

Weather Forecasts for Pashan and Lohegaon areas of Pune city commenced

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India started issuing of forecasts for Pune's Pashan and Lohegaon areas separately for the first time since 1928. Though IMD has been recording and maintaining temperature, rainfall, humidity and other key weather parameters measured at Pune, Lohegaon and Pashan stations of the city, the issuing of separate weather forecast for Pashan and Lohegaon area of Pune started last week on November 27, 2019 during the visit of Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of India Meteorological Department.

An IMD spokesperson stated that five-day advance weather forecast would also be issued using weather information mainly gathered from its Shivajinagar weather observatory. Though there are minor variations in temperature values recorded at Shivajinagar, Pashan and Lohegaon (Pashan is cooler, while Lohegaon is warmer than Shivajinagar) the separate forecast would ensure accuracy in the localized forecasting.

Warnings are issued a few hours in advance which helps the local administration to take measures, resume activities and other steps to deal with the incident. Weather forecast through SMS and WhatsApp from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) would be available soon for these areas. IMD currently issues such weather warnings, or now updates, for 380 cities or towns in the country. The *Meghdoot App* of India Meteorological Department can be downloaded from https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aas.meghdoot&hl=en_IN It provides forecast relating to temperature, rainfall, humidity, and wind speed and direction, which play critical roles in agricultural operations and advisories to the farmers on how to take care of their crops and livestock. The information are updated twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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