

More rain on the way, says IMD as Mumbai battles traffic, waterlogging

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Heavy overnight rains in Mumbai disrupted traffic on Monday during morning rush hours on all major roads, including the Western Express Highway, and delayed trains, prompting authorities to divert vehicles in several areas.

Train services of the Western Railway (WR) was affected beyond Virar after water-logging on tracks at Palghar, spokesperson Ravinder Bhakar said. Several short and long distance trains, including the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express, were regulated at various stations. Two days of downpour helped the city surpass its average rainfall for June. Between 8.30am on Friday and 8.30am on Sunday, Mumbai recorded 327.5mm rain, compared to 182mm received in the first 27 days of June.



The weather bureau issued a fresh forecast on Sunday that said the city and its suburbs were likely to witness intermittent rain with heavy showers at a few places on Monday. However, the intensity of rain is likely to increase from July 2 till July 6, with chances of heavy to very

heavy rain over north Konkan, including Mumbai. The traffic control room reported that by 9 am the vehicular traffic was extremely slow on most of the roads in the city and its suburbs.

Commuters, however, claimed that traffic was at a standstill on the Western Express highway from Goregaon to Andheri and on all arterial roads connecting to the expressway. Andheri Kurla Road, Powai to JVL and SV Road from Juhu to National College in Bandra also witnessed huge traffic snarls. On the Eastern side of the city, the traffic was reported to be slow from Mulund LBS Marg towards Bhandup village and Ghatkopar to Sion.

Apart from the water logging spots identified by the traffic police, the police department also asked motorists to avoid travelling to the central side of Mumbai from Sion to Lower Parel.

Traffic on Gandhi market was diverted through Sulochana Shetty road and Bhau Daki Road. And that on National College SV Road Bandra was diverted to Link Road.

Police officials said more than 2,000 traffic police personnel were on the roads managing traffic.

"Since trains are running late and even closing down we are expecting a spillover on the roads. We are managing the traffic to help commuters reach their destination on time," said a traffic police officer.

Nationwide Jal Shakti Abhiyan to be launched today

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Jal Shakti Abhiyan will be launched across the country from today to accelerate water harvesting and conservation measures.

The scheme is aimed at making water conservation and promotion of irrigation efficiency a mass movement through asset creation and communication campaigns. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will launch the scheme from New Delhi. Over 250 officers, including Additional and Joint Secretaries, have been appointed as in-charge of water-stressed districts in the country to plan ways to conserve the natural resource. They have been appointed as

Central Prabhari Officers of 255 water-stressed districts for coordinating the Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

These teams will visit identified blocks and districts, and coordinate the implementation of various water harvesting and conservation measures.

In his Mann Ki Baat programme on All India Radio, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had yesterday called upon people to start a mass movement for water conservation and resolve to save every drop of water amidst water scarcity in several parts of the country. Mr Modi said an awareness campaign should be started which should not only focus on water-related problems but also propagate ways to save water.

Fund transfer through RTGS, NEFT set to get cheaper from today

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Fund transfer through Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems is set to become cheaper after the Reserve Bank of India decided it will not impose any charges on such transactions.

After announcing its decision to waive all charges on fund transfer through RTGS and NEFT systems from today, RBI has also asked banks to pass on the benefits to customers from the same day.

The transaction cost comprises two components- RBI's charges plus banks'

services charges based on the infrastructure cost they incur. While the share of RBI's levy goes away, bank charges would continue to exist.

The Real-Time Gross Settlement system is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers, while the National Electronic Funds Transfer system is used for fund transfers of up to 2 lakh rupees.

According to Indian Banks' Association Chairman Sunil Mehta, with a view to push the digital transaction, the RBI has decided not to charge on RTGS and NEFT transactions. He stated that the move will help banks reduce the fees from customers for these transactions.

Sport News

Sourav Ganguly points out two major reasons behind India's loss to England

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A disappointed Sourav Ganguly pointed out two major reasons behind India's first defeat in ICC World Cup 2019 at Birmingham, Edgbaston on Sunday. India were handed a 31-run loss by hosts England, who kept their semi-final hopes well and truly after the victory.

