



OLYMPIC MASCOT UNVEILED

THEY'VE only got one set of eyes between them and bear a striking resemblance to a computer game figure crossed with a character from the film *Monsters Inc.*

Wenlock and Mandeville (a bit more catchy than Much and Stoke) are the mascots for the London 2012 Olympics.

Wenlock is named after the Shropshire town of Much Wenlock where, in the mid-19th century, the Wenlock Games became one of the inspirations for the modern Olympic movement.

Mandeville's name is derived from Stoke Mandeville, in Buckinghamshire, home to Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Daily Mail

Pollution forecast system for Games



By Savita Verma in New Delhi

FOR the first time, India will have a system for forecasting pollutants in the air. The exercise has been undertaken in view of the Commonwealth Games' requirements.

The Rs 10-crore project on pollutant monitoring and forecasting, called System for Air Quality Forecasting and Research, is being developed by the ministry of earth sciences.

As part of the programme, air quality monitoring and forecasting for pollutants is being done by the Indian Institute of Meteorology, Pune, while weather monitoring and forecasting will be done by the India Meteorological Department.

"It is the first time in India that air quality forecasting is being tried. By mid-August the system will start functioning. The information on a day-to-day basis will be provided to authorities who will decide mitigation measures such as diverting traffic, restricting number of vehicles on roads and other such steps. The forecasting will be done a day in advance," Dr G Beig, programme director at IITM, said.

The system will measure air pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, benzene, toluene, xylene, particulate matter and black carbon on a continuous basis. The information on pollutants will be displayed at 20 places, including the Games venues, using LED screens in the national capital region. The data will be refreshed every hour, Beig said.

Pollution is generally highest in winter due to a decrease in wind speed. The phenomenon begins in October, according to weather experts. Pollutants affect athletes' performance.

Under the programme, 10 monitoring stations are being set up in and around the Games' venues. These monitoring stations are one-room facilities each of which will have nine automatic air quality analysers and one automatic weather station. Seven of the monitoring stations are being set up inside stadia. "All the monitoring stations will be in place within a month," Beig said.

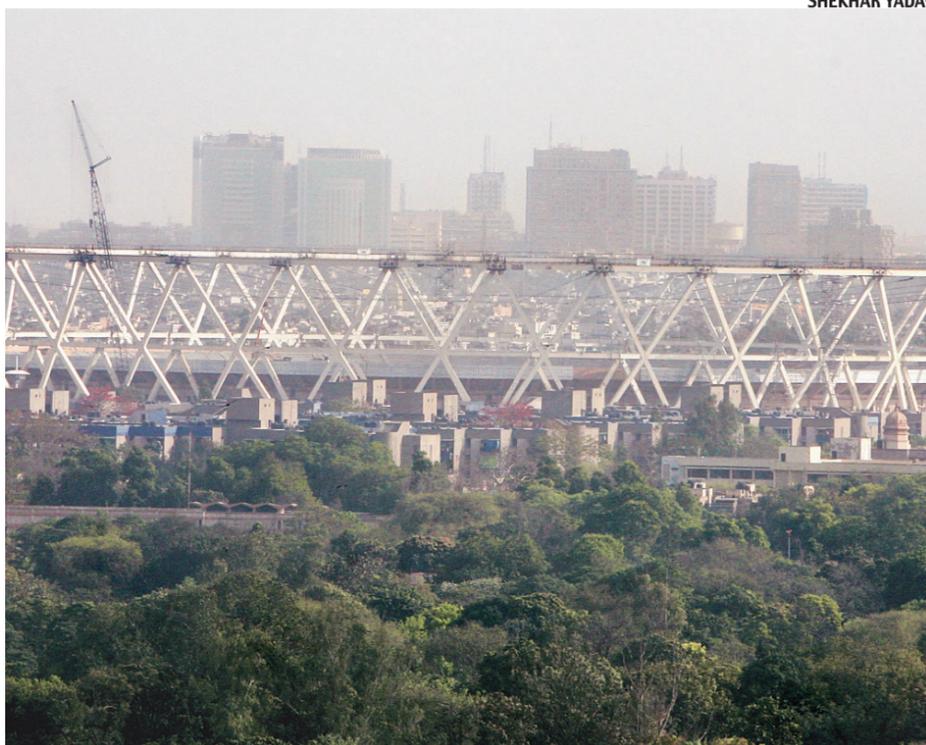
"The air quality analyser measures pollutants while automatic weather stations record parameters like temperature, pressure, wind speed, direction, rainfall, heat and humidity. These parameters are essential for air quality

monitoring and prediction," he explained.

