

# THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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## BLAME IT ON CONCRETE JUNGLE

A REALITY CHECK BY EXPRESS ON TEMP AT LEAFY AREAS AND THEIR NEAREST DENUDED LOCALITIES THROWS UP STARTLING NUMBERS AND MAKES YOU PONDER HOW GREEN COVER COULD HAVE MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE



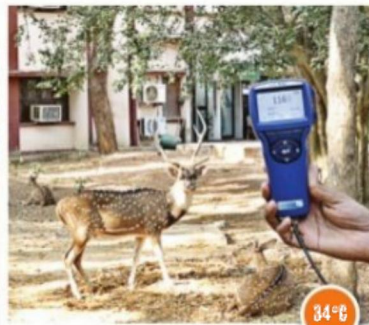
34°C

### Karnataka | Bengaluru

Although there were mild thundershowers, it wasn't enough to bring relief. Temperatures recorded at GKVK and Majestic bus station at noon in Bengaluru on Saturday | Vinod Kumar T & Pushkar V



36°C



34°C

### Tamil Nadu | Chennai

True to the weatherman's prediction and with no rains in sight, Chennai continues to sizzle. Temperatures recorded inside the IIT Madras campus and Tidel park on OMR between 1 and 2 pm on Saturday | Shiba Prasad Sahu



34.4°C



### Indian BROILER

#### SATURDAY'S HIGHS

- 44°C Raichur
- 43.2°C Kalaburagi
- 43°C Hyderabad
- 41.5°C Hubballi-Dharwad

Wind and heat index of hour 11. Each line at the Earth's surface

“Till the time we don't respect greenery, the curse is always on us. My father himself destroyed around 20 trees and I was upset about it — JAGESH, Actor & Politician



### Prez Backs Bill to Tackle Drought

With the country reeling under severe dry spell which in specific terms means drought conditions in 10 states, President Pranab Mukherjee has recommended for consideration a private member's bill that seeks to create an initial corpus fund of ₹10,000 crore for protection of farmers in arid, desert and drought-prone areas.

Under the rules, for such a bill to be converted into a law by Parliament, a recommendation from the President of India to the House is required. P7

### Relentless Heat

#### Express News Service

**New Delhi:** There seems to be no respite from the searing heat for a month-and-a-half more with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) saying that the condition will remain the same for 30 to 45 days.

### 2 Jawans Die

**New Delhi:** Two army jawans died of heat stroke while taking part in wargames near Pokhran in Rajasthan on Saturday. Two other soldiers lost their lives in mishaps during the ongoing military exercise.

**Chennai:** As forecast by met experts, the south stepped into the worst days of summer on Saturday. Chennai did a sticky 40.4 and Hyderabad 43. Bengaluru was comparatively balmy at 38, but hot for that once Garden City. A fever of the mid forties ran down the entire eastern littoral, with Titlagarh in Odisha going up to 48 and south coastal Andhra Pradesh reaching levels at which the heat wave toll begins to soar.

The India Meteorological Department forecast a sizzling heat wave in south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha in

the days ahead while putting a cheery spin on it: the heat wave is going to last only another month or 45 days — which is when the monsoons historically begin to blow into India. In Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, the heat was such that it made people remember the lost green cover of their city. Indeed would it have made a difference?

To test this question how much difference green cover would make to the heat experience of citizens, Express took temperature readings at several points across cities. Using a sensor-based air quality meter (which gives atmospheric tem-

perature, carbon dioxide and relative humidity measurements), we recorded the mid-day temperatures in leafy localities and nearest denuded areas. The results underlined the difference trees can make to a city. The readings were at least two degrees less in areas with green cover than in the concrete jungle.

In Bengaluru, the Express

experiment clearly revealed that temperatures were on an average two degrees lower in places where there is greenery. At the bustling Majestic Bus Stand, the temperature was 35-36 degrees Celsius. At a nearby park, it was 32 degrees, three degrees lower.

There was a four degree difference between the temperature recorded at the densely

green Gandhi Krishi Vignan Kendra (GKVK) campus and right outside that campus.

At the Silk Board Junction, the reading in an area with less foliage was 36, while it was 34.5 in a leafy area.

In Chennai, the 1 pm reading at IIT Madras, which shares an urban forest, the temperature under a mature banyan tree 300 m from the main administrative block was 34 degrees C while the rest of the city sweltered in 40 degree heat. A herd of spotted deer were cooling themselves under this tree undeterred by human disturbance from the nearby supermarket.

CONTINUED ON P6

### HOT AS HELL

Inside | P5, P6

Two fodder banks inaugurated by GM Siddaramaiah in Yadgir remain mere showpieces

Scorching sun claims lives of 14 daily-wage labourers on a single day in Telangana