

Heat intensity reduces in east, southern peninsular India

NEW DELHI, May 4 (PTI)

THE intensity of the heat wave prevailing in east and parts of southern peninsular India came down slightly on Saturday, with the weather office predicting relief from the scorching conditions in these regions after two days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said heat-wave to severe heatwave conditions prevailed in parts of Gangetic West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Telangana, with maximum temperatures settling 3-5 degrees Celsius above normal in these regions.

The mercury settled above 44 degrees Celsius in at least 10 places in these states.

According to IMD data, 13 places on Friday and 17 on Thursday recorded maximum temperatures above 44 degrees Celsius. Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh sizzled at 46 degrees Celsius and was the hottest place in the country for the third consecutive day on



Saturday.

Maximum temperatures were recorded at 45.9 degrees Celsius in Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh), 45 degrees in Mahbubnagar (Telangana), 44 degrees in Odisha's Boudh, 43.5 degrees in Karur Paramathi (Tamil Nadu), 44.6 degrees in Nizamabad (Telangana), 45.4 in Andhra Pradesh's Cuddapah, and 43.5 degrees in West Bengal's Kalaikunda.

The IMD said the ongoing heatwave spell in east and south peninsular India will continue until May 5-6 and abate thereafter. Light to moderate rainfall and thunderstorms are predicted in Odisha, Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand from May 5 to 9. Scattered light to moderate rainfall is expected in east Uttar

Pradesh, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh during this period. Scattered light to moderate rainfall is also very likely in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Karnataka from May 6 to May 9.

The Met office on Wednesday said above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country in May and a significantly high number of heatwave days expected over the northern plains, central region and adjoining areas of peninsular India.

April witnessed record-smashing maximum temperatures in east, northeast and south peninsular India, prompting health warnings from Government agencies and some states to suspend in-person classes in schools.

A number of stations also recorded their highest-ever April day temperatures.

IAF takes delivery of 2nd C295 transport aircraft

NEW DELHI, May 4 (ANI)

THE Indian Air Force (IAF) on Friday received delivery of the second of the 56 C295 aircraft, which are set to replace its ageing Avro-748 fleet, officials said.

In September 2021, India formalised the acquisition of 56 Airbus C295 aircraft to replace the legacy Avro fleet of the IAF at a cost of Rs 21,935 crore.

In a statement, Airbus Defence and Space said that of the total 56 aircraft ordered by the Indian customer, 16 will be produced by Airbus in Seville, Spain. The remaining 40 C295s of the IAF order will

be manufactured and assembled--in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)--at a Final Assembly Line (FAL) in Gujarat's Vadodara.

"The story continues: the 2nd C295 for India has been delivered to the Indian Air Force. Of the total 56 aircraft ordered by the Indian customer, 16 will be produced by Airbus in Seville, Spain. As part of an industrial partnership, the remaining 40 are going to be produced by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in the C295 Final Assembly Line in Vadodara in Western India," it said.

India's INS Sumedha helps Pakistani crew onboard Iranian fishing vessel

NEW DELHI, May 4 (ANI)

INDIAN Navy has responded to a distress call and provided critical medical assistance to a Pakistani crew member onboard an Iranian fishing vessel Al Rahmani, an Indian Navy spokesperson said.

The warship, INS Sumedha deployed for anti-piracy operations in the Arabian Sea, intercepted fishing vessel Al Rahmani in early hours of April 30, according to the statement released by Indian Navy Spokesperson on X. The ship's boarding team and medical specialists boarded the fishing vessel and rendered medical assistance to the crew member.



INS Sumedha

The Spokesperson stated, "In a swift response to a distress call, #INSSumedha, mission deployed for #antipiracy ops in the #ArabianSea provided critical medical assistance to an Iranian FV (with 20 Pakistani crew), for a near-drowning case of one of its crew member."

"Responding swiftly to the

distress call, INS Sumedha intercepted FV Al Rahmani in early hours of #30Apr 24. Ship's boarding team & medical specialists boarded the FV & rendered medical assistance to the crew member, who was experiencing laboured breathing with active seizures," it added.

The Indian Navy

Spokesperson said that the patient after medical management was conscious and relieved clinically.

"Post medical management, the patient was oriented, conscious and relieved clinically. Relentless efforts by mission deployed units of #IndianNavy symbolises its steadfast commitment towards safeguarding and assisting seafarers operating in the region," Indian Navy Spokesperson posted on X.

On April 28, Indian warship, INS Kochi, responded to the maritime security incident involving an attack on a Panama-flagged crude oil tanker, MV Andromeda Star PM, Indian Navy said in a statement.

