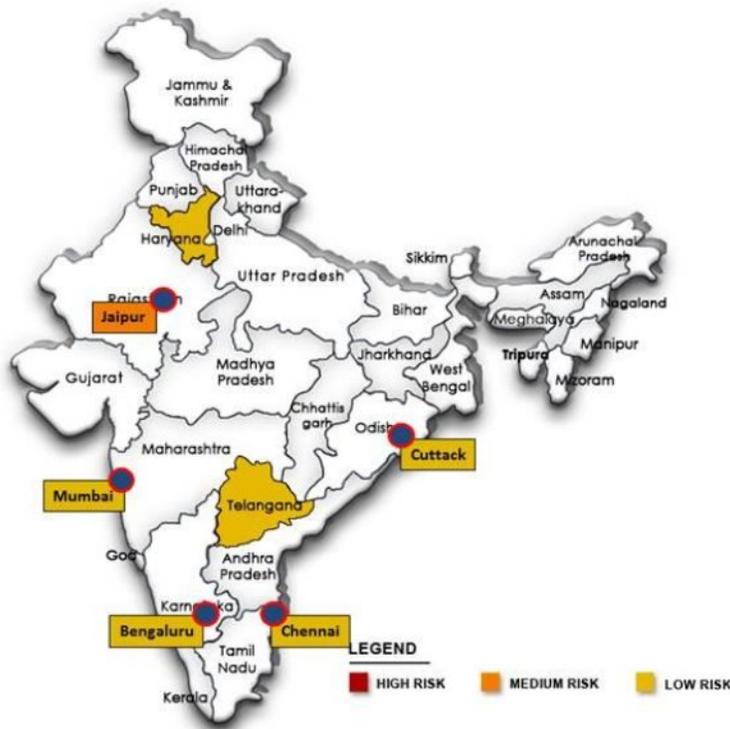


Haryana	Rajasthan	Odisha	Telangana	Maharashtra & Karnataka	Tamil Nadu
Jat group rejects proposed four-member panel; threaten to intensify stir	Swine flu alert issued in Jaipur after the death of a doctor	Over 75 people hospitalised with jaundice in Cuttack	Government to send SMS alerts to help prepare for heat wave in the state	Home guard arrested for molesting woman in Mumbai; Man held for molesting an air hostess in Bengaluru	Three killed and four injured after falling from EMU in Chennai

Regional Snapshot

- Bangladesh: Islamic group stages countrywide protests demanding the removal of statue from the Supreme Court premises; further mass rallies on March 10th
- Nepal: Federal Alliance to launch stir against local polls
- Sri Lanka: 10,000 illegal buildings in Colombo, states a report
- Pakistan: Hundreds held and six 'terrorists' killed under operation Raddul Fasaad



HARYANA: JAT GROUP REJECTS PROPOSED FOUR-MEMBER PANEL; THREATEN TO INTENSIFY STIR

The Jat organisation spearheading the stir in Haryana for quota in government jobs and educational institutions for them, yesterday (February 24th), decided against talking to the government for setting up a panel to resolve their grievances. The All-India Jat Aarakshan Sangarsh Samiti (AIJASS) decided against participating in formation of the proposed four-member panel saying the panel is to have no powers to redress their grievances. The Jat body took the decision following a meeting chaired by its president Yashpal Malik at Jassia village in Rohtak yesterday.

Following talks with Jat leaders on February 20th, a five-member panel of Haryana Chief Secretary D S Dhesi had decided to constitute a four-member committee to resolve various issues, including withdrawal of criminal cases, lodged against Jats during the stir last year. The proposed panel was to have two members each from Jats and the government, but Malik decided to back out of the talks for its formation saying the government is discriminating against them and is not in favor of giving justice to them. Seeking immediate action against police officers for ordering action against reportedly peaceful protesters at the Government College, Nekiram at Rohtak during the stir last year, Jats have also sought immediate arrest of some BJP leaders and workers including Saini, Sanjeev Rana, Rajeev Rana, Ravinder Dhiman, Raju Kaushik and Shailender Rajput.

Analysis: The first round of talks between the two sides, held on February 11th, had also remained inconclusive. The stir is expected to be intensified in Bhiwani, Jind, Kaithal, Panipat, Hisar, Karnal, Dadri, Kurukshetra, Mewat and Panchkula from March 1st. Besides seeking quota in education and government jobs under Other Backward Classes category, the demands of the Jats include release of those jailed during last year's agitation, withdrawal of cases slapped during the protest and government jobs for the kin of those killed and injured while taking part in the stir. There is also a demand of action against BJP MP from Kurukshetra Raj Kumar Saini for his alleged anti-Jat comments. The Jat groups are set to stage a dharna at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on March 2nd.

