

Delhi deluge causes chaos as it affects flights, floods roads

The intense spell also brought relief from the heat and humidity in the capital

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Hheavy rain and thunderstorms battered the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) yesterday, diverting at least 15 flights, cancelling 26 and delaying hundreds more as waterlogged roads brought traffic to a crawl across parts of the capital.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a Red Alert during the most intense spell of rain.

The disruption was particularly severe at Indira Gandhi International Airport. At least 15 Delhi-bound flights were diverted, while scores of services were delayed. Twelve of the diverted flights were sent to Jaipur, two to Chandigarh and one to Lucknow, according to an airport official cited by PTI.

280 services delayed

Flight-tracking data showed more than 280 services delayed and over 20 cancelled during the disruption. A later report put cancellations at 26.

Air India, IndiGo, Akasa Air and SpiceJet issued advisories as the weather deteriorated, warning passengers that flight schedules could be affected.

On the ground, the downpour caused widespread waterlogging and severe traffic congestion.

Water accumulated on key stretches including Connaught Place, Mathura Road, Bhairon Marg and parts of Lutyens' Delhi. Flooding was also reported



ANI

■ People waded through floods after heavy rain caused waterlogging in Durga Vihar, New Delhi, yesterday.

67mm
rainfall Janakpuri
received in less
than five hours

near New Ashok Nagar Metro Station, C.R. Park, Alaknanda, Burari and Bhalswa.

Videos from parts of the capital showed commuters and students wading through deep water, while traffic slowed sharply on several major roads. The Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway was also hit by congestion.

Janakpuri received the heaviest recorded rainfall at 67mm in less than five hours, followed by Chhatrapur with 57mm. Pitampura received 35mm and Safdarjung 29mm by early afternoon.

The intense spell also brought relief from the heat and humidity that had gripped the capital in the preceding days, sending temperatures lower.

What caused the deluge?

The intensity of yesterday's rain resulted from the interaction of contrasting weather systems, according to the IMD.

IMD scientist Dr Shashikant said dry northerly winds were entering Delhi from one direction while a low-pressure area near West Bengal was drawing moisture-laden easterly winds from the Bay of Bengal.

The interaction of the two air masses created conditions favourable for intense rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms.

Uneven monsoon

The episode comes during an uneven monsoon season in the capital, with extended dry spells punctuated by bouts of intense rainfall.

The southwest monsoon arrived in Delhi on July 2 this year, five days later than its normal June 27 date. It was the first time since 2021 that the monsoon reached the capital in July.

After yesterday's deluge, Delhi is expected to see considerably calmer weather today.

— With inputs from IANS