

Light Rain Cleans City's Air, Temp Dips To 13°C At Ridge

Mercury May Stay Below Season Avg For Next Few Days: Met

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New Delhi: Light rain and gusty winds led to the pollution levels dropping in Delhi and air quality improving to satisfactory levels on Tuesday. Due to strong winds reaching over 40 kmph, 13 Delhi-bound flights were diverted to Jaipur (9), Lucknow (3) and Ahmedabad (1) between 7pm and 11pm on Monday.

The city saw intense rain spell till 8.30 am on Tuesday. Coupled with the cold northerly and north-westerly winds coming from freshly snowed Himalayas, it had a direct impact on the mercury and air quality here. The maximum temperature dropped by four degrees while the air quality improved to satisfactory for the first time this month.

The city's base station, Safdarjung, recorded 5.4 mm rainfall between 8.30pm on Monday and 8.30 am on Tuesday, while several regions recorded more. The ridge area recorded the highest 9.6mm rainfall, while areas along



Bikers cover up as the mercury dropped on Tuesday evening

saw an intense rain spell.

On Tuesday, the air quality index was 89 compared with 207 (poor) a day earlier. It, however, is set to worsen over the next few days. The decision support system by IITM has forecast the share of biomass burning to increase sharply over the next two days. As per the current trends, given the instances of stubble fire in neighbouring Punjab are negligible due to

burning on Tuesday was less than 1%. However, the share may hover between 39% and 52% in coming days, according to the system.

The air quality is likely to be in moderate category on October 18. It may be in poor category between October 19 and 26, stated the air quality early warning system.

On Tuesday, the maximum temperature at Safdarjung was 26.2 degrees Celsius,

seven notches below normal, as against 30.5 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 17.2 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, as against 21.1 degrees Celsius a day earlier. At 13.1 degrees Celsius, the ridge area recorded the lowest minimum temperature of the season so far.

The weather department expects the temperature to remain well below average for the next few days.

"The maximum temperature will remain around 26 degrees for the next three days. After that, it will rise by about two degrees. The temperature fell under the impact of snowfall and rain. The western disturbance has moved so there are no chances of further rain," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist, India Meteorological Department.

The maximum and minimum temperatures on Tuesday are likely to hover around 28 and 16 degrees Celsius, respectively.

(With inputs from Priyangi Agarwal)