

woes in Capital

Scorching winds send temps soaring

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The mercury soared a degree higher from Tuesday's maximum temperature to cross the 42 degree Celsius mark for the first time in this season on Wednesday. The temperature recorded during the day was a good three degrees higher than normal at 42.2 degree Celsius.

The sky remained partly cloudy in certain parts of over city but it was hardly a relief from the scorching sun. What added to the woes of Delhiites were the hot surface winds.

According to the Met officials, such temperatures were not unusual. "Unfortunately, this year the conditions that could have brought some rain and relief to the Capital have not formed. Temperatures have touched 45 degrees in parts of western Rajasthan and Haryana and the air from these states is bringing the heat in to the city," said Safadarjung Met director S C Bhan.

Officials said there was little or no likeliness that the temperature would come down soon. "Indications are that there would be no major relief in the days to come and the weather would remain dry and warm, except on May 2 and 3 when mercury may fall by a degree or two," added Bhan, assuring that it was also unlikely that there would a steep rise in the day temperature.

Meanwhile, doctors warned people to take precautions against the hot winds by keeping their fluid intake level high as it can lead to dehydration. Explained Dr Sanjeev Bagai, director and HOD, department of paediatrics, Rockland Hospital: "School going children are vulnerable as they are exposed to direct sun during the day. Physical activity leads to rapid loss of body fluids and electrolytes, not only by sweating but also via heat conduction. Since their vital organs are immature and have lesser reserve of fluids and electrolytes, excessive loss can also prove to be lethal. The loss can be replenished by the intake of plain water, juices, soups and coconut water, among other substitutes.

Dr Bagai also cautioned against the rising number of food and water born diseases like typhoid, jaundice, hepatitis A and those caused by E.coli.

The minimum temperature on Wednesday was 21.6 degree Celsius, a degree below normal. Met officials predicted partly cloudy sky on Thursday with the day temperature expected to remain 42 degree Celsius. Foreign websites like BBC Weather and Weatherunderground also predicted hot days with clear sky for the coming days with the maximum to remain around 41-44 degree Celsius. The minimum temperature for this period is likely to be between 27-31 degree