Recommendations:

- Cater for increased security around Jantar Mantar and Sansad Marg (route from Jantar Mantar to Parliament).
- Traffic diversions may be put in place, if there are a large number of protesters.
- Recommended to stay away from the protest site to avoid incidental risks.
- Monitor the local developments closely to stay updated on the situation.

RAJASTHAN: SWINE FLU ALERT ISSUED IN JAIPUR AFTER THE DEATH OF A DOCTOR

After the death of a retired doctor of Sawai Man Singh hospital due to swine flu, the health department in Jaipur has issued alert (February 23rd) on swine flu. According to health department officials, they have issued directions to remain alert. All government dispensaries, satellite hospitals and other government health centres have been asked to pay special attention to patients with swine flu like symptoms.

The doctor who died of swine flu on Wednesday (February 22nd) had gone to Hyderabad and some other cities of southern India, where he started feeling unwell. On return to Jaipur, his condition started deteriorating. He was admitted to a private hospital on February 16th. The hospital sent his swab samples to Ahmedabad for test, which tested positive for swine flu. However, his condition worsened and he suffered multiple organ failure.

Symptoms:

- High fever
- Unexpected cough, body aches and chill
- Headache and fatigue
- Cough and cold
- Muscle twist and sore problems
- Sneezing and running nose is common
- Lack of appetite
- Short of breath
- Diarrhoea and vomiting

Precautions:

- For mild swine flu, it is better to take appropriate rest.
- Drinking plenty of water is recommended.
- At the serious cases, consult your physicians and start taking antiviral medication.
- Spread by direct contact, so keep away from such people.
- Sneezing droplets of may accumulate on doorknob, drinking glass, towel, etc., clean it properly.
- Anti-flu medications should start after consultation with the doctor.
- Covering the mouth and nose while coughing and sneezing.
- Used mask while going close to the infected person.
- Maintaining high level of hygiene is utmost important.
- Surface sanitization is also important.
- Fever medicine may be taken after consultation of your doctor.

ODISHA: OVER 75 PEOPLE HOSPITALISED WITH JAUNDICE IN CUTTACK

Over 75 people have been admitted to hospital with jaundice in the city. The District Collector, yesterday (February 24th), ordered for random sample collection of all water sources to ascertain the cause and source of jaundice. Tulasipur area, covering at least three municipal wards of the civic body, is the worst affected. Here, most households are entirely depend on PHD pipelines for potable water and the pipelines passing close to drains have broken at many places. The chief executive officer of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) also visited the affected areas with the civic body medical team and took stock of the sanitation and hygienic work of the three wards of the Municipality. Three medical camps have been organized in the city with more camps planned to be set up in the affected areas.

Analysis: Broken water pipes result in the seeping in of harmful bacteria from the ground especially in areas where the pipes are pass through land which has been exposed to open drains, garbage dumps and chemicals from industrial sewage. In addition harmful bacteria also seeps in due to the warmer temperature and humidity within the pipes. The virus Hepatitis-E is the major cause of the endemic and this breeds in contaminated

water. In February of 2015, a similar outbreak claimed 25 lives in Sambalpur near Cuttack. This is a major health concern plaguing several Tier II and Tier III cities that are seeing unplanned growth. In Kalyan area in Maharashtra, last year over 25 cases were reported within a single locality after a water pipe developed a leak close to a sewage drain. Jaundice most often occurs as a result of an underlying disorder that either causes overproduction of bilirubin or prevents the liver from disposing of it, both of which result in bilirubin being deposited in tissues.

Symptoms:

- Yellow tinge to the skin and the whites of the eyes, normally starting at the head and spreading down the body
- Pruritis (itchiness)
- Fatigue
- Abdominal pain - typically indicates a blockage of the bile duct
- Weight loss
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Paler than usual stools
- Dark urine

Recommendations:

- Hepatitis-induced jaundice may be treated with anti-viral or steroid medications.
- Consult a doctor if any of the symptoms are observed
- If travel is planned in the region, it is highly recommended to consume only packaged mineral water
- Plenty of iron rich food should be consumed if diagnosed with jaundice

TELANGANA: GOVERNMENT TO SEND SMS ALERTS TO HELP PREPARE FOR HEAT WAVE IN THE STATE

To curb heat wave calamities in Telangana, the information technology department has launched a disaster management portal to notify residents about weather anomalies during summer. The portal, which will be active soon, will use a Global Forecasting System to predict heat waves and alert residents of affected areas.

