















# Curbs on vehicles, staggered timings: What's allowed, what's not as Delhi sees 'very poor' AQI

## New Delhi, Agency:

The air quality index (AQI) in Delhi has largely remained in the 'very poor category' over the past week, with the government introducing anti-pollution measures to address the deteriorating condition.

The AQI in the national capital on Saturday morning was in the 'very poor' category, with the Delhi's overall air quality index reading at 355 at 8 am, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

As of 3 pm on Saturday, Bawana in Delhi had the worst AQI reading at 410, while Dwarka saw relatively clean air, with the air quality at 201. Owing to the consistently poor air quality in the Capital, the government has taken some measures to tackle the pollution.

Ban on entry of non-Delhi BS-III goods vehicles

The entry of all non-Delhi-registered BS-III and below-standard commercial goods vehicles into Delhi has been banned starting November 1, as ordered by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

BS refers to Bharat Stage emission standards – the current one being BS-VI or BS-6 – which are government-mandated regulations in India to control emissions from vehicles. The standards imply the maximum amount of pollutants an engine can emit.

The Commission, in a statement, said the move was aimed at reducing vehicular emissions, and addressing the air quality in the Capital and nearby regions.

According to the order,



non-Delhi-registered Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs), Medium Goods Vehicles (MGVs), and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) not meeting BS-IV standards will not be allowed to enter Delhi.

Change in Delhi govt working hours

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the working hours of the offices of the

Delhi government and the Delhi Municipal Corporation were being changed as a precautionary measure.

This has been done to ensure that the pressure of vehicles on the Capital's roads does not increase all at once and is evenly distributed, according to a release.

At present, the timing for Delhi government offices is

between 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM, while the Delhi Municipal Corporation operates from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Only a hal-an-hour gap results in heavy traffic and congestion during both morning and evening. CM Gupta said a greater gap between the opening and closing times would lead to decreased number of vehicles on the road.

Meanwhile, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta has also urged people to opt for carpooling and travel with others so as to reduce emissions from their vehicles. The chief minister has also recommended using public transport like metros more frequently.

Gupta has further appealed to private firms to give more preference to work-from-home arrangements given the poor air

quality in the Capital.

Parking charges doubled

The New Delhi Municipal Corporation also ordered the doubling of parking fees at sites managed by the civic body across the New Delhi area. The order said that the parking fee "has been enhanced to double the existing fee till the revocation of Stage 2 of Grap."

However, the order clarified that the hike would not be applicable to on-street parking or monthly pass holders.

This hike has been imposed over the past two years in the Capital during the winter season. The revised parking rates now stand at 40 per hour for four-wheelers and 20 per hour for two-wheelers. The rates for buses stand at 300 per hour after the doubling of the fee.

## Only eight shelters to accommodate over 90,000 stray dogs in Mumbai

**Mumbai, Agency:** A day after the Supreme Court directed the relocation of stray canines to designated shelters, Mumbai civic officials on Saturday said there are only eight shelters in the city with over 90,000 stray dogs.

The civic officials have said that in order to implement the court's order, more dog shelters are needed to be set up in the city.

The remark comes after the Supreme Court on Friday directed relocation of stray canines to designated shelters after due sterilisation and vaccination.

According to officials, to implement the apex court's order, the city needs to set up more shelters. As per a census conducted by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation 11 years ago, there were at least 95,752 stray dogs in Mumbai, which has now dropped by around 5,000 after the animal birth control (ABC) programme undertaken by BMC since 2014, news agency PTI reported, citing civic officials.

While the current stray dog population in Mumbai stands at 90,600, there are only eight shelters, which have low capacity, since earlier the civic body used to release the dogs after sterilisation, under the old mandate.

Supreme Court on Friday took note of the 'alarming rise' in dog bite cases in institutional areas, railway stations, hospitals, etc, and directed the relocation of stray canines to designated shelters after sterilisation and vaccination.

It said that the frequent incidents of dog bite reflect not only administrative apathy but also "systemic failure" to secure these premises from preventable hazards. Along with this, it also directed the states and Union



Territories to take steps to address the shortcomings highlighted in a report filed by senior advocate Gaurav Agarwal, who is assisting the bench as amicus curiae.

Civic officials noted that the city will first need to enhance its capacity to remove stray dogs and shift them to shelters for the remaining part of their lives. The average lifespan of a dog is between 12 and 15 years.

As per SC directive, the dogs will be sterilised and then shifted to a shelter where a dog handler and veterinarian will be appointed, along with making arrangements for their food and water, a senior BMC official said.

According to the directive, even if 30 to 40 per cent of the stray dogs in Mumbai are removed from public places, "shelters will be required to accommodate around 40,000 such dogs," an official said. Seeing the growth rate of dogs, BMC implemented an animal birth control programme.

## Epic fail for woman's robbery bid in Gujarat, slapped 20 times by jeweller after throwing chilli in his eyes

**Gujarat, Agency:** In a dramatic robbery bid in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, a woman threw chilli powder at the shopkeeper of a jewellery store to carry out the heist. However, shopkeeper's quick reaction foiled the robbery bid as he rained 20 back-to-back slaps on the woman.

