

INDIA RISK TRACKER

06 NOVEMBER, 2018



INDIA SNAPSHOT

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VERY HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM

INDIA SNAPSHOT

LOW

VERY LOW

Delhi-NCR: [Air quality in Delhi deteriorates again; NCR records 285 dengue cases in a week](#)

Ahead of Diwali celebrations, the air quality deteriorated on 05 November as a thick layer of smog enveloped the national capital. The air quality that witnessed a slight improvement on 04 November, shot up and was under 'severe' category with an index

value of 434 at 1800 hrs. Doctors have advised people, especially children, to stay indoors, and make use of proper masks to filter out pollutants to the extent possible.

Further, as many as 285 cases of dengue were reported in Delhi in the week ending 03 November, compared to 290 in the previous week, according to a Municipal report. As per the latest report, 1,595 people have been diagnosed with the vector-borne disease in Delhi so far. However, the number is less than last year's which was 3,829 for the same duration. Around 1,114 new dengue cases surfaced in October.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Air Pollution:

- Severe pollution has been reported in Anand Vihar, Dwarka Sector 8, Narela, Punjabi Bagh, Bawana, Mundaka, Vivek Vihar and Rohini areas of Delhi and Ghaziabad in NCR region. Advised to take adequate precautionary measures if commuting in the vicinity.
- Air pollutants such as particulate matter trigger allergies, cough, lung infections, heart disease and even irreversible lung damage.
- Dust pollution has been uncharacteristically high this summer, which has recorded several storms.

Dengue:

- For mild flu, it is better to take appropriate rest.
- Drinking plenty of water is recommended.
- For 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 the doorknob, drinking glass, towel, etc., clean it properly.
- Anti-flu medications should start after consultation with the doctor.
- Used mask while going close to the infected person.
- Maintaining a high level of hygiene is utmost important.
- Fever medicine may be taken after consultation with your doctor.

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Delhi: Diwali rush causes traffic congestion, police issues advisory urging commuters to use public transport

Major intersections in the national capital witnessed traffic congestion on 05 November as Delhiites stepped out in large numbers to shop on Dhanteras that marks the beginning of Diwali festivities. The city traffic police advised commuters to utilize public transport services including bus, metro rail and car pool to avoid inconvenience, save fuel and reduce pollution.

The traffic police have also sought help from local police on roads connected to shopping malls and market areas to ease out the traffic situation and prevent any untoward incident. Other major market areas such as Connaught Place, Green Park, Nehru Place, Greater Kailash, Malivya Nagar, Saket, Lajpat Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Yusuf Sarai, Vikas

Marg, Rajauri Garden, Tilak Nagar, Dwarka and Kamla Nagar also witnessed congestion causing inconvenience to commuters.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

- The traffic police has also advised commuters to connect with Delhi Traffic Police on Twitter (@dtptraffic) to stay updated about the traffic situation in the national capital so that they can plan a hassle-free travel. Motorists have been asked to safely park their vehicles in authorised parking lots and people have been asked to follow traffic rules to avoid congestion on roads.
- During the festive period during the week, Delhi-NCR is likely to witness high deployment of security and high levels of traffic congestion due to the holiday season. This is likely to affect free travel movement, plan travels while maintaining situational awareness.

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Telangana: Disaster teams put on alert for Diwali in Hyderabad

The Telangana Police have issued an advisory stating that people firing crackers to keep a first-aid kit and eye drops along with blankets and water at hand. If the clothes catch fire, extinguish the fire by putting a blanket on the fire or pour water and roll, which is the 'stop, drop and roll' procedure.

The Supreme Court had issued guidelines to burst crackers and the public has to adhere to them. The reference was mainly to the time to burst crackers — 8 pm to 10 pm — set by the Supreme Court.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- In case of smoke or fire, the public is requested to inform the fire department by calling '101' or '9949991101'. The employees of disaster response and fire department would be available to attend emergencies on Diwali day.

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Karnataka: BJP chalking out protests to oppose Tipu Jayanti; Bengaluru set to unite for 'Save Bandipur' on 10 November

Tipu Jayanti Protest: The government's decision to celebrate the Tipu Jayanti has been a communal literary composition of protests from the BJP. The BJP is planning to step up its opposition towards the celebration. Meanwhile, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara on 05 November changed the location of the celebration of Tipu Jayanti on November 10. The venue of the event was shifted from Visha Sudha Banquet hall to Ravindra Kalashetra keeping in view security and law and order.