The portal will procure data on weather conditions through 885 Automatic Weather Station sensors across the state, which will be maintained by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Telangana State Development and Planning Society. The sensors will continuously update info on maximum, minimum and average temperatures, humidity and wind speed. If there is a hint of a heat wave, mobile service providers associated with the programme will send out SMS warnings to the people of the region.

While this portal was launched as a pilot last year, it is being expanded this year and to bring into its fold local bodies such as gram panchayats to ensure that information is disbursed accurately and to the right people. Reportedly, the Government is aiming to issue warnings at least 15 days in advance so that residents can take the required precautionary measures.

After summer, the services of the portal are likely to be extended to addressing floods-during the monsoon.

Analysis: As the temperature in summer will be over 40 degrees, SMS alerts will be helpful for the people to take proper precautions on time and help others too. Over 300 people died because heat waves in Telangana in 2016.

Recommendations:

- Solar radiation is at its strongest between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., with the hottest time in the late afternoon (3 p.m. to 6 p.m.), so restrict activities in the open air to morning and evening, and where possible remain in the shade.
- Avoid vigorous physical activity wherever possible. If you are doing any physical activity, hydrate sufficiently (with cool, alcohol-free drinks).
- Protect yourself from direct sun (with shade, appropriate clothing, head covering, sunglasses, sunscreen etc.
- Ensure that your body gets sufficient liquid (at least 1.5 to 2 litres a day), and compensate for salt and water loss simultaneously. Water containing sodium, juices, soups, fruits with a high water content, such as melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, strawberries and peaches, are all useful for hydration.
- Eat fresh, cool and light meals, and spread these out over the course of the day.
- Compensate for salt loss during or after sporting activities.
- Make the most of the lower night-time temperatures: allow plenty of outside air to circulate through buildings.

MAHARASHTRA & KARNATAKA: HOME GUARD ARRESTED FOR MOLESTING WOMAN IN MUMBAI; MAN HELD FOR MOLESTING AN AIR HOSTESS IN BENGALURU

A 21-year-old woman from Malad area of Mumbai has filed a complaint that a home guard deployed to protect women in the ladies compartments of a Borivli-bound train allegedly touched her inappropriately early on Wednesday morning (February 22nd). While the Government Railway Police (GRP) have arrested the molester under the IPC sections for outraging the modesty of a woman. Molester was granted bail on a deposit of Rs 15,000. The victim, who stays in a hostel in Juhu, stated that on Wednesday (February 22nd) she took the Borivli-bound train at 4.42 am from Vile Parle station and later fell asleep. When she woke up she saw the accused sitting next to her and touching her inappropriately.

In another incident, a 24-year-old habitual offender was arrested for allegedly molesting an air hostess in HRBR Layout of East Bengaluru, on February 12th. A resident of Maruthi Seva Nagar near Banaswadi, was released on bail from jail only four months ago. He was arrested in 2015 for stealing a Yamaha motorcycle. As per reports, the air hostess, an HRBR Layout resident, and her friend were walking back home after having dinner at a hotel in the locality around 10 pm, when the molester was riding a bike and wearing a full-face helmet, allegedly sexually assaulted her. When she raised an alarm, he sped away.

Recommendations:

- Women and men should be provided awareness on gender-based violence.
- Institutions and organizations working towards equality and safety of women and children should recognize the centrality of working with men to achieve equality.
- Frequent attacks on women emphasize the need for women to be formally trained in safety awareness.

- Both genders are encouraged to report any form of assault, molestation, violence by filing an FIR.
- Important to individuals to understand complaint handling procedures, individual rights and ways to ensure that the police must promptly record complaints, register a report and conduct an investigation.
- Pepper-sprays and emergency mobile apps could come in useful in cases of an emergency.
- National Helpline Number for Women in Distress: 1091.

