

THE BEACON

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Winter was hotter than last 30 yrs on average

Worinphi Shimray

This winter was on an average around nearly 1° C hotter than the average winter temperatures in the last 30-40 years, according to the National Weather Forecasting Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

The centre observed that the average maximum, average minimum and mean temperature for the country as a whole were above normal by 0.77° C, 0.80° C and 0.78° C, respectively.

The average maximum, average minimum and mean temperature for the country as a whole during winter 2021 are 27.47° C, 15.39° C and 21.43° C, respectively, against the normal of 26.70° C, 14.59° C and 20.65° C, based on period 1981-2010.

The maximum and mean temperatures over Northwest India exceeded the normal during February by 2.94° C and 2.11° C, considered the second-warmest since 1901.

Winter rainfall for January-February 2021 was recorded 27.8 mm, which is 32 percent less than the Long Period Average (LPA) of 40.8 mm.

Rainfall over South Peninsular India (56.1mm) during the season was fourth-highest since 1901, after 1901 (61 mm), 1986 (59.9 mm) and 1984 (59.2 mm).

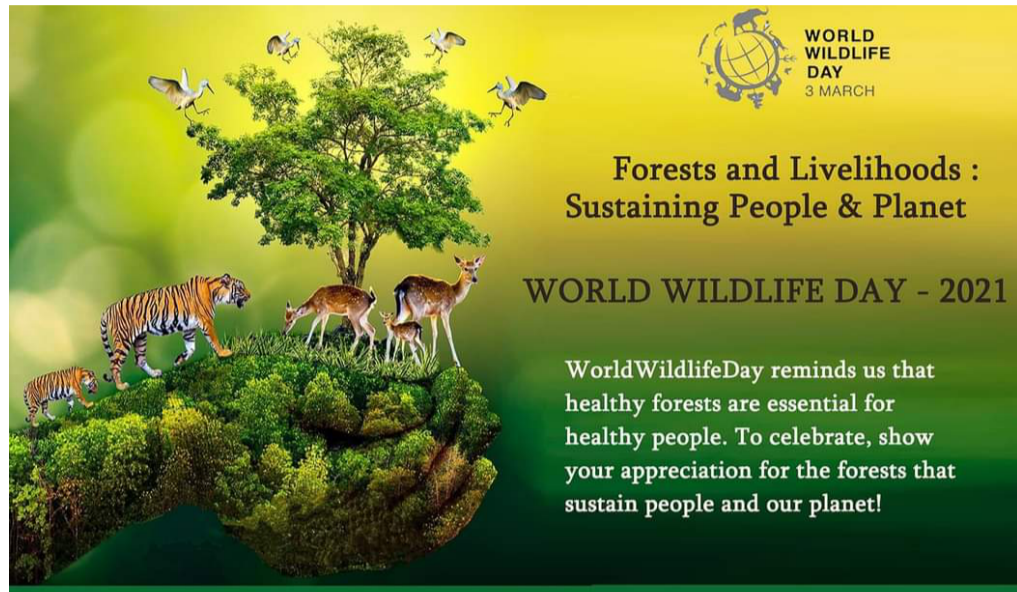
Species have own roles in world: Expert

Anna Mariam I

BENGALURU: "Each species has its own responsibility with a role to play [in the world], and they have a huge connection with the environment," said Keerthan RP, a wildlife conservationist, talking about the significance of this year's theme for World Wildlife Day: Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet.

Every year on March 3, World Wildlife Day is to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's flora and fauna. It has been celebrated since 2015, each time with a new theme.

The themes of the previous years were Sustaining All Life on Earth (2020), Life



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Below Water: For People and Planet" (2019), and Big Cats: Predators Under Threat (2018). Conservationists are

marking it this year with renewed efforts.

"If you don't conserve all these species, then there will

twitter.com/aranya_kfd

obviously be a major impact on the ecosystem," said Keerthan.