India lifts ban on onion exports after robust production

NEW DELHI, May 4 (ANI)

INDIA lifted the restrictions on onion exports from Friday. The decision comes on the heels of robust Kharif crop production in 2024 and favourable monsoon forecasts, coupled with stable market conditions both at the mandi and retail levels.

"All restrictions on onion export have been removed with effect from today," said Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Dept. of



Consumer Affairs at a press conference in Delhi

She said, "This is basically taking into account the Rabi 2024 production and approved Kharif prospect because of

above normal monsoon."

She further added that "the current market situation which was stable both at Mandi and retail and also the international availability and prices situation."

According to the official estimate, the Rabi 2024 onion production is about 191 lakh tons, which is reasonably comfortable considering monthly domestic consumption of about 17 lakh tonnes.

TERROR ATTACK ON IAF CONVOY | 1 soldier killed, 4 injured in Poonch

JAMMU, May 4 (PTI)

ONE soldier was killed and four were injured as terrorists ambushed an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, three weeks ahead of polling in Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency.

Poonch is part of Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency which goes to polls in the sixth phase on May 25.

Officials said five security personnel were injured, two of them critically, when four terrorists opened fire on IAF vehicles moving towards Sanai Top in Poonch's Surankot area in the evening.

One of the critically injured soldiers later succumbed at a



Indian Air Force vehicle convoy was attacked by terrorists in the Poonch district of J&K on Saturday. (ANI)

military hospital during treatment, they said.

"An Indian Air Force vehicle convoy was attacked by

militants in the Poonch district of J&K, near Shahsitar. Cordon and search operations are underway presently in the

area by local military units.

"The convoy has been secured, and further investigation is under progress," the IAF said in a post on X.

"In the ensuing gunfight with terrorists, the Air Warriors fought back by returning fire. In the process, five IAF personnel received bullet injuries, and were evacuated to the nearest military hospital for immediate medical attention. One Air Warrior succumbed to his injuries later. Further operations are on by the local security forces," it said in another post. The terror attack took place around 6:15 pm when the troops were returning to the air force station from Jaranwali.

(Contd on page 3)

Online radicalisation continues to pose significant challenge to global security: India

NEW DELHI, May 4 (PTI)

UNDERLINING that there can be no distinction between “good terrorism and bad terrorism”, India has said online radicalisation continues to pose a significant challenge to global security.

Heading the Indian delegation at the recently-concluded 19th Interpol Conference of Heads of National Central Bureaux at France’s Lyon, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Praveen Sood highlighted the challenges posed by the nexus between organised crime, terrorism and extremist ideologies.

Sood said online radicalisation poses a significant challenge to global security. He unequivocally condemned all forms of terrorism and conveyed that there can be no distinction between “good terrorism, bad terrorism”. The event was attended by the national central bureaux of 136 countries, represented by senior police officials, according to a statement issued by the CBI.

The National Central Bureau (NCB) in each country is the nodal organisation responsible for coordination with Interpol. In India, the CBI is the designated NCB. The aim of the event was to strengthen the operational cooperation among the NCBs of Interpol to combat transnational crimes.

“During the event, the Indian delegation held discussions with law-enforcement agencies from multiple countries

for enhanced coordination on Interpol channels for a concerted action to combat organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, money

laundering, online radicalisation, cyber-enabled financial crimes and to prevent these crimes on a real-time basis,” the statement said. The three-member Indian delegation, during its discussions with a number of countries including the United States, the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia, emphasised the need for swift sharing of information through Interpol, expediting mutual legal-assistance referrals and extradition requests.



Praveen Sood, CBI Director

WATER CRISIS

Reeling under acute shortage, women, kids of village in Jalna go on daily water hunt

Water crisis deepens in Mah's Sangli
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINA-GAR, May 4 (PTI)

WOMEN and children of a village in Jalna district in the drought-prone Marathwada region of Maharashtra spend most of their days scouring nearby areas for drinking water.
Tucked away in the interi-



TOP STORY

ors of Badnapur tehsil, Tapovan village, located near the Jalna-Bhorkardan road, does not have natural water sources and is dependent on water tankers every day.
According to villagers, the groundwater sources in the village have dried up in the last three months, forcing the women and children to

walk at least 2 to 4 km looking for drinking water in the nearby areas and making several trips in the blistering heat daily.
Various parts of the district are facing an acute water shortage due to inadequate rainfall in the last monsoon season.
Talking to PTI, one of the
(Contd on page 3)

Read Editorial
OUR OWN SIN!
on page 8