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Impound 15-yr-old petrol, 10-yr-old diesel vehicles in Delhi, orders SC

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NEW DELHI: Terming the pollution situation in the Capital "very critical, pitiable and terrible", the Supreme Court ordered the Delhi government's transport department on Monday to immediately identify 10-year-old diesel and 15-year-old petrol vehicles, and impound them if they are found plying on city roads.

A bench led by justice MB Lokur ordered the department to prepare a list of such vehicles and publish it on the websites of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the transport department.

An advertisement to this effect should also be published in newspapers, the court said, as it also banned the entry of commercial diesel vehicles more than 10 years old in Delhi.

CPCB was also ordered to create a social media account on which citizens can lodge complaints on pollution and report violations.

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Capital air turns even more toxic as AQI hits 367

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NEW DELHI: Delhi's air quality worsened on Monday when the levels of particulate matter, or tiny pollutants that trigger health hazards, shot up by up to four times above the permissible mark after a gap of four months.

As the burning of crop stubble, considered one of the reasons behind the spike in pollution at this time of the year, continues in Punjab and Haryana, conditions could deteriorate further on Tuesday, according to an early warning system run by Pune's Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and Safar, which functions under the ministry of earth sciences.

Delhi's air quality index (AQI) on Monday was 367, which indicates 'very poor' air quality. On a scale of 0-500, AQI in the range of 0-50 is considered 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-

SUCH PARTICULATE MATTER LEVELS WERE LAST SEEN IN THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE AFTER A DUST STORM IN RAJASTHAN

300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor' and 401-500 'severe'.

"This is the sixth consecutive day that the air quality has remained in the very poor category," said an official of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The conditions in the satellite towns of Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad were not any better, with the air quality in Ghaziabad breaching the 'severe' level. The AQI was 430 in Ghaziabad.

The official said levels of PM10 and PM2.5, too, shot up alarmingly, hovering around four times the permissible limits.

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TN SEEKS PERMISSION TO BURST CRACKERS ON DIWALI MORNING

Tamil Nadu government asked the Supreme Court to modify its verdict on bursting crackers to allow them to be used on Diwali morning, as per religious practices in the state. The top court had last week ruled out a complete ban on bursting crackers and instead allowed green crackers for Diwali and other religious festivals, but only for two hours in the evening between 8pm and 10pm. The petition sought permission to burst crackers from 4.30am to 6.30am as well.

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LIKELY HOTSPOTS FOR CRACKERS

On the direction of the Supreme Court, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation has identified over 700 spots to burst firecrackers this Diwali, which include barren lands and parks located away from hospitals..

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