

SMOGGED, JAMMED AND PACKED

City ushers in new year with traffic snarls; low visibility delays trains & flights

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The busy Taj Mahal Express, Jammu trainers, god-lucks were the city. Many had a show a part of the India Gate roundabout and the roads leading towards it when the number of people there started to become unmanageable. Traffic crawled at Connaught Place too and many people sat still. Delhi's police chief, S. Prakash Singh, said that the situation was chaotic. "The traffic was jammed with New Year revelers."

Emergency action

Over 500 flights were delayed and eight cancelled with visibility severely hampered at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. On average, over 150 flights were delayed, among 50 cancelled and eight delayed. The reason cited as visibility at the airport was reduced to 50 metres.

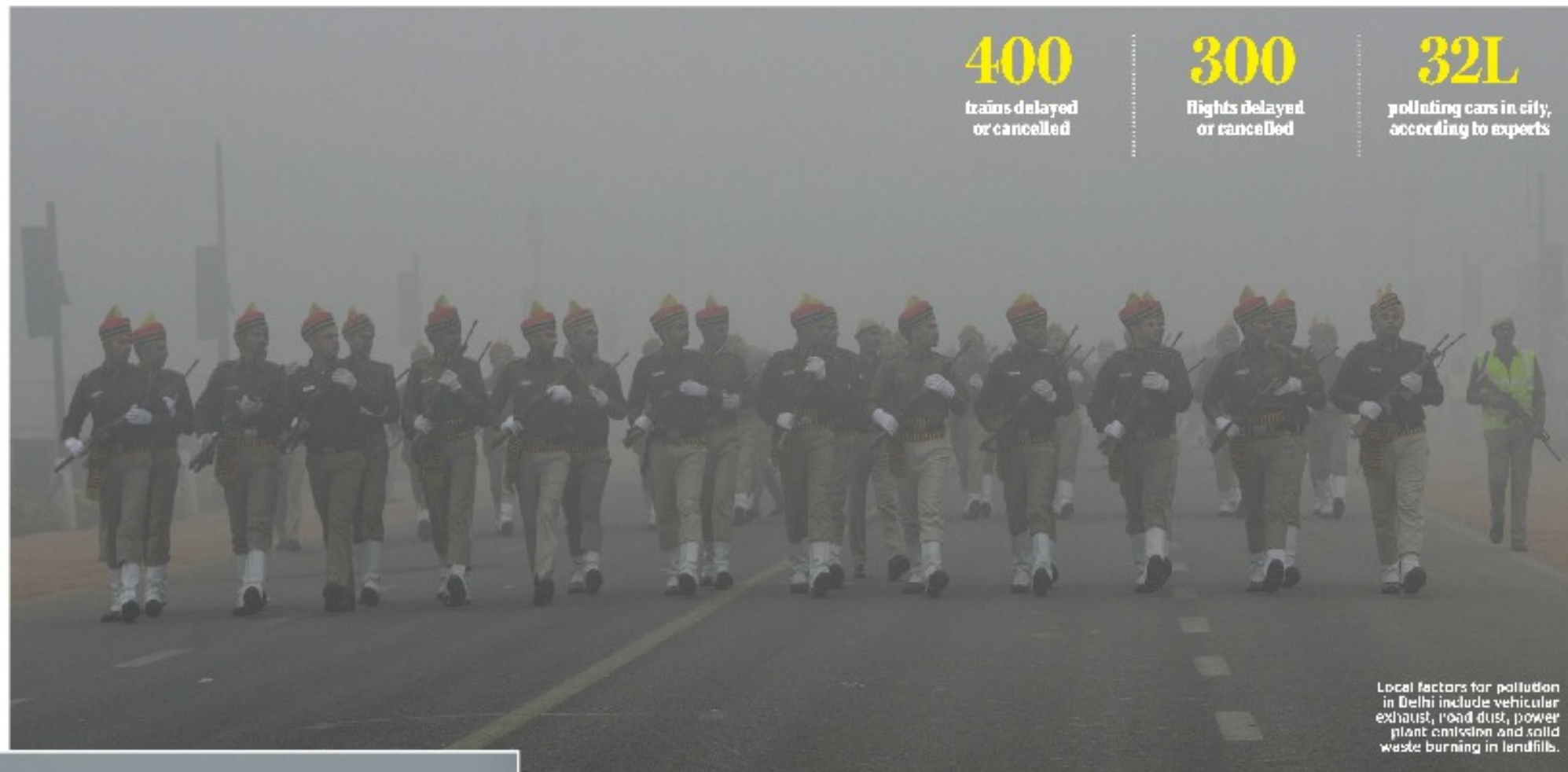
Aruna Raja, secretary, central air traffic services and operations at the Centre for Airports and Airports said, "The Airports Councils authorized CRAP (Critical Response Action Plan) mandates that emergency level action plans be triggered if ground visibility persists for 48 hours. So the next few days are important to watch out for."

