What Is Keeping Heatwave At Bay? 5 Western Disturbances & Counting

Unlike Many Parts Of Country, Delhi Has Seen Mercury Crossing 40°C Just Once

Priyangi.Agarwal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Parts of the country are recording severe heatwave conditions with some stations touching 47 degrees Celsius, but the mercury in Delhi has remained below 40 degrees Celsius, except for one day, so far this season. Delhi, which witnesses most heatwaves from April's third week to first week of June, has not seen any such day so far.

Met officials said strong winds and cloudy skies under the influence of five western disturbances in April did not let the temperature rise higher. The maximum temperature in summer till now has mostly seen temperatures around normal or slightly above normal. The highest maximum temperature was 40.5 degrees Celsius on April 27, shows India Meteorological Department's data.

"April this year saw five western disturbances. No significant amount of rainfall was recorded due to these western disturbances, but there was cloudiness and strong winds on many days, which prevented a rise in temperature. A dust storm was also seen on a few days," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and head, Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, IMD. He added that another western disturbance would start impacting the region from Friday and it would keep the temperature around normal for a few days.

In summer 2023, no heatwave was seen at Safdarjung, which is the city's base station, but parts of Delhi were under the grip of heatwave for three to five days. 2022 saw the longest streak of heatwaves with nine such days in April and four in May at Safdarjung. However, the summer of 2021 was different as it recorded one heatwave each in March and June and 11 in April and May. Heatwaves are largely reported in April and May, but March and June also record heatwaves, shows IMD's data.

The met department's forecast shows that heatwave is unlikely over Delhi for the next seven days. However, the met department has predicted severe heatwave to heatwave conditions in parts over Gangetic West Bengal, east Bihar, east Jharkhand, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat Region, Konkan & Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, south Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Telangana and interior Karnataka in the next two days.

IMD defines a heatwave day when the maximum is 4.5 degrees and above normal temperature and the maximum is at least 40 degrees Celsius. A heatwave is also considered if maximum temperature touches 45 degrees Celsius or above. A 'severe' heatwave is declared when the maximum is 6.0 degrees and more above normal.

STRONG WINDS, CLEAR SKIES HELP

No. of heatwaves recorded at Safdarjung

Year	March	April	May	June	Total no. of heatwave days
2024*	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	9	4	0	13
2021	1	0	0	1	2
2020	0	0	4	0	4

*Till May 2

- Delhi is yet to record a heatwave this season
- Five western disturbances in April did not let temperature to rise
- Peak season for heatwave is recorded from third week of April to first week of June

Heatwave is unlikely in Delhi for the next few days

Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are being recorded in some areas of Gangetic West Bengal, east Bihar, east Jharkhand, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat region, Konkan & Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, south coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Telangana and interior Karnataka

Criteria for heatwave
IMD defines a heatwave day when the maximum is 4.5 degrees and above normal temperature and the maximum is at least 40 degrees Celsius. A heatwave is also considered if maximum temperature touches 45 degrees Celsius or above. A 'severe' heatwave is declared when the maximum is 6.0 degrees and more above normal.

Rain likely tomorrow, but mercury may touch 40°C

Times News Network

New Delhi: Persistent windy conditions in Delhi prevented a significant rise in the maximum temperature, which increased only by 2.3 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature too dropped below 20 degrees Celsius on the day wind speed reached up to 38kmph.

India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast indicates an increase of 4-5 degrees over the next three days. Although there is a chance of rainfall around Saturday, the day temperature might still reach 40 degrees Celsius.

On Thursday the maximum temperature was 35.5 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal, against 33.7 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 19.3 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal, against 21 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

The clear sky during night allowed the heat from radiating earth to escape the outer atmosphere thus dropping the minimum temperature, an IMD scientist said, adding that the heat will intensify as wind speed decreases over next few days.

"The wind speed reaching up to 38kmph on Thursday barred the maximum temperature from rising drastically... There are chances of dust storm or thunderstorm towards Saturday evening, with possibility of drizzle at one or two places. However, this will not impact the day temperature," said Kuldeep Srivastava, senior scientist, IMD.

IMD's data shows that April logged just 7.5 mm rainfall as against the month's normal of 16.3 mm. It was a rain deficit of 54%. The city had seen deficit rainfall in March too. March recorded only 4.3 mm rainfall, making it a rain deficit of 75%.

IMD expects the maximum temperature to reach 40 degrees Celsius by Saturday. The maximum and minimum temperatures on Friday are likely to hover around 38 and 20 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Meanwhile, city's air quality remained moderate. The air quality index, on a scale of 0 to 500, was 196 on Thursday against 198 a day earlier.

