

Telangana Today

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Dasara came as whiff of fresh air

Air quality improved between Oct 17 and Oct 19 as many people left for their hometowns.

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By Author Sunny Baski | Published: 24th Oct 2018 11:46 pm

Dasara

During Dasara vacation, over 70 per cent of vehicles were either out of the city or off the roads.

Hyderabad: The festival of Dasara signifies not just the triumph of good over evil, but is also connected to the cleansing of all that is bad.

For Hyderabad too, the Dasara festival came as a purifying agent, almost freeing the city of pollution. The near cathartic experience was short-lived though, with the air quality, which had registered significant improvement from October 17 to 19, gradually returning to its polluted self from around October 22.

Dasara The short-term purification of the air, according to environmentalists, was because many in the city had headed to their hometowns or left their vehicles at home, bringing down the vehicular traffic in the city to a bare minimum.

According to official data, there are around 50 lakh vehicles which ply on the city roads usually. During the Dasara vacation, over 70 per cent of these vehicles were either out of the city or off the roads.

The city's air quality, according to the Telangana State Pollution Control Board's (TSPCB) Air Quality Stations, had improved consistently till last Sunday. However, with schools and offices reopening on Monday, the roads were once again packed with vehicles with the air quality starting to deteriorate, that too, quite fast.

There are six Air Quality Stations in and around Hyderabad, located at Sanathnagar, Zoo Park, IDA Pashamylaram, Bollaram Industrial Area, ICRISAT Patancheru and the Hyderabad Central University.

According to data from the Air Quality Stations, pollution levels started to rise from October 22 and the air quality came down drastically.

If the PM 10 level (presence of particles in the air with a diameter of less than 10 micrometres) from the Zoo Park station is considered, PM10 which stood at 89 on October 18 soared to 183 on October 24 while the PM 2.5 level went up from 64 to 77.

Similarly, PM 10 levels in the Hyderabad Central University's Air Quality Station, which stood at 63 on October 18 shot up to 170 while the PM 2.5 level leaped from 32 to 84 on October 24.