Opener Jonny Bairstow's hundred (111 off 109 balls) set the platform and a cavalier 54-ball 79 by all-rounder Ben Stokes took England to an imposing 337 for 7 in 50 overs after batting first, neutralising the spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav with some heavy duty hitting. The total proved to be good enough as Rohit Sharma's (102) 25th ODI hundred and skipper Virat Kohli's (66) fifth consecutive half-century could only take India to 306 for 5 as England captain Eoin Morgan rotated his bowlers effectively at the death.

Ganguly said India lost the match in two stages - the first

10 overs of their chase when Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma struggled to score quickly and the last 5 overs when Dhoni and Jadhav scored at a run-a-ball despite the asking rate being well over 13 runs per over.

"India lost the chase in two phases... The first 10 overs and the final 5 overs," Ganguly told the host broadcasters in the post-match discussion when asked to dissect India's performance on Sunday.

"You cannot score just 28 runs in the first Powerplay when you are chasing a total like 338. Kohli and Rohit should have taken more risks at the top," Ganguly said.

Chasing 338 for victory, India lost opener KL Rahul as early as the third over of the match. Then Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma decided to take time to adjust with the pace of the pitch before taking any chances. As a result, India scored only 28 runs in the first 10 overs - their slowest start in the World Cup so far.

Kohli and Rohit, however,

made up for the slow start by accelerating in the middle. With their 138-run stand, the duo built a nice platform for India's middle order to cash in. But like it has been happening many a times of late, India's middle order failed to cash in after Rohit and Kohli's dismissal.

Ganguly also pointed fingers and Dhoni and Jadhav's approach towards the end of the chase. "It was hard to explain the approach of Dhoni and Jadhav, they were scoring at a run-a-ball when sixes and fours were needed," Ganguly said.

When Hardik Pandya was dismissed in the 45th over, India needed 71 runs in the final 5 overs with 5 wickets in hand but all Dhoni and Jadhav could manage was 39 runs. They hit just 2 boundaries in the last 5 overs.

"England hit 13 sixes and India only 1. The wicket was flat, one side was the boundary was very short, so there should have been more power cricket from the Indian batters," said Ganguly

Virat Kohli criticizes 'bizarre' and 'crazy' short boundary of Edgbaston after defeat to England

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Terming the shorter side of the Edgbaston boundary 'bizarre' and 'crazy', India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday went on to point fingers at the dimensions of the ground, which he believed helped the England openers more at the start of the match. Kohli did not directly refer the short 59-meter boundary on one side as one of the reasons behind India's 31-run defeat to England, but the Indian captain made no efforts to hide his displeasure about the same.

England openers, Jonny Bairstow in particular took full advantage of the short 59-meter Edgbaston boundary to tackle the Indian wrist spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav. Bairstow, who hit his first World Cup hundred smashed five - four of those off Chahal - of his six sixes towards that shorter boundary. Bairstow (111) put a blistering 160-run opening stand with Jason Roy (66), which always kept England ahead of the game.

"It's a coincidence that it (the short boundary) just falls under the limitations of the shortest boundary you can have in the tournament," Kohli told the host broadcaster in

the post-match presentation. "So quite bizarre on a flat pitch, it's the first time we've experienced that so it's crazy that things fall in place like that randomly."

Both Kuldeep and Chahal had troubles dealing with unnatural shorter side of the boundary. Chahal went on to concede 88 runs in his 10 overs - the most by any Indian spinner in an ODI ever. Kuldeep too went for plenty in his first 5 overs before making a good comeback towards the end to finish with figures of 1 for 72 in his 10 overs.

Kohli conceded that Kuldeep and Chahal could have been smarter with their lines but believed the short boundary made their job way more tough than it should have been.

"If batsmen are able to reverse sweep you for a six on a 59-metre boundary then there is not much you can do as a spinner. There is no sort of room to think whether you are going to get out or not and one side was about 82 (metres) or something like that. Yeah, look, they had to be smart with the wickets they bowled, but with one short boundary it was very difficult to contain runs."