Pollutants generally originate from industry. The scientists have already done surveys, climatology studies and generated meteorological data for pollution monitoring and prediction. For example, they know that north-easterly winds blow during September and October. This information is crucial as wind direction determines what kind of pollutants from what all sources are expected to be in the air during the Games. Winds are likely to blow from Palam airport and Mayapuri side towards the Games venues.

Beig said the whole of this belt would be covered by the monitoring stations. IITM has established a control room at Rajender Nagar while Palam airport has an IMD observatory.

"IMD is installing 50 automatic weather stations densely in the NCR region. Of these, 13 have already been placed while the rest would be in place by July," Dr B Mukhopadhyay of IMD



The information about the pollutants will be displayed at 20 places, including the Commonwealth Games venues like Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on giant screens

First-of-its-kind project will cost Rs 10 crore

said. The department is also procuring radar for predicting thunderstorms and hailstorms. Currently, aviation radar is used for the purpose.

The scientists have already identified emission sources in the NCR with the help of some 300 college students after a two-month exercise. The students surveyed different places to collect information on the kind of fuel used in houses, restaurants hotels and by street vendors. Information on emission levels and patterns has also been gathered. For example, emissions are high on Mondays and less on Fridays. Pollutants are also high

during morning and evening hours.

The forecast on pollutants will be issued using an "atmospheric chemistry transport model" which will be run on a high performance computer installed in Pune.

"Air quality forecasting requires a combination of factors. For example, data on greenery and barren land would also be used," Beig said.

After the Games, the system will be used by IMD for the day-to-day forecasting of parameters like heat and comfort index which will include forecasting of temperature, wind and humidity for Delhiites.

"It will help people prepare for the day in advance. For example, asthmatics may like to carry inhalers if air quality is expected to be bad. People may want to carry water if they are likely to be dehydrated due to high temperatures," Mukhopadhyay said.

The department is tying up with FM to telecast this information in the future.

CRIC SPHERE

English counties not to compete in CLT20

LEFT with no room to manoeuvre its calendar once again, the England Cricket Board (ECB) has barred its county teams from participating in this year's Twenty20 Champions League as the revised dates clash with the end of the domestic season. Without mentioning Lalit Modi's name, the ECB has also warned its counties against holding discussions with suspended Indian cricket board officials.



GET over mongoose and double blade bats as it is time for eco-friendly 'Wow' aluminium bats to further revolutionise cricketing in India. Brainchild of an Indian IIT engineer, Wow aluminium bats are the latest innovations to hit tennis ball cricket and will be formally unveiled in the capital on May 21, while those to be used by leather ball cricket would be introduced three months later.

McLaren scalps five as SA beat Windies

MAN-of-the-Match Ryan McLaren captured five wickets for 19 runs and bowled South Africa to a 13-run victory in the first of two Twenty20 Internationals against West Indies in North Sound, Anigua and Barmuda, on Wednesday. West Indies, chasing 137 for victory from 20 overs, were dismissed for 123 with one ball to spare at the Vivian Richards Ground.



THE Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), host of the three matches in the 2011 World Cup including the final at its Wankhede Stadium, has decided to keep different ticket rates for the three tiers. "At a recent meeting of MCA's infrastructure sub-committee it was proposed to keep ticket rates from Rs 2,200 to Rs 35,00 for the first tier," according to MCA sources. "Rates of tickets for the final, on April 2, would be in the range of Rs 8,000 to Rs 15,000," the sources indicated.