"According to me,

conservation has to be on top because it is the key to sustainable living; so, we have to save what's left," said Surya Keerthi, another wildlife conservationist, who is working to mitigate human-animal conflict in Mysuru.

He said conservationists educate people about saving wildlife species and their habitats in every rescue situation.

"Each and every animal has a role in nature, so if any one of them is taken out of the cycle, nature will be imbalanced. Hence, we should just let them be and co-exist peacefully," said

Vinay Shankar, wildlife conservationist and co-founder of SWAT (Swift Wildlife Action Team)

IMA takes on 'mixopathy'

Jesly Pulikotil

BENGALURU: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has started an online petition against the Central government's plans to allow non-allopathic doctors to perform surgeries, a move it sees as the implementation of "mixopathy."

In the petition on Change.org and addressed to the prime minister and Union ministries, among others, IMA claimed the move would be detrimental to the country's healthcare sector.

It said mixing different systems of healthcare, such as Ayurveda, Allopathy, Unani and Homoeopathy, was absurd, illogical and impractical since each system functions on different principles.

Dr Hrishikesh Kavil, a signee of the petition, said, "Each system has an individuality that will be corrupted by mixing practices."

The petition also claimed quality, safety, ethicality and professionalism would be "dumped" by Mixopathy.

IMA also said in its petition that the Central government's move would give rise to mediocre surgeons with no professional qualifications or experience. It added that the rural healthcare sector should not be called the reason for implementing this practice.

Another signee, Dr Mini N Varier, said, "I am signing this because mixing different systems which have different approaches will bring untold misery to the common man. Each system should be encouraged to do research and improve."

Hotels, eateries rue summer as water scarcity looms

Suhas Kashyap

BENGALURU: With the summer coming up, food-joint and hotel owners said they are dreading the problems they will face in sourcing water to meet their daily requirements. They find it difficult to cope with the shortages.

Nanjunda, who owns Raghavendra Coffee Kendra at Kengeri, Upanagar, said, "We rely on the Kaveri water supply to meet requirements. We have no other source. The water usually is supplied late at night or early morning on alternate days. We will have to keep a watch on it to fill up our water storage. We cannot afford to miss on it."

He added, "It is better during monsoon and winter as the authorities keep the supply for around two-three hours, but during summers they reduce it to one and a

half to two hours. It will be actually difficult for us to manage the kitchen, cleaning and drinking water needs during summer."

Prathap Shetty, owner of Udupi Aramane, Ullal, said: "We faced no water problems until the borewell we owned dried up. We are now forced to wait for the community water supply, which runs for one hour every day. We have no Kaveri water supply. It is difficult to manage the water needs. We also make efforts to save as much water as we can by reusing the output from water purifiers and air conditions."

He added, "The community water supply was sufficient in the lockdown, but the business took off after the lockdown and things have been difficult after restarting the dining hall."

'Need societal, institutional change for women'

Abhimanyu Sharma

KOTA: "In my opinion, there are two perspectives — societal and institutional — when it comes to women's rights. These are the perspectives you look for in the justice system to bring more inclusivity, more accountability," said Ayera Choudhary, a women's right activist in NCR.

She called for change in society to allow women empowerment as we approach International Women's Day.

Samiksha Gupta, a student, questioned the tradition and the hypocritical mind set of



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the government by pointing out the evils such as the dowry, honour killing, and rape survivors being forced to marry their tormentors.

She called them crimes committed against humanity in the name of culture.

Samridhi Thapliyak, also a student, said women need to

be respected as a humans. She added that women from backward classes have no voice.

Stuti Singh, another student, believes the government tries to push homophobic propaganda by distorting facts and spreading false news.

She said: "Homosexuality was celebrated in our land. Transgenders were a crucial part of our society. However, due to homophobic propaganda, they were marginalised. What we need as a society is to open our eyes, acknowledge the truth and stop blindly believing or supporting anyone."



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