TAMIL NADU: THREE KILLED AND FOUR INJURED AFTER FALLING FROM EMU IN CHENNAI

Three men died after falling off a train near Pazhavanthangal railway station on Thursday morning (February 23rd). Four others were grievously injured. All seven had been hanging on to the footboard of a packed coach of a Chengalpet-Chennai Beach train. As per reports, the train had crossed Pazhavanthangal when the bag of one man got entangled in a signal post on the tracks and he was dragged out. As he was falling, he instinctively grabbed another person, and both men plunged down; both of them died instantly.

Soon after the incident, a team of Southern Railway officials conducted an inspection to see if the signal post was too close to the tracks. Officials stated that there was nothing wrong from railways point of view. It has been classified as a T-1 accident, which puts the onus on the passengers.

Analysis: The number of deaths and those injured after falling from trains has gone up in the last one decade. According to a report, 25,722 passengers fell from suburban trains just in Mumbai (travelling on Western, Central and Harbour suburban services in Mumbai Commissionerate) in last 10 years, of whom 6,989 commuters died while 18,733 survived.

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

BANGLADESH: ISLAMIC GROUP STAGES COUNTRYWIDE PROTESTS DEMANDING THE REMOVAL OF STATUE FROM THE SUPREME COURT PREMISES; FURTHER MASS RALLIES ON MARCH 10TH

Hundreds of supporters of hardliner Hefazat-e-Islam staged protests, yesterday (February 24th) in Dhaka, Chittagong and Narayanganj, calling for the statue of a Greek goddess installed at the Supreme Court to be destroyed or removed. Hefajat-e Islam has reiterated its demand for immediate removal of a sculpture of what it claimed to be a Greek idol installed in front of the Supreme Court. At a rally in Chittagong, Hefajat threatened to lay siege to Dhaka along with thousands of people if its demand for protecting “belief and heritage” is not met immediately. It also announced rallying in all the metropolitan cities and district towns on March 10th to press home the demand.

The Chittagong city unit of the Qawmi madrasa-based Islamist organisation staged the rally after Juma prayers at the north gate of Chittagong's Andarkillah Shahi Jam-e-Mosque. Earlier, on February 4th, Hefajat had raised the demand. It also submitted a memorandum to the SC recently. Yesterday, the Dhaka procession began from Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Security has been increased in the area around Baitul Mukarram, according to local police officials. Reportedly, at least 1,000 people had joined the rally there and a similar rally had also been held at Chittagong. The Narayanganj unit of Hefazat also held a mass rally in front of the city's DIT Jame Mosque after Jumma prayers yesterday. At their programme, they threatened that if their demands went unmet, they would rally their forces and go destroy the Lady Justice statue.

Other than Hefazat, an umbrella organisation led by Hathazari Madrasa Principal Shah Ahmed Shafi who professes death for atheists, the Islamist parties and groups opposing the installation of the statue are Awami Olama League, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Islami Andolon Bangladesh and Jamaat-Shibir.

Meanwhile, Ansar al-Islam, the Bangladesh affiliate of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), has also extended support for the ongoing movement of radical Islamists who demand that the "idol" of Lady Justice be removed from the Supreme Court premises. While members of the militant group expressed solidarity with the demand, the group also bitterly criticised Hefazat-e-Islami for sailing on allegedly two boats, trying to please the government with soft words and at the same time working to uphold Islam. The matter is being discussed among the Ansar al-Islam members in their online forum Dawahilallah.

Recommendations:

- Cater for increased security and possible traffic disruptions around the rally location(s) on March 10th.
- It is recommended to keep away from large congregation of protesting individuals to reduce incidental risk.
- Enhanced security presence will be seen countrywide for the rally; it is recommended to cater for travel delays.
- If travelling for business, keep sufficient lead-time as there may be increased security checks.
- Consult the traffic police advisory for possible route changes.
- Monitor the local developments closely to stay updated on the situation.

NEPAL: FEDERAL ALLIANCE TO LAUNCH STIR AGAINST LOCAL POLLS

The Federal Alliance (FA) has decided to launch a movement against the government's decision to hold polls on May 14th. The decision was taken after a meeting of the alliance held yesterday (February 24th) that concluded that FA could not accept local level polls. The alliance informed that parliamentary parties of the United Democratic Madhesi Front's (UDMF) constituents could consider withdrawing support to the government. FA and UDMF had supported the formation of a new government under CPN-Maoist Centre Chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal after signing a three-point agreement with the Nepali Congress and CPN-MC in August.

UDMF had already launched agitation against the government's decision to hold polls before ensuring passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill and the agitation would grow fiercer if the bill was not passed. According to the alliance leaders, they could give the government some time to pass the amendment bill before resorting to fierce forms of agitation, particularly general strikes.

