

Rain spell today likely to offer relief from forest fires

May 7, 2024, 04.57 AM IST

Dehradun: The Regional Meteorological Centre has forecast a drop in temperature and fresh rainfall in Uttarakhand starting today, which is expected to control rampant forest fires across the state. The Kumaon region, most affected by wildfires, will likely see significant relief from the upcoming weather change, according to Met officials.

Bikram Singh, director of the Met centre in Dehradun, said, "Kumaon region should experience showers on Tuesday, leading to a decrease in temperature which will help control wildfires. The rain is set to intensify by Saturday, which could extinguish the remaining fire."

A yellow alert for rain and thunderstorms, accompanied by gusty winds, has been issued for Uttarakhand, with particular focus on the six districts of the Kumaon region, which endured prolonged dry conditions and soaring temperatures that acted as fuel for forest fires.

Significantly, over 1,100 hectares of forest land has been destroyed by raging wildfires in the past six months across the state.

The alert has come as respite for people grappling with scorching heat with temperature in Almora nearing 34 degrees celsius and Mukteshwar in the Nainital district surpassing 26 degrees celsius.

Meanwhile, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts witnessed a fresh spell of rain on Monday evening, providing a much-needed breather from raging forest fires and dense smoke. Various regions of Uttarkashi forest division, including Mukhem, Badahat, Dunda and other ranges, had been experiencing both minor and major forest fire incidents over the past few days, resulting in significant damage to valuable flora of these areas. Approximately 20 hectares of forests in the division have been destroyed in more than 12 wildfire incidents so far.

(With inputs from Abhyudaya Kotnala in Uttarkashi and Prem Punetha in Pithoragarh)

We also published the following articles recently

Uttarakhand: 47 new fires raze 78 hectares forest land across state Uttarakhand faces ongoing forest fire challenge with 47 new incidents. Kumaon region hit the most. Destruction toll stands at 653 incidents, 814ha burnt, causing losses worth Rs 16.8 lakh. Government assures safety in Nainital and reinforces firefighting efforts.109708224

Uttarakhand forest fire: 3 held for starting wildfire for 'more views on social media' Chamoli police arrest Bihar men for starting forest fire in Gairsain, Dehradun, seeking social media fame. Public cautioned against such actions with strict consequences.109865245

3 workers from Nepal dead in Uttarakhand forest fire in 24 hours Three Nepal labourers died in a forest fire near a pine resin factory in Almora. Water sources drying up due to Kumaon wildfires, leading to human-animal conflict. Environmentalists criticize the lack of fire prevention measures.109825776