detailed inspection, the team recovered 102.39 kg of Methamphetamine tablets hidden in the truck's toolbox and rear cabin. Two occupants of the truck were arrested. Accelerating the Modi govt's march to build a drug-free Bharat, a massive consignment of methamphetamine tablets worth 88 crore was seized, and 4 members of the international drug cartel are arrested in Imphal and Guwahati zones.

Vadodara car crash culprit

Rakshit Chaurasia was let off with just an apology last month



While that incident may have been ignored, two of the youths involved in the Fatehgunj incident were also involved in the Karelibaug fatal accident case. Rakshit Chaurasia and Pranshu Chauhan were in the car that was involved in the accident. Sayajigunj police inspector Z N Ghasura said a station diary entry was made regarding the compromise struck by the two sides on Feb 19. Ghasura said that the apartments where the ruckus was taking place was rented by three students, who are from Madhya Pradesh, Nepal and Uttarakhand. He added that the other persons had assembled at the flat on the day after which the arguments took place between the lawyer and the youths. The matter came to

Tantrik hangs 6-month-old over fire in MP's Shivpuri, eyes damaged



light only recently. To the surprise of police, the child's parents initially tried to shield Raghuvir, claiming that the child was accidentally injured in a fire while making tea.

However, this defense did not hold, and a formal case was registered against tantrik Raghuvir Dhakad. Talking to local media an ophthalmologist at the district hospital, confirmed that both of

the baby's corneas were

burned in the incident.

The child's eyesight

prognosis remains

uncertain, and doctors

will assess whether the

child can regain vision

within the next 72 hours.

The child was in the ICU.

Kolaras police said that

given the seriousness of

the incident, they have

registered a case against

Raghuvir Dhakad for

hanging the child over the

fire. He is absconding,

and a search is underway.

Immigration Bill proposes 7-year jail for using forged passport

Agency: Anyone found using a forged passport or visa for entering, staying or exiting India will be punished with a jail term of up to seven years and a fine of Rs 10 lakh if the new immigration bill is approved by Parliament. The legislation, piloted by the Union Home Ministry, also provides for mandatory reporting of information about foreigners by hotels, universities, other educational institutes, hospitals and nursing homes to enable tracking of overstaying foreigners.

All international airlines and ships will also be required to submit at a port or place in India the passenger and crew manifest, the advance information of passengers and crew on board of such aircraft, vessel or other mode of transport.

"Whoever knowingly uses or supplies a forged or fraudulently obtained passport or other travel document or visa for entering into India or staying in or exiting from