The emergency level actions include a probable and even worse rain on the day of operations, which may include, except for those already issued, such as halting all construction activities, no entry of all those visitors and tourists, etc.

Raja said that in the last November 7-11 episode when it is, sharp turn in the Gulf countries, combined with stubble burning, smoke from the oil and heavy rain had engulfed the city this time, every day, the local pollution, it is inevitable.

Traffic jams for vehicles in Delhi include vehicular emissions, road noise, power plant emission and so on. It is a major air pollution source in the city. The number of registered vehicles in the city

Fog expected to stay for three to four days; snowfall further north might bring respite later this week



400 trains delayed or cancelled

300 flights delayed or cancelled

32L polluting cars in city, according to experts

Local factors for pollution in Delhi include vehicular exhaust, road dust, power plant emission and solid waste burning in landfills.



Near zero visibility on certain stretches during rush hour traffic increases risk of accidents.

crossed the one crore mark in May 2017. He said that 32 lakh cars, there are over 66 lakh two-wheelers, which are owned by nearly 10 million people. The major air pollution source in the city is the poor quality of fuel used in the power plants. The number of registered vehicles in the city

Monday settled at 5th degree Celsius. The maximum temperature recorded was 22.9 degrees Celsius with a high humidity level of 100 per cent and no rainfall. A meteorologist said that the weather is not very different from the previous days. Dipankar Barua, said, "Due to raised humidity, the air in the city has thickened. There is a rain fall looking place to wash out the pollution and on Tuesday, it is expected to be near zero for four days."

"However, with a forecast in the morning, it is likely to be a relief. The fog is certainly going to be a relief. In the evening, we will see some reduction in pollution by Wednesday or after," Saha further said.

By Priyanka Sharma in New Delhi

DELHIITES woke up to a thick layer of smog on the first day of 2018. Doctors say dense smog is the result of cracker burning and vehicular pollution. They have advised people to stay indoors — especially those who have breathing problems. On New Year's Eve, the entire city was jam-packed with vehicles and people hopping from one party to another.

Dr Anand Kumar, chairman, Centre for Chest Surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said, "It is very unfortunate that despite creating a lot of awareness on air pollution, people still burst crackers."

Cracker burning and vehicular pollution blamed for crisis

on New Year's Eve. Also, vehicular pollution contributed to the deteriorating air quality. The thick smog will again create trouble and exacerbate respiratory issues for patients.

Among mega cities, Delhi has the worst air quality as per the WHO report, which has said that breathing in the national capital is equal to smoking about 30 cigarettes a day.

STAY INDOORS, DOCS PRESCRIBE FOR SMOG



"A lot of people are complaining of soar throat, itching and chest problems, and a majority of them have suffered acute asthma, bronchitis and COPD attacks," said Dr Vikas Maurya, HoD of respiratory medicine at Fortis health-care. He advised that people should stay indoors and avoid travelling out-

side till air quality improves. AIIMS director Dr Hardeep Suleria said air pollution is a slow and silent killer. Last month, the Delhi government had issued a health advisory for respiratory patients advising them not to go out for morning walks and alerted all hospitals to give first priority to chest patients. Delhi's air pollution is caused due to smoke from stubble burning, vehicular pollution as well as ongoing construction site and road dust.

Echoing similar view on the worsening effects of air pollution on health, (Prof) Dr Raj Kumar, head of department of pulmonary medicine at Vellore Institute of Technology said, "Every year cases related to respiratory diseases get doubled. Not only patients with history of respiratory complications suffer, we also see new patients coming with breathlessness complaints."



People throng India Gate on Monday to enjoy the first day of the year.

Police catch drivers high on New Year spirit



Traffic on major stretches was hot-a-blue due to New Year revelry, coupled with low visibility due to smog.

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Tens of thousands of Indians in a road were seen celebrating because of drunk driving, police officers, including Delhi's chief, S. Prakash Singh, said. To maintain the law and order situation, a large number of police officers were deployed across the city. Senior officials were also in uniform, including officers in uniform, including officers in uniform, including officers in uniform.

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Most drunk driving cases were reported from the party hubs of Hauz Khas, Vasant Kunj, Khan Market and Connaught Place

Dependra Prakash, special commissioner of police, Delhi, said that the number of delinquents to the department is "two to three times" comprehensive non-India arrangements". Prakash said the traffic police has deployed around 400 checkpoints, of which 25 were set up with special focus on drunk driving. He said that the number of delinquents to the department is "two to three times" comprehensive non-India arrangements".

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In the past, New Year's Eve, Delhi Police had seen a large number of drunk driving cases. The department also issued a cautionary message to party-goers in the city. Prakash said that the traffic police has deployed around 400 checkpoints, of which 25 were set up with special focus on drunk driving. He said that the number of delinquents to the department is "two to three times" comprehensive non-India arrangements".