

Fuel ban U-turn: Delhi steps back on overage vehicles amid public outrage, political firestorm

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

The Delhi government's decision to ban fuel supply to overage vehicles in the capital reversed on Thursday, just days after the order was implemented.

The U-turn comes amid growing public discontent, political backlash, and concerns over the feasibility of enforcement.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said that there was discontent among people due to this move and that the government stood with them.

The government has written to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), stating that the ban on overage vehicles is not feasible due to technological challenges and complex systems.

Sirsa added that the government has suggested the ban, if implemented, should be enforced across the National Capital Region (NCR), not just in Delhi.

Speaking at a programme, Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta also said the government will make "all out efforts" for the resolution of the problems related to the ban on end-of-life



vehicles. Gupta said that some people are emotionally attached to vehicles if they are gifted by a close person, like a father. Such vehicles are just keepsakes, and often they have not been driven many kilometres.

The rollback marks a shift in stance from earlier this week, when Delhi began enforcing the ban on refuelling diesel vehicles over 10 years old and petrol vehicles over 15 years old, in compliance with court orders.

The transport department, along with Delhi police and municipal authorities, had begun impounding such vehicles at petrol pumps starting July 1.

Authorities impounded 80

Vehicle manufacturers, scrap dealers, and number plate companies. Is it a coincidence that this order came just before taxi fares were allowed to increase?" Sisodia said. "They defied a Supreme Court Constitutional Bench order with an overnight ordinance. Now they say they can't help 61 lakh Delhi families?"

Former Delhi chief minister Atishi alleged a nexus between the BJP and vehicle manufacturers. "The common people of Delhi use two-wheelers to go to work. What will the owners of 40 lakh two-wheelers do? How will they go to work?" she said.

"There are many senior citizens in the city who use second hand vehicles just to get groceries from the market and come back. What will they do now?" Atishi said.

TMC MP Saket Gokhale wrote on X Tuesday, "Across the world, the US, UK, EU, & China have NO SUCH RULES for 'End of Life Vehicles' (ELVs). ... This is being done in Delhi purely to benefit automakers & other corporate lobbies that are close to PM Modi & the BJP. I've written to Road Transport Minister @nitin_gadkari ji requesting his urgent intervention."

'Wish of the Dalai Lama...nobody else has the right to decide': Kiren Rijiju on reincarnation

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

Minority affairs minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday dismissed China's claim over the Dalai Lama's reincarnation, and said that only the Tibetan spiritual leader and the established religious institution have the authority to decide his successor — "no one else."

Rijiju, a practising Buddhist, and Rajiv Ranjan Singh, a fellow Union minister, are representing the Government of India on the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday event in Dharamshala on July 6.

"And all those who follow the Dalai Lama feel that the Incarnation is to be decided by the established convention and as per the wish of the Dalai Lama himself. Nobody else has the right to decide it except him and the conventions in place," Rijiju said.

On Wednesday, Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama said that the institution of the Dalai Lama will continue and



only the Gaden Phodrang Trust will have the authority to recognise his future reincarnation.

"The Dalai Lama's reincarnation must follow the principles of domestic recognition, the 'Golden Urn' process, and approval by the central government, in line with religious traditions and laws," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said in response to the Dalai Lama's announcement.

Rijiju's remarks come after China rejection of the Nobel Peace laureate's succession plan.

The 14th Dalai Lama is the most important institution for Tibetans and all those who follow the Nalanda tradition of Buddhism.

Tibetan Buddhists hold

that the Dalai Lama has the power to choose the body into which he is reincarnated, a process that has taken place 14 times since the institution began in 1587.

The current Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was recognised as the 14th in 1940.

The Dalai Lama caught the attention of the world following his defection to India in 1959 with a large group of Tibetans after the Chinese military under the command of Communist Party founder Mao Zedong annexed Tibet.

Since then, he made Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala his "adopted" home, which drew the ire of Beijing and his presence there continue to be a bone of contention between China and India.

House Committee on Environment holds review meeting in Srinagar

Development must not come at cost of environment: Tarigami
29XNEWS SRINAGAR, JULY 3

The House Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a review meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to discuss critical environmental issues and challenges, particularly those related to the Geology and Mining Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and attended by members including Peerzada Mohammad Syed, Rajiv Jasrotia, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khatana, Khurshied Ahmed, Mushtaq Guroo, Irshad Rasool Kar and Yudhvir Sethi. Referring to the fragile ecological balance of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chairman stated that development must not come at the cost of the environment.

"Any development activity must be aligned with protection of the local flora and fauna," he emphasized.

The Chairman called for strict monitoring and vigilance against the illegal mining activities, highlighting the detrimental impact of



unregulated mining on water levels, agriculture and the broader ecosystem. He assured the Committee would conduct on-ground inspection of various mining sites to verify compliance with environmental regulations.

"Mining of natural resources is directly linked to our environmental health. Illegal mining has led to a decline in groundwater levels, adversely affecting our agriculture sector," Tarigami observed.

He further directed the department to undertake routine inspections of mining sites and ensure no environmental degradation occurs.

The Chairman called for strict action against the violators of mining regulations. He also emphasized the need to mitigate impacts on riverbanks and beds, which disrupt irrigation and harm agriculture and horticulture.

