

FAVOURABLE WIND CONDITIONS IMPROVE DELHI'S AIR QUALITY

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Environmental Pollution - Air, Water, Soil & E-waste

Lung space: The air quality improved to the lower end of the “very poor” category on Sunday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Sunday revoked its November 3 order, which called for emergency measures such as a ban on the entry of trucks into the Capital and plying of non-BS VI diesel-run light motor vehicles imposed under Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

This was done as the air quality improved with favourable meteorological conditions.

The decision to shut primary schools was a measure taken at the discretion of the Delhi government as an emergency measure till Tuesday.

According to the forecast in a bulletin by the Union government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research) on Sunday, the air quality in the capital improved due to the change in wind flow from stubble-burning areas leading to prevention of inflow of pollutants.

After two days of “severe” air pollution, the air quality of the national capital improved slightly to the upper end “very poor” category on Saturday, and improved further to the lower end of the “very poor” category on Sunday, as per data by the Central Pollution Control Board.

The forecast reads “air quality is likely to improve further but remain within ‘very poor’ or ‘upper end of poor’ till November 8. Stubble emissions from neighbouring States with a fire count of 3,100 contributed to 18% to PM_{2.5} level — a chief pollutant — in Delhi on Sunday.

No steep degradation

“As the present Air Quality Index (AQI) level of Delhi is around 339, which is about 111 AQI points below the threshold for invoking the GRAP Stage-IV actions (Delhi AQI > 450) and preventive/ mitigative/ restrictive actions under all stages up to Stage-IV are under way, there is a likelihood of sustaining the improvement in AQI. The forecast also does not indicate any steep degradation further,” an order from the Commission for Air Quality Management read.

A higher value of AQI means an increase in air pollution.

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