Save Bandipur Protest: A fourth protest opposing the project that will pass through the reserve will be held on Sunday (10 November) at Freedom Park. Nearly 2,000 people are expected to participate in the protest. The 'Save Bandipur' protest is getting support from foreign nationals. People from Ireland, Nigeria, USA, France, Italy and Germany have been expressing their solidarity with the ongoing campaign by posting images of them holding placards that read #SaveBandipur #Nighttrafficeda #noelevatedhighway on social networking websites.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the road that is used by travellers to Virajpet and Wayanad, among others, is closed for nine hours between 9 pm and 6 am. There is an alternate, but slightly longer route to the same destination, so environmentalists feel that there is no need to lift the ban night traffic ban that would cause distress to wild animals and destroy the flora and fauna of Bandipur.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

- Additional security measures are also likely due to the Tipu Sultan Jayanti celebrations till 10 November.
- The days leading up to Tipu Jayanti could witness protests by right-wing organisations in the state.
- Travel delays can be anticipated near Freedom Park due to the planned protest on 10 November.
- However, a wait and watch method is to be adopted for this event. Further details may be available closer to the date of the event.

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[Karnataka: Karnataka farmers' groups plan protest against loan waiver delay after court issues arrest warrants](#)

Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy has asked the deputy commissioner of Belagavi to take steps to stop seven farmers, who have been served warrants, from being arrested. Now, Karnataka farmers' groups are planning protest against loan waiver delay after court issued arrest warrants.

Details:

- Organisations representing farmers in Karnataka have threatened to stage a demonstration outside the legislative Assembly on 19 November in protest against the state government's delay in releasing funds to loan accounts.
- In July, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy had announced a farm loan waiver of INR10,700 crore following the decision to sanction a INR34,000-crore waiver on 05 July.
- The farmer organisations have been protesting as around 100 farmers were served arrest warrants for defaulting on loans.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

- The farmers claim that it has been six months since the government announced the waiver, but there are no signs of implementation.
- The farmers have planned protests on 19 November outside the legislative assembly in Karnataka.
- There is a possibility of the protest being called off if the state government takes intervene. A wait and watch approach is recommended to understand further impact.

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[Kerala: Situation remains tense in Sabarimala as temple opens doors amidst protests](#)

Amid heightened security, the doors of the Sabarimala temple opened for the public on 05 November for two days for the '*Chitira Atta Thirunal*' puja (special worship), marking the birthday of the last king of the princely state of Travancore, Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma. The temple will close on 06 November at 10 pm after the ritual.

Details:

- The temple was reopened for the second time since the Supreme Court lifted the age restriction on women entering the hill shrine. The violent protests last month had forced the police to impose prohibitory orders in Pamba, Nilakkal, Erumeli and Elavunkal, located at the base of the hill. Scores of protesters were present on 05 November as well to bar women from entering the temple.
- On 05 November, only one woman, a 26-year-old, was seen trying to enter the temple. However, she later told the police at the base camp at Pamba that she was not keen on continuing the trek. As the news spread of her arrival, a large number of devotees gathered at a local auditorium and began chanting Lord Ayyappa mantras to protest the arrival of the young woman.
- Meanwhile, BJP state president P S Sreedharan Pillai sparked controversy after an audio tape emerged of him telling a gathering that the violent protests in October were almost planned.

BACKGROUND: The top court, on 28 September had lifted a centuries-old ban on women aged between 10 and 50 to enter the temple, sparking widespread protests across Kerala. A slew of review petitions were filed against the verdict which the court will hear on 13 November.

Kerala has been witnessing widespread protests and rallies ever since a Constitution bench of the apex court allowed women of all ages to enter the shrine. Over a dozen women in the 10-50 age group were forced to return by protesting devotees when the temple opened for monthly worship between 17-22 October.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

- Route diversions expected in the state of Kerala due to the rallies and demonstrations that are likely. Security in the state is high as the authorities are alert and want to avoid an untoward incident.
- Around 2,300 personnel, including a 20-member commando team and 100 women personnel, are deployed to ensure the security of devotees.
- High security measures in place in and around the temple premises.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Advised to follow due diligence if employee movement (especially female employees) is planned in Kerala specifically in Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha.
- Cater for increased traffic and security near the temple.
- Stay away from protest site to avoid incidental risks.
- To reduce the traffic congestion and possible delays state traffic police might release advisory for general commuters.
- Commuters are advised to follow traffic regulations and restriction if in place to avoid delays.