196
AQI RECORDED IN CITY ON THURSDAY AGAINST 198 A DAY EARLIER

Fix fecal coliform issues at STPs: Ganga mission to DJB

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: National Mission for Clean Ganga has written to Delhi Jal Board (DJB), asking it to ensure proper sewage treatment, disinfection and control of fecal coliform at its sewage treatment plants (STPs), especially those funded by NMCG.

The letter also directed DJB to address the problem of fecal coliform, a pollutant indicating the presence of raw sewage and human excreta, in the next high-level committee meeting on the Yamuna under the chairmanship of Delhi chief secretary.

The direction came after National Green Tribunal (NGT) took suo moto cognisance of a **TOI** report dated 15% of the city's STPs being unable to treat fecal coliform, which is causing environmental impact and making the Yamuna stink.

Referring to the TOI report, only three — Delhi Gate phase-II, Keshopur phase-III, Okhla phase-VI — were meeting the fecal coliform norm, it added.

NMCG also highlighted that it had extended financial support for the functioning of some of the STPs under the Namami Gange project, and DJB, being the executing agency, must ensure that they comply with fecal coliform standards. These are STPs at Coronation Pillar, Rithala, Kondli and Okhla.

NMCG also highlighted that it had extended financial support for the functioning of some of the STPs under the Namami Gange project

All these projects have provision for treatment of fecal coliform and disinfection as per the required standards, NMCG pointed out. "Any issue with compliance may be reported to NMCG."

According to DPCC, the desirable limit for fecal coliform in the Yamuna is 500 most probable number (MPN)/100ml, while the maximum permissible is 2,500. For STPs, it shouldn't be more than 5,000 MPN/100ml.

The **TOI** report had highlighted that a majority of the CPCB to NGT." NMCG pointed out in its report submitted to NGT on May 1. Out of the 19 STPs monitored by CPCB during Dec 2023-Jan 2024, only three — Delhi Gate phase-II, Keshopur phase-III, Okhla phase-VI — were meeting the fecal coliform norm, it added.

NMCG also highlighted that it had extended financial support for the functioning of some of the STPs under the Namami Gange project, and DJB, being the executing agency, must ensure that they comply with fecal coliform standards. These are STPs at Coronation Pillar, Rithala, Kondli and Okhla.

All these projects have provision for treatment of fecal coliform and disinfection as per the required standards, NMCG pointed out. "Any issue with compliance may be reported to NMCG."

According to DPCC, the desirable limit for fecal coliform in the Yamuna is 500 most probable number (MPN)/100ml, while the maximum permissible is 2,500. For STPs, it shouldn't be more than 5,000 MPN/100ml.

The **TOI** report had highlighted that a majority of the STPs had no facility for bacterial disinfection through either chlorination, UV treatment or ozonation, despite a previous NGT order.

According to the bacteriological analysis reports available with **TOI**, the fecal coliform levels at one such major STP throughout Jan 2024 were 140 crore MPN/100ml, while at two others, it was 24,000 crore and 460 crore.

PM2.5, PM10 levels down between 2018 and 2023: Environment dept to NGT

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi environment department has informed National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the annual PM2.5 concentration saw a reduction from 128 micrograms per cubic metre in 2018 to 106 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023.

The report, dated April 22, stated that Delhi witnessed a reduction of 17% in PM2.5 levels in 2023 in comparison to 2018 and a 22% reduction in PM10 levels.

The report, which has been submitted to the tribunal, said the PM10 levels was 218 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023 as against 277 micrograms per cubic metre in 2018.

The tribunal is hearing a matter related to cities having higher Air Quality Index (AQI). NGT in Feb this year had identified 63 cities, which record high AQI, to submit reports on controlling each polluting source in terms of identified pollutant (PM10/PM2.5) as per source apportionment and progressive reduction on account of measures taken.

The environment department in its report cited the source apportionment study conducted by IIT-Kanpur in 2016. The study stated that secondary particles, biomass burning, vehicles and soil and road dust are major sources of pollution in Delhi.

An analysis of data submitted by the department shows that the city's PM2.5 concentration in 2023 was 2.5 times higher than the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) and 21 times higher than the World Health Organization's safe limit. The annual NAAQS of 40 is 40 micrograms per cubic metre and WHO's annual safe limit for PM2.5 is five micrograms per cubic metre.

Dipankar Saha, former head of Central Pollution Control Board's air laboratory, said, "Reduction of PM2.5 in 2023, on mass weight, is a good progress and the credit goes to all, including regulators and public in general. However, it would be much better if we are able to demonstrate how much toxic components within mass PM2.5 has been reduced over the years".