Interestingly, India had expressed their reservations about the shorter side of the

boundary at the start of the game. India's coaching staff and Virat Kohli were seen having a word with the head groundsman of Edgbaston regarding the dimensions of the ground before toss on Sunday.

The size of the boundary, however, was not decided by the England and Wales Cricket Board. Since World Cup is an ICC tournament, the playing conditions comes under ICC jurisdiction and they are the ones who determine the boundary size too.

The Indian captain also admitted that his side was not clinical with the bat while chasing 338 for victory.

"...we weren't clinical with the bat I suppose, because the wicket was flat. We should have accelerated and gotten closer, but they (England) bowled superbly," Kohli said. "If we were clinical with the bat, if at that time, the result could have been different. We had a decent chance, when they (Pant and Pandya) were in there to strike a few and get closer to the target and trigger panic in their (England) dressing room. We kept losing wickets and that doesn't help in a big chase," he added.

Non-subsidised LPG price cut by Rs 100 per cylinder

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The price of non-subsidised LPG has been reduced by one hundred rupees and 50 paise per cylinder on the back of softening of international market rates.

Indian Oil Corporation in a release said that the new rate will be effective from today.

Now the non-subsidised cooking gas in Delhi will be priced at 637 rupees per cylinder. Subsidised cooking gas price will be 494 rupees 35 paise per cylinder.

Foreigners among 35 held in simultaneous raids at spa centres running 'sex trade' in Noida

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Thirty-five people, including 25 women, were arrested here on Sunday night during simultaneous police raids at over a dozen spa centres allegedly running sex rackets, officials said. There were foreign nationals among those arrested, including those from Thailand, the police officials said, but did not give their exact count.

"On the directions of Senior Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Krishna, the raids were conducted late in the evening at 14 spa centres in the commercial hub of Sector 18. The raids continued till almost midnight," Gautam Buddh Nagar (Rural) Superintendent of Police (SP)



Vineet Jaiswal said. He said 14 police teams involving seven circle officers, eight station house officers, 30 sub-inspectors and both male and female constables carried out the action.

"Altogether 35 people - 10 men and 25 women - were

arrested from these spas, including multiple foreign nationals. Around Rs one lakh in cash, beer, used and unused condoms, along with other objectionable articles, were seized from these spa centres," Jaiswal said. The 14 spa centres were sealed. Three of those were

found involved in sex trade, while the others showed serious irregularities, the SP said.

A case was lodged against the spa centres and their owners would be booked under the stringent Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act, he added.

Kohli, Rohit react on Dhoni-Jadhav's crawl after India lose to England

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India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni failed to do justice to his reputation as a 'finisher' in Sunday's loss to England but India captain Virat Kohli and vice-captain Rohit Sharma defended his display in the final stages of the World Cup group match at Edgbaston and instead gave credit to the England fast bowlers for exploiting the slow nature of the pitch.

India needed 71 runs from the final five overs to maintain their unbeaten run in the tournament with former captain Dhoni and Kedar

Jadhav in the middle.

The duo, however, looked content knocking the ball around rather than going for big hits and managed only 39 in the last five overs.

"When Mahi and Kedar were batting, they were trying to hit (boundaries) but were not able to because of the slowness of the pitch," Rohit Sharma, who topscored for India with 102, said after the team's first loss in the tournament.

"Towards the end it got pretty slow. We got to give credit to the English team, they used the conditions very well."

"They mixed up their variations quite nicely and kept us guessing all through

the game."

Dhoni remained not out on 42 off 31 balls, having hit the only six in the Indian innings, compared to England's 13. He made 28 off 52 balls against Afghanistan and against West Indies, the 37-year-old struggled initially before hitting two sixes in the final over to remain not out on 56 off 61 balls.

India captain Virat Kohli then defended Dhoni's "calculated" approach, saying the wicketkeeper-batsman was experienced enough to know the demand of the occasion.

Kohli defended Dhoni again on Sunday after the team's 31-run loss to the hosts.