The incident that reportedly took place on November 3 was caught in the CCTV installed at the shop. In the video, the woman with her face covered with a dupatta is seen entering the jewellery shop, posing as a customer.

She suddenly throws chilli powder in the shopkeeper's eyes who is seen seated on a chair.

However, she misses the mark and the shopkeeper promptly gets up from the chair to slap the woman in quick succession.

According to NDTV, the shop is located near the Ranip vegetable market in Ahmedabad, and a video of the incident is making rounds on social media.

As the CCTV footage surfaced on social media, netizens tagged Ahmedabad Police and alleged inaction on their part. However, the police said the shopkeeper has refused to get his statement recorded.

"In this case, the complainant was personally met twice to obtain a statement in this regard and was asked to file the complaint, but the complainant businessman is not inclined to lodge any complaint in this matter," the police wrote on X, adding that an investigation has been initiated to search for the accused based on the CCTV footage.



## 3 NIT Silchar students missing after falling into waterfall in Assam; rescue underway

**Silchar, Agency:** Three first-year students of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Silchar went missing on Saturday after reportedly falling into a waterfall in Harangajao village in Assam's Dima Hasao district, police said.

The incident was reported around 2 pm, and a search operation is underway, police added.

According to locals, a group of students had gone to the Boulsool waterfall, about 55 km from the NIT Silchar campus, have been reported in the past; a few years ago, two students of Assam University lost their lives after falling into a waterfall in Cachar district on Saturday afternoon. One of the girl students allegedly slipped and fell into the



water, and two others fell while trying to rescue her, they said.

Authorities at NIT Silchar confirmed that all three missing persons are students of the institute. They have been reported in the past; a few years ago, two students of Assam University lost their lives after falling into a waterfall in Cachar district. The students had gone there for a Saturday outing, an institute official

said, requesting anonymity.

The Dean of Students' Welfare, S. S. Dhar, told that they could not yet confirm the identities of the students, but added that a team from the institute was on its way to the site. Our team is on the spot, and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams are arriving from Haflong and Silchar," additional superintendent of police (crime) for Dima Hasao district, Farukh Ahmed, said. The Barak Valley region of Assam and the Dima Hasao district are home to several scenic waterfalls. Similar incidents have been reported in the past; a few years ago, two students of Assam University lost their lives after falling into a waterfall in Cachar district.

## Where's the kebab': Unesco honour for Lucknow's food heritage leads to veg non-veg debate

**Lucknow, Agency:** the capital of Uttar Pradesh, received a major global honour — officially designated a Creative City of Gastronomy by a UN agency — there's been marked celebration of its many foods, but that comes with visible exceptions by vegetarians, including some top leaders.

The announcement by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) on October 31, 2025, coincided with World Cities Day, during the 43rd Session of its General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

"From mouth-watering Galouti Kabab to Awadhi Biryani, delectable Chaat and Golgappe, desserts like



Makhani Malai and so much more — Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh is a haven for food, enriched in centuries-old traditions," Unesco said.

A celebration of Lucknow's centuries-old Awadhi cuisine, other living food traditions, and rich cultural unity, the Unesco nomination highlighted iconic dishes

These included distinct foods from both the vegetarian and meat-based (or 'non-vegetarian') staples. In his congratulatory message, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called it a "historic achievement", and credited the "guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi" for it.

He said, "Lucknow's Chaat, Varanasi's Malaiyo, Meerut's Gajak, Banda's Sohan Halwa, Etawah's Mattha ke Aloo (potatoes in spiced buttermilk), Baghpat's Balushahi, Agra's Petha, Mathura's Peda, Moradabad's Dal, Khurja's Khurchan — this 'delicious' list is very long!"

Many users commented to commend the BJP government, but the absence of non-veg dishes among the ones mentioned by the CM sparked a reaction too.

## Artist known for Krishna paintings booked over making reel at Guruvayoor temple

**New Delhi, Agency:** Jasna Salim, an artist known for her paintings of Lord Krishna, has been booked for allegedly filming videos and violating rules inside the Guruvayoor Sree Krishna Temple in Kerala, police said on Saturday.

A case was registered by Guruvayoor temple police on Friday against the artist and a person who runs a social media page after they were accused of making a social media reel at the shrine's Nadapandal (temple foyer) recently, according to a PTI report.

The Kerala High Court banned shooting of videos and reels by influencers, who "follow celebrities" in the Nadapandal of Guruvayur Sreekrishna Temple, according to a report by The Hindu. According to police, the case followed a complaint by the temple administrative officer.

Salim was booked under multiple sections of the BNS, and the



investigation is ongoing, the report added.

A devoted follower of Lord Krishna, Jasna Salim has created numerous paintings of the deity as a child and even presented one of her works to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Thrissur in 2024.

Earlier this year, she faced police action for allegedly filming a video after placing a garland on a Lord Krishna idol above the offering box at the temple's eastern entrance.