

# More fog and smog in coming days, says Met

**HEALTH HAZARD** Light rain reported from some parts of the Capital, Met department predicts foggier days from Saturday

HT Correspondent  
 htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Traces of rain were reported in some parts of the city on Tuesday even as the Met department forecasts more foggy days from Saturday onwards.

"Traces of rainfall occurred in some parts of the city even as the minimum temperature settled at 13.8 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal. The maximum was recorded at 26.2 degrees, a notch above the season's average, while humidity in air oscillated between 51 and 100 per cent," a Met official said.

The weatherman has also predicted partially overcast conditions on Wednesday.

"The skies will be partly cloudy. Shallow to moderate fog would occur at a few places in the morning and afternoon," the official said, while ruling out the possibility of any rainfall.

The minimum and maximum tomorrow are expected to hover at 13 and 26 degrees, respectively.

While the minimum on Monday was recorded at 14 degrees, the maximum was at 28 degrees.

Tuesday, too, was a foggy day with the air quality of the city largely falling in the "very poor" category. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) monitoring stations, located across the city in areas such as Delhi University, Dhirpur, Mathura Road, Pusa Road had AQI of PM 2.5 and PM 10 above 300 and 200, respectively.

Foggy days could be bad news for those suffering from breathing problems since the high concentration of particulate matter in the Capital's air will ensure heavy smog cover over the city. Delhi has been witnessing smog for the past couple of days and apart from plummeting air quality, the city has been reporting low visibility levels.

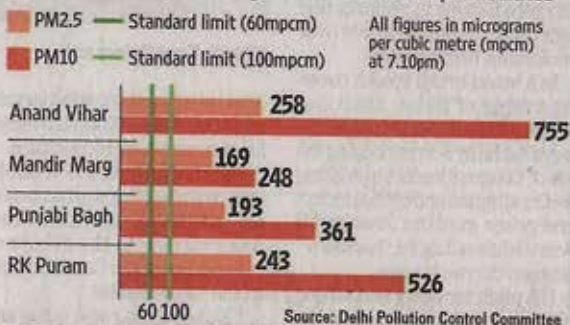


Smog poses a major health challenge in Delhi.

HT FILE

## DANGEROUS PARTICLES

Several areas reported high concentration of particulates



## How Delhi fared on PM10 levels against other cities



According to IMD Director B P Yadav, low visibility conditions are likely to persist over the next few days. The visibility on Tuesday was at 1500 metres at the maximum and minimum 200 metres.

The phenomenon of smog, a harmful mixture of smoke and fog, experts say, is a play of multiple factors including high moisture levels, vehicular and industrial emissions and lack

of wind movement

"During winters, the cool winds trap pollutants in the air close to the earth. It is an issue Delhi has been experiencing. It requires preparedness and progressive action to fight these pollutants," Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director for research and advocacy at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), told news agency IANS.



Children walk to school on a smoggy morning in New Delhi on Monday.

02/12  
 HT  
 NAVI CHOUDHARY / HT PHOTO

# Smog won't lift, Capital's air remains at 'very poor' levels

hindustantimes

the air we breathe

CAPITAL CHOKING

HT Correspondent  
 letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** As Beijing choked under its thickest blanket of smog this year on Tuesday, things looked up for the Indian capital with the amount of air-borne particles and the density

of smog both taking a dip.

While the air quality index touched the 500-mark, the highest for all monitoring stations in Beijing, it oscillated between 300 and 400 in Delhi after having touched 408 on Monday.

The Central Pollution Control Board defines an air quality index reading of 0-50 as "good", 51-100 as "satisfactory", 301-400 as "very poor" and 401-500 as "severe".

The level of PM 2.5 in Beijing's air reportedly crossed 600 on Monday. However, gusty winds that blew across the Chinese capital later on Tuesday cleared the sky dramatically and led to

better air quality.

According to real time data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee's monitoring stations, at 7.10pm on Tuesday the level of fine pollution particles (PM2.5) was 258 mcg/cubic m at Anand Vihar, one of the most polluted spots of the city, 169 at Mandir Marg, 193 at Punjabi Bagh and 243 at RK Puram.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## more stories

Starting Saturday, more foggy days in the city →P2  
 Smog blankets Beijing →P22