Former AAP minister meets Saxena, alleges irregularities in govt

Times News Network

New Delhi: Days after his resignation as a minister in AAP govt, Patel Nagar MLA Raaj Kumar Anand on Thursday submitted a memorandum to LG VK Saxena, alleging widespread irregularities prevailing in social welfare, SC/ST welfare and labour departments and in Delhi Commission for Women, which, he claimed, he had seen himself.

No reaction was available from AAP govt.

Anand had held six portfolios in CM Arvind Kejriwal's govt, which included the three departments he also mentioned in a post on social media. Technically, Anand is still a minister, as his resignation lies in CM's office while Kejriwal is in jail.

In his memorandum to LG, Anand said he had resigned due to "prevalent excessive corruption" in Delhi govt. He alleged that the "same face to face with fraud being run in the name of the poor" of Delhi and lies that were peddled to cover the wrong-doings. Anand has alleged flouting of reservation norms for SC, ST and OBC in reservation of seats in govt employment and in the appointments as consultants, experts and fellows.

The MLA also alleged that due finances to the MCD for paying sanitation workers were "deliberately withheld by Delhi govt, causing huge suffering to this mostly Dalit section of employees.

He also alleged that only a fraction of money collected as labour cess was spent for the welfare of labourers in 2023-24, but a huge amount given to "ghost beneficiaries" in 2021-22.

"It came to my attention as a minister that thousands of crores of rupees from the SC welfare fund has remained unspent and has even been diverted for other activities over the past nine years," he alleged, seeking an inquiry. He also urged the steps to ensure that the progress and the credit goes to all, including regulators and public in general. However, it would be much better if we are able to demonstrate how much toxic components within mass PM2.5 has been reduced over the years".

AIIMS death by suicide: Two nursing tutors sent on leave

New Delhi: A day after AIIMS nursing students took out a protest march to demand justice for a 21-year-old BSc Hons second year nursing student who allegedly died by suicide in her hostel room on Tuesday, her two tutors have been asked to go on leave until the inquiry is over.

The students had written a letter to the institute's director demanding the "urgent" suspension of the responsible teachers (names withheld) and compensation of Rs 1 crore to the victim's family members. Besides, they are providing a photocopy of the suicide note written by the victim.

Media cell in-charge Dr Rima Dada said, "the tutors have been told to go on leave, pending inquiry."

In their complaint to the director, BSc second-year nursing students alleged that the tutor at the College of Nursing repeatedly humiliated the victim in front of the entire batch.

Such behaviour is unacceptable and must be addressed promptly, they said, demanding a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to their batchmate's death. Additionally, they sought accountability and reform within the college to prevent such tragedies in the future. **TNN**

Correction

In the May 1, 2024, edition of *The Times of India*, Delhi, the assets of BJP's East Delhi candidate Harsh Deep Malhotra's wife were inadvertently mentioned as Rs 26.6 crore, instead of Rs 26.6 lakh. The error is deeply regretted.

Excise policy case: HC to hear Sisodia's bail petition today

Times News Network

New Delhi: Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia approached the high court on Thursday and sought bail in the cases lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate in connection with the alleged excise policy scam.

A bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma is likely to hear his bail plea on Friday. Sisodia moved HC following a trial court's order rejecting his petition on April 30.

Lawyers for the Aam Aadmi Party functionary mentioned the matter before a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora, seeking an urgent hearing, which agreed to list the same for Friday.

"Let the judge go through the file. So let it come tomorrow," the court told the advocates representing Sisodia as they submitted that the petitioner is an MLA and requested that both the petitions on ED and CBI cases seeking bail be listed urgently.

The trial court had dismissed Sisodia's pleas in the corruption and money-laundering cases lodged by CBI and ED, respectively, while noting that he has been "filing one or other application/making oral submissions frequently, some of them frivolous, that too on a piecemeal basis, apparently as a concerted effort for accomplishing the shared purpose of causing delay in the matter."

Sisodia had argued that despite an assurance before the Supreme Court last year that the trial would conclude in six-eight months, the prosecution had delayed it. The court, however, said the steady progression of the case, despite the apparent attempts to slow down its progress, couldn't by any standard be equated with a snail's pace.

The beneficiaries diverted "illegal" gains to the accused officials and made false entries in their books of account to evade detection, the probe agencies have alleged. Sisodia was arrested by CBI in Feb last year for his alleged role in the "scam" while he was arrested by ED in March the same year. HC had earlier dismissed his bail petitions on May 30 and July 3 last year, respectively.

