

# Heatwave may finally ease after tomorrow

## Cool Winds To Bring Some Respite

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**COOL LOAD:** A worker carries an ice block on Wednesday

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**New Delhi:** For the third consecutive day, Delhi's maximum temperature stayed five degrees above normal and settled at 44.9 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. It was closely matched by the night temperature which climbed to four degrees above normal to 30.3 degrees Celsius. The worst part of the heatwave is yet to manifest with the Met department predicting that the maximum temperature will peak by Friday.

Officials of Delhi Regional Meteorological Centre revised their earlier prediction for the last week of May and said that as an impact of an approaching western disturbance on May 24, temperatures would first fall and then pick up again but heatwave conditions may abate in the coming week.

"The maximum temperatures over northwest India, including Delhi, are likely to peak between May 22 and 24. The approaching western disturbance is likely to break the anticyclone over Rajasthan and moderate the intensity of the hot winds blowing over the region. Its impact will bring rain and thunder showers over J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and north Punjab that will lead to a cold air flow over the adjoining plains.

This will reduce temperatures by about two degrees from Saturday," said an official.

Met said that against an initial forecast which predicted that the heatwave will pick up again after the weekend, the coming week will see the maximum temperature remain above normal but the heatwave conditions will abate from most parts of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and many parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and UP. "Thus, the coming week may mark a change from the present heatwave conditions prevailing over northwest India including Delhi," said the official.

Palam continued to remain the hottest area in the city with a maximum of 46.3 degrees Celsius though several parts of the city recorded over 45 degrees temperature. The highest minimum temperatures were recorded in Noida with 31.3 degrees Celsius, Ayanagar with 31 degrees and Pitampur with 30.9 degrees. Several parts of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and parts of UP and Uttarakhand have been under the grip of severe to very severe heat wave conditions since May 18.