

Delhi's air quality worse than that in Beijing, situation to continue for 3 days

HT Correspondent

hreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: On a day that Beijing declared its first ever air pollution red alert, Delhi surpassed its Chinese counterpart. No red alerts, however, will be issued anytime soon.

Four stations in Delhi, Anand Vihar, Mandir Marg, RK Puram and Punjabi Bagh recorded a severe warning with the air pollution values for these on the National Air Quality Index being recorded above 400 (out of a maximum of 500). This carries a severe warning. At Anand Vihar, the Particulate Matter 10 concentration at 8 pm on Monday was 1,903 microgramme per cubic metre. This is 19 times more than the prescribed limit.

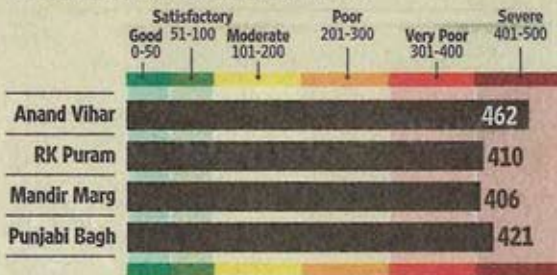
According to experts, the air quality is expected to be in the same range for the next three days.

On Monday, Beijing ordered schools to close down and all outdoor construction activity to stop as its air quality figures touched 256 at around 8pm. Delhi, at 8pm, recorded a reading of 286. (Source: US Embassy air quality index).

ALARMING RISE

Air quality to remain in the same range over the next few days

Air Quality Index (AQI)* data on December 7



At Anand Vihar, the PM 10 concentration was 1,903 microgrammes per cubic meter at 8 pm on Monday. Prescribed limit is 100 microgrammes per cubic meter

All 4 stations carried a 'Severe' air quality warning on the index

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) stations in Delhi University, IGI Airport, Dhirpur also had 'severe' Air Quality Index (AQI), bordering 450 in most cases. The 24-hour average of PM 2.5 and PM 10 were 197 and 330 micrograms per cubic

metre respectively.

Permissible levels of PM (particulate matter) 2.5 and PM 10 are 60 and 100 micrograms per cubic metre respectively and consistent exposure to anything beyond that can harm the respiratory system as the particles embed themselves deep inside the lungs.

STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

DELHI METRO
Daily passengers: 26 lakh



Trains

220

Coaches

1,240

More trains required

258



DTC BUSES

Daily passengers: 35 lakh

Number of buses

4,500

Extra buses required

3,000



AUTO/TAXIS

Total 1,55,000

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