Experts, Centre reject CM Siddaramaiah's jab-heart attack link, cite no evidence in studies

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

Health experts and industry voices have dismissed Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah's suggestion that Covid vaccines may be responsible for a recent spate of heart attack deaths in Hassan district, calling the claim "factually incorrect" and "misleading."

An ongoing AIIMS-ICMR study has examined 300 cases of sudden death among people under 40, and found that while all had been vaccinated, heart attacks were more often linked to lifestyle issues like alcohol use, obesity, smoking, and genetic predispositions.

"There's no conclusive evidence the vaccine caused cardiac arrests," said Dr S. Narang of AIIMS during a news conference on Thursday. "While older individuals often suffer cardiac arrests due to arterial blockages, in younger people, sudden deaths may also be linked to genetic heart conditions, binge drinking, drug use, or excessive exercise post-COVID."

The Serum Institute of India (SII), manufacturer of Covishield, cited the same AIIMS and ICMR-backed research and said there was no link between the jabs and sudden deaths.

"The vaccines are safe and scientifically validated," SII said in a statement.

The controversy started Tuesday when the CM asked



whether the Covid vaccines could have any adverse effects.

"It cannot be denied that the hasty approval and distribution of the Covid vaccine to the public could also be a reason for these deaths, as several studies worldwide have recently indicated that Covid vaccines could be a cause for the increasing number of heart attacks," Siddaramaiah wrote on X.

Siddaramaiah's comments came after 23 people — many of them young or middle-aged — died of heart attacks over just 40 days in Karnataka's Hassan district.

He urged people not to ignore symptoms like chest pain or breathing trouble and to seek immediate medical help.

Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw on Thursday opposed Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah's remarks linking covid-19 vaccines with a spate of heart

attack deaths in the state's Hassan district, saying such claims are "factually incorrect" and "misleading".

"Covid-19 vaccines developed in India were approved under the Emergency Use Authorisation framework, following rigorous protocols aligned with global standards for safety and efficacy. To suggest that these vaccines were 'hastily' approved is factually incorrect and contributes to public misinformation," Shaw said.

"These vaccines have saved millions of lives and, like all vaccines, may cause side effects in a very small number of individuals. It is important to acknowledge the science and data-driven processes behind their development, rather than engage in retrospective blame," Shaw, Executive Chairperson of the pharma company, said.

Backing her, the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance said such "distortion of facts"

risked public health and undermined global trust in science and patient care.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) said, "Misinformation and distortion of facts endanger public health and undermine the trust built on science and patient care globally" and asserted that Covid vaccines have been well-documented and rigorously tested according to regulatory standards, playing a crucial role in combating the pandemic.

"These vaccines have been well documented and rigorously tested as per regulatory processes," IPA secretary general Sudarshan Jain said.

The Union health ministry on Tuesday said there was no evidence to back claims that Covid vaccines cause sudden deaths by quoting Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) studies.

"The matter of sudden unexplained deaths has been investigated through several agencies in the country. These studies have conclusively established that there is no direct link between Covid 19 vaccination and the reports of sudden deaths in the country," the ministry said. "Spreading such claims without proper evidence is harmful. Vaccines saved millions of lives during the pandemic. Such false claims can damage trust in vaccines."

Satish Sharma highlights direct selling as catalyst for economic growth, youth empowerment

SRINAGAR, JULY 3: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today emphasized the transformative potential of direct selling industry in empowering youth, fostering ethical entrepreneurship and catalyzing inclusive economic growth in Jammu & Kashmir.

He was speaking at a conclave organised by Federation of

Indian Direct Selling industries on Direct Selling and Consumer Markets on the theme "Regulations, Innovations and Growth." The Minister appreciated the Dignitaries, Industry Leaders and the Delegates for their collective commitment towards fostering a robust and ethical direct selling ecosystem in the region and across the nation. "The landscape of consumer markets is constantly evolving and at the

heart of this evolution lies the direct selling industry, a sector that has shown remarkable resilience, adaptability and the power to reach grassroot communities across India," maintained the Minister. He underscored the necessity of a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework, calling it not just beneficial but essential. "Trust forms the very foundation of direct selling between the seller and the consumer and

within the business model itself. Well-defined regulations provide this trust, protect consumers from malpractices and create a level playing field for all the stakeholders," he said.

Reiterating Jammu & Kashmir Government's commitment, Sharma assured full support for ethical practices, consumer protection and responsible business conduct. "We are resolute in ensuring effective implementation of

regulations that eliminate ambiguities and build consumer confidence, thereby unlocking the full potential of direct selling," the Minister stated.

Highlighting the sector's role in youth engagement, the Minister said that the direct selling is a powerful vehicle for generating employment, promoting skill development and enabling meaningful self-employment, especially among women and youth.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date-28.07.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through only payment modes** available on www.reps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.reps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
02.07.2025	14.07.2025	28.07.2025/15:00 Hrs.

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	71-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	Annual zone work for ordinary repair and maintenance of VKA-BAT & BAT-ODN in the section of SSE/WBL/ASR (under ADEN-I/ASR/2025-26).
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	79,99,994.75/-
	Earnest Money	1,60,100.00/-
	Validity of offer	60 Days
	Period of Completion	12 Months

Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work".

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

No.: 71-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR Date: 02.07.2025

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