

# THE BEACON

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## Delhi witness coldest November in 17 years

Alwin Benjamin Soji

**DELHI:** Delhi recorded its coldest November morning on Sunday at 6.3-degree celsius in 17 years, according to Dr Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of Regional Weather Forecasting Centre in Delhi, the reason behind these low temperatures is due to the phenomenon known as La Niña.

"This year will be colder than the previous years. Usually the temperature doesn't dip below 10-degree celsius. The temperature is expected to drop in the coming 4-5 days. The cold winds blowing from Western Himalayas played a crucial role due to which the temperatures dropped," said Dr Kuldeep Srivastava.

"This happened due to a phenomenon known as the 'La Nina'. The wind blows away the warm surface water which gives way for the cold water to rise and come up to the surface. This also leads to heavy monsoon season in India. All this will lead to colder days ahead in Delhi" he added.

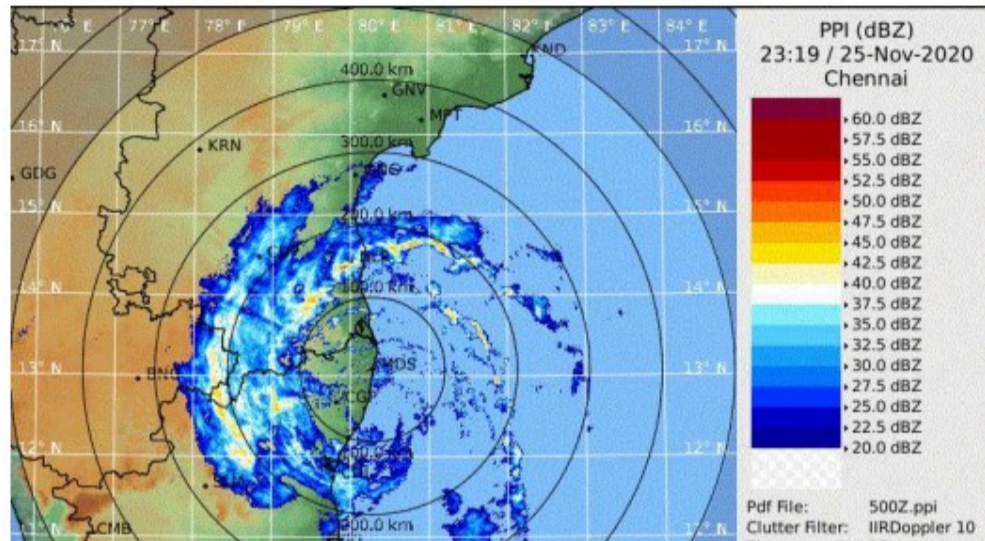
Last month, Delhi witnessed its coldest October night in 26 years as temperature dipped to 12.5-degree celsius. On 31st October, 1994 Delhi recorded a temperature of 12.3 degree celsius.

## Cyclone Nivar leaves 3 dead in TN

Nishitha Rachel

**BENGALURU:** Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh braced themselves for cyclone Nivar, with around 1,200 National Disaster Response Force personnel stationed in the different states. Cyclone Nivar made a late-night landfall near Puducherry on 26th November. Authorities in Chennai has been forced to close the Chennai airport and metro services.

Cyclone Nivar reportedly worsened severely and made landfall from 11:30 pm on Wednesday night till 2:30 am on Thursday. It has reportedly left 3 dead and uprooted more than 1,000 trees in Tamil Nadu. "The cyclone wasn't that bad this



Cyclone Nivar over Chennai

Twitter

time around. Both in intensity and in the resulting damage. It's still a little windy right now but there's no rain at all. We live a little ways off the main city so we

were affected a little more than the interiors", said Camilla Philip, an IT company employee in Chennai. "Since we've been through the Varda cyclone,

Nivar was very tame in comparison. Everyone was aware of the incoming cyclone. We had candles and emergency lights ready, so at least we were slightly

prepared this time," she added.

The cyclone is forecasted to move north and weaken in the coming days. India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru issued a yellow alert in the South Interior districts of Karnataka as the cyclone moves towards the northwest direction, turning into a normal cyclonic storm. "The danger is not over yet. Some parts of the cyclone are over the sea, but the center is still very much over the land", the IMD tweeted.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday tweeted that he spoke to the Chief Ministers of both Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. He assured "all possible help from the center" will be provided.

## Dr. Ilaiah talks on human rights activism

Pavithra Prabhu

**CAMPUS:** "The status of human rights has come to a situation where even Ambrose would not have imagined in his lifetime after a great 75 years of struggle in the freedom movement and then America's constitution and democracy and worldwide the forms democracies, particularly the Christian world has thrown up would come to this level and then a new phase of history would begin what is now known as post-covid



Dr. Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd

Facebook

world now (sic)", said Dr. Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd while lecturing at the 3rd Dr. Ambrose Pinto Memorial Lecture on Monday, November 23rd hosted by St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru.

Dr. Ilaiah addressed the status of human rights and democracy in the context of pandemic in India and globally, and the right wing regimes particularly in India. "In the covid world, human rights conditions has shifted 180 degrees, where neither the constitution nor judiciary institutions nor the street

fighters or the activism on human rights would play any helping role in this situation". He added, "Country after country suddenly went into authoritarian mode."

In his lecture, he also pointed out the contribution of the nuns and the Jesuits in the upliftment of the oppressed communities. He also explored the parallel rise of the white supremacists and the ring wing, and compared it to the RSS in India and the adverse effect of the lockdown on unemployment.

## Mixed outlook on Ayurveda surgeries

Akshara DM

**BENGALURU:** Ayurveda practitioners and students welcomed the government's nod to add 58 new surgical procedures to their practice, which they believe was long overdue.

Dr. Soumya Hiremath, an ayurveda practitioner says, "Ayurveda does speak about how surgeries are to be performed, people who are not well aware of Ayurveda often question us that are we well versed enough to perform surgeries, but it's just making it an issue before the baby is even born and

ayurveda does speak about the 360 degrees aspect of surgeries."

Sneha S, third-year ayurveda student says, "This appeal will bolster the scope towards ayurveda and encourage students to opt ayurveda studies."

However the allopathy practitioners differed with this. Dr. Kavya.S.T., professor of general medicine, Bowring Institute says, "This decision is not right, allopathy and ayurveda are different and there will be no difference between the two if this decision gets a go ahead".

## Election campaigns go digital in Kerala

Athul Krishna

With the pandemic affecting the conventional election campaign of Kerala local body elections, candidates have turned to social media platforms for their election campaigns. Interactive posters, self-introduction videos, and WhatsApp podcasts are some of the ways used by candidates for their digital election campaigns.

The state election commission of Kerala has scheduled elections for the three-tier local body system to happen in three phases on



Representational Image

Athul Krishna

December 8, 10, and 14. The pandemic has made it difficult for the candidates to personally ask for votes, thereby turning to digital

media for their campaigning. Reshma Rahul, a candidate from Pookode grama panchayath of Thrissur district says, "Corona left us

in a situation where we can't go directly to the public for the campaign, but social media helped us to solve this problem and to make the campaign wider and easier this time."

"90% of our voters are using social media platforms and by collecting details regarding their social media handles, it was easy for us to send them our posters, podcasts, and campaign videos through WhatsApp and Facebook", said Sheeja Pradeep, a candidate from Aryad Gramapanchayath of Alapuzha district.

This is also an opportunity for graphic designers.