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No heatwave expected in Bengaluru: Met dept

Godwin Emmanuel

BENGALURU: Despite the high temperature in Bengaluru, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said no heatwave is expected in the city.

IMD meteorologist Sadananda Adiga told The Beacon, "Bengaluru is going to have a harsh summer, but there are chances for the temperature to go down as well."

He added, "When the temperature crosses 40°C and more, then a heatwave alert will be issued."

The forecast for the next seven days is for mostly clear to partly cloudy skies.

Meanwhile, several Bengalureans expressed concerns on social media, fearing a heatwave as the city recorded a maximum temperature of 36° Celsius on Wednesday, March 23.

Many parts of Karnataka witnessed an increase in temperature; Kalaburagi touched an all-time high with 37.5° Celsius.

Districts like Raichur, Koppal, and Vijayapura saw a rise in temperature as well.

"The typical Bengaluru weather is the boiling sun in the morning, a breezy cloudy afternoon, and a chilly night. But these days, it's hot 24x7. There is something wrong," said Mahesh Krishna, an IT professional.

Prathibha valedictory ceremony somber

Aamir Sohail

CAMPUS: "It was a really hard year for us," said Aditi Sinha, cultural secretary of the student council of St Joseph's College (Autonomous) at the valedictory ceremony of Prathibha held on Wednesday, March 31.

She spoke about the challenges of conducting Prathibha in the circumstances, "especially with regards to the registrations which we thought would be low."

Angeline Katherina, general secretary of the student council, said about the ceremony: "It was difficult organising everything with precautions but we're glad we pulled it off. That's why we



Prathibha valedictory function

did not call a chief guest."

The ceremony was held in the auditorium of the college,

with only the winners of the contests within the fest and the presiding members

Aamir Sohail

present.

Kezia Benison, a volunteer said, "It's nice to come to

college and do this as we only have class online. And the organisers have done a really good job."

The list of winners was made public on the Sunday, March 28.

Shamith R, the third-placed winner of the rap competition, was happy that he had won and could come in person to collect the certificate.

The event was held with strict standard operating procedures (SOPs) in place, with mask-wearing and social-distancing monitored by volunteers.

Only competition winners, organisers and volunteers were present at the event, along with the Student Council supervisor.

TN polls: Amplifiers disturb

Iswarya Lakshmi B

BENGALURU: With just one week to the Tamil Nadu state elections, residents from different parts of their state expressed concern over excessive use of loudspeakers in campaigns.

"I don't mind anybody campaigning, but the loudspeakers are at high volume. My husband is 80 years old and the noise panics him," said K Sakunthala, a senior citizen from Salem.

Many other senior citizens



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with health issues say they are affected by the use of loudspeakers.

And they are not alone. R Deva Ragini, a class 12 student from Coimbatore, said the constant noise is

affecting her concentration as she studies for her ongoing practical examinations.

She added that campaigning is taking place near schools and greatly disturbing students.

Delhi airport to conduct random Covid-19 tests

Pranav Shriram

NEW DELHI: The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced on Wednesday, March 31, that it would conduct Covid-19 tests on the premises for all domestic passengers, amid the rise in the number of cases in multiple states.

"As per the latest govt mandate, District Disaster Management Authorities shall conduct random Covid-19 testing of passengers coming from the states where the cases are increasing [sic]," read a DIAL statement issued on Twitter.

Adhering to protocols set by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), the statement also pointed out that travellers who test positive for the virus would be compulsorily quarantined. Earlier, the Union Civil

Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri issued an advisory to all airports regarding the increasing number of cases in the country.

He emphasised on the importance of wearing masks covering the face and nose, and the maintenance of social distancing.

The advisory also highlighted possible repercussions of the failure of following these guidelines. In the statement posted on Twitter, he said, "We are moving in direction of punitive action by police against passengers who don't comply. [sic]"

According to the MoHFW, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh account for 84.73 percent of the new cases registered in the last 24 hours (Tuesday to Wednesday).

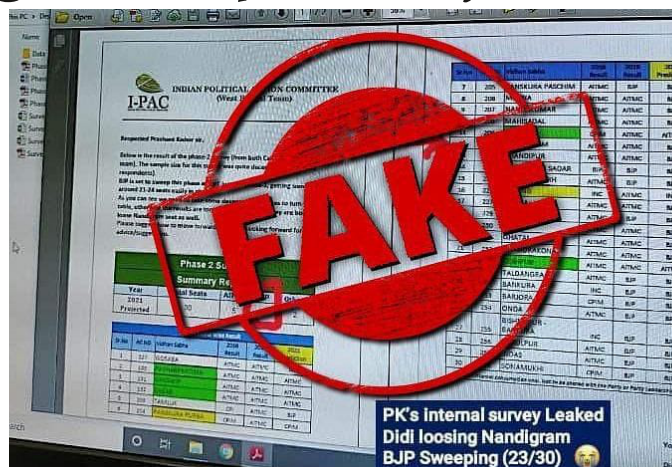
I-PAC: Bengal BJP put out fake survey result

Niranjan Damodaran

Political strategist Prashanth Kishore's consultancy firm Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) claimed on Wednesday, March 31, that the West Bengal unit of the BJP was using a fake image with its name to project the party's win in the upcoming Assembly elections in the state.

The tweet contained the disputed photo that had a survey result from I-PAC, which implied a big victory for the BJP in the state.

"Facing imminent defeat, (BJP) has now gone down to



Representational Image

Twitter

the level of using FAKE surveys in the name of I-PAC to keep the morale of the workers up," read the tweet.

It also said that in I-PAC, no one uses desktops.

Responding to the issue, Bengal BJP spokesperson

Keya Ghosh told The Beacon that the image being fake is immaterial.

"The BJP is winning anyway in West Bengal. Survey results may or may not be true. The fact of the matter is that the National Democratic Alliance is going to form the government," she said.

She added that youngsters in Bengal are with the BJP now, as they've seen enough corruption and need jobs.

West Bengal's Assembly elections will be held in eight phases, given the Election Commission of India dates. The polling will end on May 2.



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