What is a forest, really? On Haryana govt's table for the first time, criteria to define it

Ipsita.Pal@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: Haryana has for the first time come up with criteria to define a 'forest' – a move that could pave the way for a long-pending exercise to identify areas, particularly in the Aravalis, that will get legal protection either under Supreme Court orders or provisions of the Forest Conservation Act.

A forest official told **TOI** on Thursday that according to the proposal submitted by the forest department to the state govt, an area with "5 hectares or more of uninterrupted forest-like elements" will be recognised as a 'deemed forest'.

If the state govt approves the proposal, the forest department will form committees in every district to identify deemed forests. "As per the proposal, a minimum of 5 hectares of continuous patch will be considered as deemed forest if it has forest-like elements," the official said.

Haryana's move comes after the Supreme Court on Feb 19 told the Centre and all states to go by the broader "dictionary definition" of forest as given in its 1996 ruling in the TN Godavarman vs Union of India case, irrespective of last year's amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act that defined afresh what would be treated as a forest.

The FCA amendment excluded all areas that were not recorded or identified as 'forest' in govt records as of Oct 25, 1980. This change, experts had said, violated the 1996 SC ruling that defined forest as per dictionary meaning and not necessarily areas based on official records.

The top court in its Feb order also directed that all states must forward to the Union environment ministry details made by expert committees after the 1996 ruling. These committees were supposed to identify all forests under the dictionary definition, but compliance lacks 27 years on.

TOI had reported in March that Haryana govt formed a committee in 1997 to identify and record 'deemed forest' but the norms weren't followed. The panel worked for a few months but never published a report or submitted it to the environment ministry, a govt source had said.

Asked why it was coming up with criteria when the Supreme Court had already given a definition, the forest official said on Thursday that all states have different types of forests and will need to come up with their own set of rules that make a forest.

"Large patches of Aravalis will be included in this exercise. The criteria have been made considering forest categories of Haryana, including sub-tropical thorny forest of Aravalis, tropical dry deciduous forest and submontane pine forest areas," the official added.

Coming up with criteria is then the first step to identify 'deemed forest' and give it protection under FCA, which bars construction and human activities, the forest department said.

"We are awaiting govt approval to begin the process of demarcating 'deemed forest' category. We are optimistic about receiving the nod soon since the matter is in the Supreme Court," said Pankaj Goyal, principal chief conservator of forests, Haryana.

The exercise is crucial for Haryana as it has the lowest forest cover – just 3.6% of its area – among all Indian states. This is partially because over half of the Aravalis – more than 1 lakh hectares – in Haryana are not recognised as forests. Instead, Aravalli lands are owned by panchayats, urban bodies or private owners. The only Aravalli areas protected by FCA are those notified under the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) and the Aravalli Notification of 2002.

In April this year, Haryana govt submitted to the environment ministry data about reserve forests, protected forests, wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, PLPA land, and Aravalli plantations, but not all forest areas under dictionary definition.

Experts underscored the importance of identifying forests in Haryana.

File photo

According to the proposal submitted by the forest department to state govt, an area with 'five hectares or more of uninterrupted forest-like elements' will be recognised as a 'deemed forest'

CAT/MBA 2024
THIS MIGHT JUST BE THE MOST LUCRATIVE TIME TO **DO AN MBA**
With the booming placements at the IIMs, there's probably never been a better time to do an MBA
IIM-B: Rs 35.3 lpa (Avg. Salary in 2023)
IIM-C: Rs 35 lpa (Avg. Salary in 2023)
Gain essential skills, make your CV rock solid, and become sought after!
TMIS: Rs 34.1 lpa (Avg. Salary in 2023)
XLRI: Rs 32.7 lpa (Avg. Salary in 2023)
2805 T.I.M.E. students into the IIMs in CAT 2022
Results validated by IIMA and declared on 07/12/2022
Achieve your MBA dream with the proven leader in CAT training
T.I.M.E.
Gurugram Pune: 9910006060 Dwarka: 4896700 East Delhi: 4896600
Kalkaji: 4896500 East of Kailash: 4610750 Kalu Sarai: 4896300 North Campus: 4305520
Rajnagar: 4302500 Rohini: 4896400
Vasundhara: 4120-4242424 www.time.edu.in
Kalu Sarai: 9311011010 Noida Sec-62: 4504400
Rajnagar: 4302500 Rohini: 4896400
Vasundhara: 4120-4242424 www.time.edu.in

OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER
THE DELHI STATE COOPERATIVE BANK LTD.
31, Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002, Tel: 41709038, E-mail: bkg.decb@gmail.com
Election of the Managing Committee
It has been decided that last date of filing of nomination of authorised representative by member coop. societies to the Returning Officer has been extended till 04.05.2024 (2 p.m.).
AK Kaushal, Returning Officer