

Prevention Over Cure: Focus Of Bad-Air Fight

Nov 1 To Feb 28: Strict Fuel Norms, Staggered Timings

WINTER PLAN

THAT STARTS BEFORE SMOG SETS IN

Framework shifts focus from emergency response to advance planning

Proactive Winter Air Quality Management Framework notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

To work alongside the revised GRAP

Will be enforced every year from Nov 1 to Feb 28



TIGHTER CURBS TO CUT VEHICULAR EMISSIONS

- 1 Fuel to be supplied only to vehicles carrying valid PUCCs
- 2 Non-BS-VI commercial vehicles from outside Delhi to be barred between Nov 1 and Jan 31
- 3 Exemptions for CNG vehicles, EVs, emergency services and govt vehicles
- 4 Parking charges at authorised facilities to be doubled
- 5 Offices may adopt staggered timings and limit physical attendance to 50%; essential services exempt



STRICTER DUST-CONTROL RULES

- 1 Construction and demolition activities must comply with prescribed dust-control norms from Nov 1 to Jan 31
- 2 Additional restrictions may be imposed between Dec 10 and Jan 20
- 3 Essential and critical projects exempt from enhanced curbs
- 4 Movement of vehicles carrying construction material may be regulated
- 5 Anti-smog guns and mist-suppression systems mandatory at large buildings



OPEN BURNING UNDER LENS

- 1 RWAs and institutions tasked with preventing burning of garbage, leaves and other materials
- 2 Alternative heating arrangements to be provided for workers and security personnel
- 3 Field surveillance to be intensified, including drone-based monitoring
- 4 Environmental compensation and other penal action proposed against violators
- 5 Public participation to be key

Abhinav Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a move aimed at reducing winter air pollution through advance planning rather than emergency interventions, Delhi govt Friday notified a Proactive Winter Air Quality Management Framework, outlining a series of measures that could be implemented annually between Nov 1 and Feb 28.

The framework, announced by chief minister Rekha Gupta, seeks to give residents, industries, construction agencies, commercial establishments and govt departments sufficient time to prepare for restrictions and pollution-control measures before the winter sets in.

Among its key provisions, petrol pumps will supply fuel only to vehicles

with a valid pollution under control certificate. Govt has also proposed doubling parking charges at authorised facilities to discourage excessive use of private vehicles.

Under a staggered office-timing system, govt and private offices, barring essential and emergency services, will be allowed a maximum of 50% physical attendance.

To cut vehicular emissions, most non-BS-VI commercial vehicles registered outside Delhi will not be allowed in between Nov 1 and Jan 31.

Officials said the initiative marked a shift from the earlier practice of introducing restrictions only after pollution levels had deteriorated significantly. The advance notification will help stakeholders avoid last-minute disruptions, she added.

Construction and demoli-

tion activities will follow environmental and dust-control norms between Nov 1 and Jan 31, with additional restrictions between Dec 10 and Jan 20, when pollution levels are at their peak.

Govt has also made anti-smog guns, mist suppression systems and other dust-control mechanisms mandatory at large commercial highrise buildings and major construction sites.

The framework emphasises prevention of open burning of garbage, leaves and other materials. RWAs, institutions, contractors and establishments will take preventive measures.

Drone-based surveillance and field monitoring will be intensified and violations will attract environmental compensation charges and other penalties.

Free parking at Noida airport for 8 minutes

Shafaque Alam
@timesofindia.com

Noida: Noida International Airport announced its parking tariff, capping the maximum parking fee for 24 hours at Rs 600 for private vehicles and Rs 700 for commercial vehicles. It will allow vehicles free kerbside pick-up and drop-off for up to eight minutes.

After the free window, private vehicles will be charged Rs 150 for the first two hours, while commercial vehicles will pay Rs 200 for the same duration. Beyond that, both categories will be charged an additional Rs 100 for every extra hour.

Airport officials said the kerbside facility is distinct from designated parking zones. Vehicles stopping to drop off or pick up passengers



Parking fee has been capped at ₹600 for 24 hours for private vehicles

must exit within eight minutes to avoid charges. "Vehicles parked in the designated parking zones will be required to buy parking tickets as per the notified tariff," an official said.

The airport also has separate parking facilities for visitors, app-based cab aggregators and premium taxi operators to streamline passenger movement and vehicle circulation within the premises.

Parking rates at Noida airport are broadly comparable with those at Delhi's Indira

Gandhi International Airport. At IGI's Terminal 3, private vehicles get a free window of up to 12 minutes. After that, private vehicles are charged Rs 160 for the next 30 minutes and commercial vehicles Rs 270 for the same period. Terminals 1 and 2 at IGI offer no free parking window — private vehicles are charged Rs 160 and commercial vehicles Rs 270 for up to 30 minutes, rising to Rs 250 and Rs 400, respectively, for up to one hour. Charges between 4 hours and 24 hours have been capped at Rs 600 and Rs 800 for private and commercial vehicles, respectively, at all three terminals.

A significant access gap, remains for passengers travelling to Noida airport by auto-rickshaw or bus. Both modes of transport are barred from reaching the terminal building

No let-up in heat, humidity

New Delhi: The city saw another hot and humid day, with the heat index, or "feels-like" temperature, touching 42.5 degrees Celsius on Friday at 2.30 pm. The air temperature is likely to remain between 37 and 39 degrees Celsius over the next few days, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

On Friday, city's base station Saffdarjung recorded a maximum temperature of 39.1 degree Celsius, normal of the season, against 39.5 degree Celsius a day earlier. At 40 degree Celsius, Ridge was the hottest area of the capital.

Minimum temperature was recorded at 27 degree Celsius, a notch below normal against 27.9 degree Celsius a day earlier. **TNN**

AI to improve traffic management and infra maintenance in Delhi: LG

New Delhi: LG TS Sandhu Friday said artificial intelligence (AI) will be deployed to improve governance and address urban challenges such as traffic management, infrastructure maintenance, environmental monitoring and grievance redressal. Addressing a national seminar on AI for good governance, he said, AI is shifting public administration from a process-driven to a platform-driven system, built on India's expanding digital public infrastructure. Sandhu said Delhi, as a complex urban centre, stands to benefit from AI-enabled solutions that can improve efficiency, reduce delays and optimise use of resources. He stressed that AI must remain citizen-centric and sensitive to India's linguistic, cultural and socio-economic diversity. **TNN**

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