If the government fails to ensure passage of the constitution amendment bill, they might resort to indefinite general strike, they informed and added that the agitating forces would be able to enforce general strikes in the Tarai region and Limbuwan and Kirat areas. In Pokhara and Kathmandu, the alliance will launch demonstration and other forms of protest.

Alliance leaders were of the view that in order to transform their protest into a national movement, they needed to garner support of other like-minded forces, including civil society members. FA leaders will also hold meetings with other political parties within and outside the Parliament to seek their support for their movement. FA has formed a nine-member task force under Co-chair of Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal to prepare details of protests. The task force will present blueprint of protests in the next meeting of the alliance.

Analysis: The United Democratic Madhesi Front (UDMF) had been resisting the government's decision to hold local polls as people associated with the big three parties were not happy with the LBRC's (Local Body Restructuring Commission) map of local bodies. The UDMF had accused the Local Bodies Restructuring Commission of failing to work within the guidelines of the constitution with regard to redrawing the provincial boundaries on the basis of ethnic population and socio-economic conditions. Several protests took place across the country against the proposal of the Local Level Restructuring Commission (LLRC). Normal life was disrupted in various parts of the Tarai-Madhes region after the UDMF imposed a general strike, earlier this week, to protest the announcement of local level election dates. The continued differences and the government's decision on the local elections schedule could see violent incidents in the southern fringes of the country having a large Madhesi population.

SRI LANKA: 10,000 ILLEGAL BUILDINGS IN COLOMBO, STATES A REPORT

The Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) has acknowledged a recent report by the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development about the existence of over 10,000 illegally constructed buildings within the Colombo City limits. A Ministry survey has identified approximately 1800 such buildings between Bambalapitiya and Wellawatte alone. It is reported that serious irregularities have taken place in the process of granting approval for such constructions. During the past two years, over 200 cases have been filed by the CMC in relation to such constructions and are currently lying at the Attorney General's Department.

Analysis: After last year's floods, government offices worked to identify the exact number of unauthorised settlements in and around Colombo. It began when both the President and the Disaster Management Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa announced that unauthorised settlements were to blame for the recent floods. Surveys were conducted to ascertain the number unauthorised structures within the city. Immediately following last year's floods, it was revealed that there are approximately 1,027 unauthorised structures in 33 government housing schemes (apartments). In one of the worst flood affected areas of Kolonnawa in Colombo, it was revealed that a significant proportion of houses and lands in this area were either unauthorised or encroached on. A report on the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka 2011-2016 in 2010 from the Climate Change Secretariat of the Environment Ministry reported that there was a high risk of natural disasters severely impacting human settlements in the future. They also observed that the government was unprepared to handle the impact as settlement planning ignored climate change concerns such as 'increased frequency/intensity of natural hazards, changes in rainfall patterns, temperature rise, and sea level rise.'

PAKISTAN: HUNDREDS HELD AND SIX 'TERRORISTS' KILLED UNDER OPERATION RADDUL FASAAD

100 suspects including suicide bomber were held, yesterday (February 24th), while six terrorists were also killed in counter-terror raids across the country under the umbrella of Pakistan Army's Operation 'Radd-ul-Fasaad'. Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) reportedly gunned down six terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Jhangvi over an encounter in Muzaffargarh's Pati Sultan Mehmood. Operative of the banned outfit was among the killed extremists while four terrorists fled to survive the raid. Security personnel seized four rifles, three pistols and grenades. These weapons were held from the possession of six militants. Separately, a suicide bomber was held in Shikarpur who allegedly hails from Tajikistan. Law enforcers seized a suicide vest and explosives in his possession and foiled the terror bid. Pakistan Rangers and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in Pirwadhai area of Rawalpindi detained three Afghan nationals among more than 100 suspects. Advanced communication equipments were also seized in the raid reportedly.

Analysis: Ongoing counter-terror operations are being conducted across Pakistan under the recently launched offensive of Pakistan Army, Operation ‘Radd-ul-Fasaad’. The across-the-country operation was launched earlier this week after Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) chaired a meeting in Lahore. The recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan began with a suicide blast on Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam in Lahore that claimed 14 lives including the DIG Traffic Police.

Disclaimer: This advisory is based on analysis of open source information. Recipients must monitor local environmental conditions to ensure security and business continuity.

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