- It is advised to maintain situational awareness to avoid delays.
- Monitor local news portals/advisories to stay updated on the ground situation.

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ASIA-PACIFIC SNAPSHOT

Bangladesh: Oikya Front to hold rally at Suhrawardy Udyan today (06 November)

Jatiya Oikya Front has received permission to hold its public rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka on 06 November, Tuesday.

Details:

The rally aims to highlight the front's seven-point demand ahead of the upcoming 11th national polls. It will be Jatiya Oikya Front's third rally, as the alliance previously held rallies in Sylhet and Chittagong on 24 and 27 October, respectively.

ANALYSIS

Today's rally is going to be held hours before the Oikya Front leaders' second phase of a small-scale dialogue with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at her residence called Ganabhaban, at 11am on 07 November, Wednesday. Previously on 01 November, Jatiya Oikya Front participated in a dialogue with Prime Minister and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina—the first in a series of dialogues. They met to resolve the present political crisis and pave a way to ensure the parliamentary election is peaceful. The alliances agreed to hold a second dialogue after jurist and chief of the newly formed Jatiya Oikya Front, Dr Kamal Hossain, wrote to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seeking another dialogue. He said that Oikya Front is interested in discussing constitutional and legal affairs relating to the upcoming election.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

- Enhanced vigilance and route diversions can be expected around the Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka on 06 November (Tuesday) due to the planned rally.
- Security in the city is high as the authorities are alert and want to avoid an untoward incident in view of the upcoming elections.
- Large number of participants are expected during the rally leading to travel disruption.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Advised to follow due diligence if employee movement is planned in Bangladesh specifically in Dhaka.
- Cater for increased traffic and security near the Suhrawardy Udyan area.
- Stay away from protest site to avoid incidental risks.
- Commuters are advised to follow traffic regulations and restriction if in place to avoid delays.
- It is advised to maintain situational awareness to avoid delays.

- Monitor local news portals/advisories to stay updated on the ground situation.

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Bangladesh: Cyclones forecast for November

The Meteorological Department has forecast one to two low-pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal in November ahead of the winter, which could turn into cyclones. Met office said that this year less rainfall is expected in November than usual while announcing the long-term forecast for the month. It is expected that temperatures will drop further around the middle of the month.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

Parts of the country experienced rain at the tail end of October due to a low pressure system that developed soon after the passing of Cyclone Titli. Though the south-west seasonal wind has died down, temperatures have fallen due to drizzling rain. According to the Met office, light to medium cold winds may be experienced in the north, north-east and central areas of the country near the end of December. It is also likely that it will bring heavy fog. Light rainfall was witnessed in some parts of Dhaka on Monday, 05 November. Heavy rainfall was recorded in Sylhet, 39mm.

Forecast: According to Tuesday's (06 November) forecast, parts of Kishoreganj district, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions will experience light rain. Other regions of the country may experience partial cloudiness.

