

CRACKDOWN ON TRANSPORT SECTOR TO CURB FOUL AIR

BS-VI only: Police go slow on Day 1 of Delhi traffic curbs

RAJOKRI BORDER



PHOTO BY TASHI TOBGYAL

Cars race past at Badarpur; at Rajokri, Haryana Police helps

Upasika Singhal
New Delhi, December 18

AT THE Badarpur border on Thursday, cars whizzed into Delhi; the few policemen deployed at the checkpoint made very little attempt to ensure that all vehicles with non-Delhi numbers were only BS-VI compliant. Traffic personnel told *The Indian Express* that only two traffic policemen had been posted there.

"Only the ZO (Zonal Officer) can use the challan machine, and he is away at Jaitpur to attend a meeting with the rest of the traffic circle staff," a policeman at the checkpoint said on Thursday afternoon.

The two traffic policemen complained it was almost impossible to check all cars. "We can't stop every vehicle. There are only two of us, so we are randomly stopping cars with UP or Haryana numbers," one of them said. Even so, they had

fined four cars and sent back around 10, the policemen said.

It helped that "90 per cent of the time" the Haryana Police were "checking and sending back cars at their checkpoint [on the Haryana side]", they said.

At the major checkpoints of Kapashera, Rajokri, and Dwarka Expressway, the Traffic Police had stationed five personnel each. Policemen there said they had been issuing progressively fewer challans over the past weeks.

"We have been challaning vehicles since GRAP-II was implemented. On the first day [of GRAP-II], we challaned close to 100 cars. But as people became aware of the rules, the number of violations fell," an officer said.

Members of the team said 546 cars had been checked on Wednesday and only 28 had been turned back for not complying with GRAP-IV norms.

CHILLA BORDER



Vehicles being checked near Noida on Thursday. ABHINAV SAHA

At Chilla, Kalindi Kunj and DND: Police tell many to pay penalty, but go soft on a few

Neetika Jha
Noida, December 18

ON THURSDAY afternoon, teams of Delhi Police and Uttar Pradesh Police stood on either side of Chilla border as a stream of traffic flowed into Delhi from Noida.

There was barricading on the UP side; on the Delhi side, policemen stood holding mobile phones loaded with the e-challan application. Appropriately for their assignment – to

ensure no non-BS-VI vehicle registered outside Delhi is able to enter Delhi – they wore masks to keep out the heavily polluted air.

"We began our 12-hour shift at 6 am," a Delhi policeman said. "We have been looking out for vehicles that are compliant with BS-IV and earlier norms. Most often, they look visibly old." The cleanest Bharat Stage (BS) VI norms came into force in Delhi-NCR 7-8 years ago.

"Suspect" cars were flagged

down, and their details were fed into the app, the officer said.

By afternoon, this team had fined 10 vehicles Rs 20,000 each, and directed them to go back.

"Many begged to be let off. In a few cases, if it seemed they could not afford to pay the hefty fine, we sent them back without fining them. This is the first day, so we were a little lenient," another officer said.

At Kalindi Kunj, police were penalising those who did not

have valid pollution under control certificates (PUCs). The team said they had challaned at least 15 cars by the afternoon.

Several vehicles were fined and turned back on the DND Flyway as well. "Many seemed unaware of the restrictions. In the morning, we were a little lenient because stopping too many vehicles would create congestion. But as the day progressed, the number of vehicles came down," a traffic constable said.

KAPASHERA BORDER



PHOTO BY ABHIMANYU HAZARIKA

From Surajkund & Jaipur: More toll collectors than cops

Abhimanyu Hazarika
Gurgaon, December 18

THE INDIAN Express visited the Delhi-Haryana border at Kapashera, Sarhol (Delhi-Jaipur Expressway), M G Road, and Surajkund Road (Faridabad-Delhi) through Thursday, and found toll collectors deployed by the MCD and NHAI everywhere. However, Delhi Police personnel to check the entry of non-compliant vehicles into the Capital were present only at Kapashera and M G Road.

At Kapashera, police officers seemed unsure of the details of the curbs that had been imposed. "Are BS-IV vehicles registered in Delhi also banned?" one asked his colleague.

The traffic was heavy and not every car could be stopped. However, around 4.30 pm, a zonal traffic sub-inspector told *The Indian Express* that at least 10 cars had been made to turn around, and more than 30 had

been challaned. "We are checking the vehicles we suspect, even the CNG and BS-VI ones, for valid PUCs," he said.

As *The Indian Express* watched, a Maruti Alto was pulled aside on suspicion of being old, and its number was entered into the handheld challan machine. The emissions standard checked out, but the pollution certificate had expired. The driver was let off with instructions to get a valid PUC immediately.

On M G Road, as three Delhi Police officers checked vehicles, a minor traffic jam resulted at the border U-turn. But on the toll roads at Sarhol and Badarpur, there were no police.

No one checked vehicles at Surajkund Road leading to Tughlakabad via the Asola Bhatti sanctuary either. Everywhere, commercial vehicles zipped past, without being checked whether they were CNG or BS-VI compliant.