

HOT As HELL

## Express Experiment Provides Proof



32°C



34°C



35°C



48°C

## Kerala | Kochi

The temperature at Mangalavanam bird sanctuary, with its expansive green cover, was two degrees lower than the one recorded at the downtown region of Kaloor on Friday evening | *Abhin Mathew*

## Andhra Pradesh | Visakhapatnam

The heatwave has shown no signs of abating in the city, with temperatures hovering around the 35-40 degrees Celsius, even in open spaces like the RK beach and the grounds at AU Engineering College | *R V K Rao*

## Blame the Heat Wave on City's Concrete Jungle

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A short drive away at Tidel Park in the neighborhood, another reading at the Thiruvanniyur railway station just opposite the IT Park, showed a temperature of 41.1 degrees C. A difference of 7 degrees!

At Guindy and Saidapet, the readings ranged from 41 to 42 degrees Celsius, comparable to the Tiruvanniyur railway station. And at TNagar the temperature was 43.1 degrees C. A clear two degrees higher in the concrete jungle.

In Hyderabad, there was a similar contrast between tree-lined areas and localities bereft of green cover. The busy Panjagutta circle, shorn of tree cover, registered 42.5 degree Celsius, and Necklace Road, which has a large number of trees recorded 40.5 degree Celsius. (These readings were recorded by a digital thermometer.)

The contrast is evident in Bhubaneswar too, with the automatic weather stations at three different places in

the cities reporting different readings. While the AWS at the Biju Patnaik International Airport recorded 40.3 degree C on Thursday, the one at KIIT Campus reported 38.5 degrees while the station at Rajiv Bhawan reported 38.1. That may be because the KIIT Campus has a water body close by, while the Rajiv Bhawan area boasts of green cover.

According to Lawrence Surendra, chairman of Bengaluru's Sustainability Platform, one of the main factors that contributes to city temperature is waste heat. This is the heat let off by air-conditioners. Many cities have acknowledged the problem and have come up with ways to deal with it. One of the methods is to promote building of green pillars and green walls, which absorb carbon dioxide and reduce the heat around it, he said.

However, Dr T V Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences of the Indian Institute of Science said, "All the factors

being blamed for the soaring heat - pollution, loss of green cover, population growth, traffic, etc - are direct consequences of senseless urban planning." According to him, two centuries ago, the average summer temperature in the Bengaluru area would have been 14-16 degree Celsius. "Historical weather data indicate it to be so," he said.

Over the last 40 years, Bengaluru has for instance seen a whopping 92.5 per cent increase in built-up area. During the same period, there was an overall vegetation loss of 78 per cent and waterbody loss of 79 per cent, he said.

SS M Gavaskar, a scientist at the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Cell, said that the rise in Bengaluru's temperatures is due to the heat island effect. "It occurs generally around high-rise buildings, especially glass-and-concrete buildings. Glass releases more heat and can spike surrounding temperatures by a couple of degrees," he said.

## 14 Die of Sunstroke in a Single Day

**Hyderabad:** The unrelenting heat wave sweeping across Telangana claimed 12 lives in Nalgonda district in a single day causing concern among authorities and farm workers who are forced to toil under scorching sun to earn a living.

Adilabad and Karimnagar districts also reported one death each bringing the toll to 14 on Saturday.

Most of the victims are the poor and daily wage labourers. Daily labourers, masons and rickshaw drivers were among the victims. All of them are aged between 45 and 70 years.

The mercury continued to soar in Nalgonda district on Saturday, with the maximum temperature touching 44.8 leaving the district sizzling under intense heat. Though the authorities had issued a warning urging people to stay indoors during noon hours, daily wage labourers, especially farm workers are forced to work under the blistering sun.

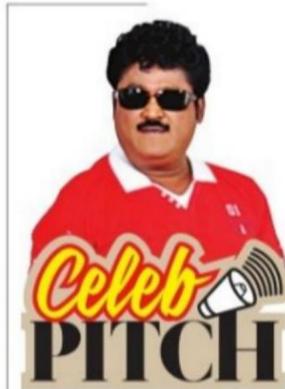
Sunstroke deaths were reported from Vemulapally, Miryalaguda, Damaracherla, Peddadarshilapally, Chitya-

la, Nampally and Kodad mandals in Nalgonda district.

With the state recording 14 deaths on Saturday, the unofficial count has reached to 109 till date. However, the officials put the figure at just 19 one week back. The officials are still enquiring into the cause of deaths and they are yet to update the number of deaths.

The heat wave conditions prevailing in Telangana is unusual for the month of April. The state had experienced similar drought conditions in 2009 and 2010. Already, the state had witnessed more than 20 heat wave days in this season.

On Saturday, the temperature soared past 45 degrees Celsius in Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Khammam and Bhadrachalam towns. This was the highest ever temperature recorded in the state in this season. Meanwhile, some parts of Khammam district, despite severe heat conditions received rainfall too on Saturday. Manuguru 2 cm, Yellandu and Kothagudem received 1 cm each rain.



JAGGESH  
ACTOR AND POLITICIAN

## Plant trees in front of every house

Being responsible citizens, to preserve water, we should plant trees in front of our houses. Till the time we don't respect greenery, the curse is always be on us.

"Rain water harvesting should be a must. We should not wait for the government to take up this job. People in the area can join hands and get this done. The other solution is to create check dams that will help water to seep inside the earth

## Schools May Stop Mid-day Meal

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A solar-powered pump donated by an NGO helps people get some water in Tushikere and Indiganatha. Kumbadiki and Doddane have no roads. Teachers stayback at schools here as otherwise they have to trek 7 to 10 km to reach M M Hills. Raghavendra, head master of the Indiganatha Government School, fears the situation will only worsen

if pre-monsoon rains fail. The region has other woes as well. Teachers are unhappy they are paid no allowance for serving in remote hilly schools. Most schools have toilets but teachers and students defecate in the open as water is in short supply. Madanna, of the Soliga tribe, says schoolchildren are hit hard with no mid-day meal as their parents are agricultural labourers

working in distant places. Many schools had gained in strength in the lower and higher primary classes after the mid-day meal scheme was introduced. Additional Deputy Commissioner Bharathi said the district administration would do its best to help the schools feed the children. "The stringent Forest Act stops us from laying roads, drilling borewells, and giving tap water," she said.