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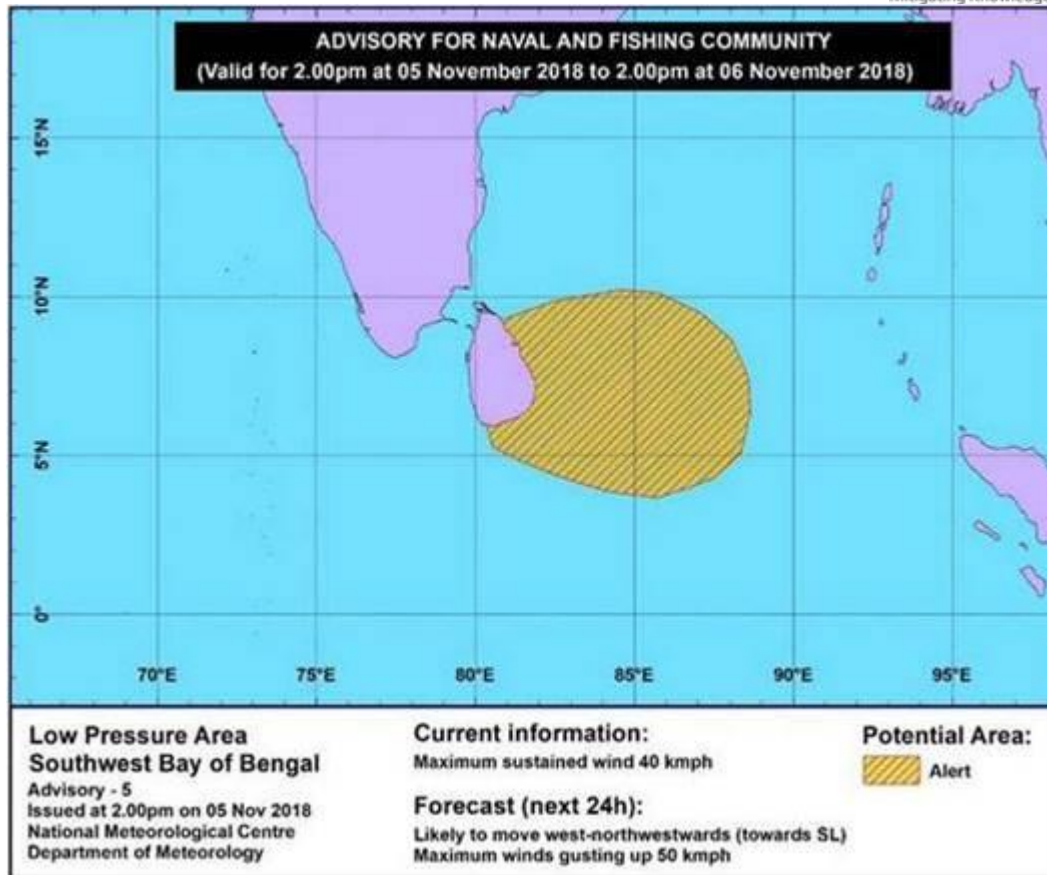
Sri Lanka: Heavy rains expected due to low pressure area

Heavy showers exceeding 100mm are forecasted in the coming days as a result of a low pressure area which is likely to develop over Bay of Bengal, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

Department of Meteorology said the depression is likely to move west-northwestwards across southwest Bay of Bengal, Sri Lanka and Gulf of Mannar area during the coming days. Due to this situation the showery condition is expected to enhance over the island, particularly in the Eastern, North-central, Northern, Uva and Southern provinces. Cloudy skies can be expected over the island. General public, Naval and fishing communities were requested to be attentive about advisories issued by the Department of Meteorology in this regard.

Heavy falls were expected at some places in the Uva, Southern and Central provinces and in Batticaloa, Ampara and Polonnaruwa districts.



Source: Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Widespread rainfall forecast across Sri Lanka including in the coming days. Advised to take adequate precautionary measures.
- Travel disruptions can be anticipated in the eventuality of heavy rainfall, cater for delays in commute.
- Consult weather reports if residing or working from low-lying areas. Stay vigilant and be ready to evacuate at short notice.

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Pakistan: MMA to stage 'million march' in Karachi on 08 November against Asia Bibi's acquittal

The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) said it plans to hold a 'million march' in Karachi on Thursday, 08 November against the Supreme Court's recent acquittal of Asia Bibi — a Christian woman who was previously condemned to death on blasphemy charges by lower courts.

BACKGROUND:

Last Wednesday, 31 October the apex court, in a landmark judgement, had accepted Asia Bibi's appeal against her sentence, following which several religiopolitical parties had taken to the streets to protest, which at some places escalated. A day later, JUI-Fazl Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, whose party is one of several that constitutes the multi-party

MMA alliance, had announced that a million march would be held in the port city, where he said the future strategy on the issue would be chalked out.

The party workers are likely to gather at **Shahrah-e-Quaideen in Karachi on 08 November**. Thursday's march will be MMA's second major political event after they held a rally in Peshawar last Friday, 02 November. In the Peshawar rally, the JUI-F head had held the PTI government responsible for the turmoil in the wake of the SC's verdict, and announced that his countrywide agitation would continue until the government was ousted.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

Protests have been reported in major cities in Pakistan. It is advised to maintain due diligence and plan travel accordingly

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