

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	242	Gurugram	195
Ghaziabad	285	Faridabad	258
Noida	246	Greater Noida	238
Good 0-50 Satisfactory 51-100 Moderate 101-200			
Poor 201-300 Very poor 301-400 Severe >401			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB			

DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Gandhi 150, an international seminar on Satyagraha in the 21st Century will feature three lectures: “Martin Luther King Jr. and the Gandhian Legacy of Satyagraha by Prof. Ramin Jahanbegloo, Professor & Vice-Dean, Jindal Global Law School; “Coloured Races and Future of Satyagraha” by Prof. Vinay Lal, Professor of History and Asian American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles; and valedictory lecture “Satyagraha and Life Sustenance on Earth” by Dr. Vandana Shiva, environmental activist at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), 11.45 a.m. onwards.

**Talk:** Art critic Prayag Shukla will deliver a lecture on “My Journey into Modern and Contemporary Art” at All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 4 p.m.

**Music:** A United Nations Day special concert by pianist, Gauriee Kapall at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** “Explore in the Tradition”, a solo exhibition of paintings by Megha Sharma at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** “Opening Lines”, the artworks of E. Alkazi, curated by Ranjit Hoskote at Shridharani Gallery and Art Heritage Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam,Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** ‘Like a Leaf in Autumn’, a solo exhibition of contemporary miniature paintings by Waswo X. Waswo and R. Vijay at Gallery Espace, 16 Community Centre, New Friends Colony, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityed@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

# Diwali likely to be less polluted, says SAFAR

‘High deterioration in AQI expected only by Nov. first week’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Capital is likely to witness a less polluted Diwali this year as “high deterioration” of Air Quality Index (AQI) is expected only by the first week of November, according to government-run monitoring agency System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research.

Meanwhile, Delhi’s AQI worsened slightly on Wednesday and stayed in the “poor” category, but the high wind speed is keeping the pollution from increasing further.

“No drastic deterioration in air quality is expected for the next two days. Looking at the current forecast of weather parameters in SAFAR model simulations, air quality during Diwali is likely to be not as bad as last year,” said SAFAR. The agency will issue a clear forecast about it on Friday.

Repeated western disturbances are expected in the last week of October and this is likely to positively influence Delhi’s air quality.



A farmer burning stubble in a field at Daryapur village in the Capital. • V.V. KRISHNAN

According to SAFAR, there has been a slight decrease in the stubble burning activity in Haryana and Punjab in the last 24 hours and a change in wind direction is expected to further reduce the effect of stubble burning in neighbouring States of Delhi.

“The surface as well as boundary layer winds are forecast to change direction to easterly by Thursday afternoon. This will decrease the biomass pollutant share [mainly stubble burning] in the Delhi region, which is re-

latively very low so far,” SAFAR said.

“But the pollution during Diwali will also depend on the amount of crackers burnt and the weather factor will influence the build up of pollutants,” said Vivek Chattopadhyaya, senior programme manager of ‘Clean Air Programme’ at the Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi.

The city’s AQI on Wednesday was 242, higher than 207 on Tuesday, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

## HC dismisses plea against odd-even

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition challenging the AAP government’s proposed odd-even road rationing scheme which is expected to be in force from November 4-15.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar declined to entertain the plea as the petitioner had not made any representation to the government before approaching the court.

Petitioner Nand Kishor Garg had opposed the scheme on the ground that it was “arbitrary” as polluting vehicles like two-wheelers were being exempted while CNG driven vehicles were not.

Garg, a former BJP MLA, had contended that the exempted two-wheelers are of BS-II norms while four-wheelers comply with BS-IV norms. “The discriminatory approach of respondent no.1 (Delhi govt.) in including CNG within the restrictive direction despite CNG being emitting less pollution is completely violative,” it said.

## Devise action plan to curb pollution: green panel

Plea seeks to rein in illegal marriage halls

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking remedial action against pollution resulting from illegal marriage halls operating in Ghaziabad, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed authorities to devise an action plan to curb such pollution.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel took note of a report furnished by an NGT-appointed committee pertaining to the action taken against such units.

The committee had representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) and the Divisional Commissioner, Meerut.

“It was found that there were violations of solid waste management rules, illegal extraction of groundwater and absence of requisite permissions (under relevant Environment Acts). Action taken by the authorities was to seal the borewells, passing of closure orders followed by disconnection of electrici-



ty,” the Bench noted.

While adding that preventive steps are required to curb such pollution, the Bench said, “In view of large-scale violations reported in the joint inspection report, apart from the remedial action already taken, it is necessary to ensure that such violations are not repeated for which continuous vigilance be maintained in the area. The authorities concerned must prepare a plan for the purpose.”

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by petitioner Sri Om Tyagi who sought remedial action against illegal activities of marriage halls in Ghaziabad that were operating without requisite consent.

## Report on illegal e-waste processing units sought

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Following reports of over 5,000 illegal e-waste processing units allegedly operating in and around the national capital, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) along with other authorities to furnish an action taken report.

Directing authorities to submit the report within one month, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: “Let the DPCC in coordination with the District Magistrates of east and north-east Delhi...furnish a fact-finding and action taken report.”

Additionally, the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) was directed to furnish a similar report along with the District Magistrate Ghaziabad, pertaining to the alleged operation of such units in Ghaziabad.

“Nodal agencies will be DPCC and UPPCB for the respective areas for compliance,” the Bench said.

## Students against proposed high-rise on North Campus

Privacy of girls cited as reason

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Student activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Delhi University Students’ Union (DUSU) on Wednesday held protest over the proposed construction of a 39-storey building at North Campus. They alleged that the building would infringe upon the privacy of girls hostels in the area.

Multiple stakeholders, including the Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA), All India Students Association (AISA) and the recently set up university panel to look into civic issues, have raised objections against the proposed construction.

The land on which the construction has been proposed was reportedly transferred to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) from the Ministry of Defence in 2001, under the condition that it would only be used for public purposes but was transferred to a private builder.

### Demonstrations today

The ABVP and the AISA said that they would be hosting demonstrations on Thursday and added that the building would be overlooking up to six girls hostels in the area and would be infringing upon their privacy. Both the groups demanded that in its place, hostel infrastructure should come up.

State secretary of the ABVP, Sidharth Yadav said that student activists would soon approach the north Delhi Mayor with their demands.

Rasal Singh, member of the newly formed Campus Development Committee said that the construction will “bulldoze the teaching-learning culture of this university” and called upon authorities to take cognisance of the opposition from the university community and put a stop to the construction.

## Students-administration stand-off at Jamia ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The stand-off between students and Jamia Millia Islamia administration ended on Wednesday after the university agreed to not allow Israeli delegates in its programmes.

The university had issued show-cause notices to five students for protesting against allowing an Israeli participant at an event on the campus, but the notices were withdrawn after the students submitted their response.

“We assure that if any Israeli delegate participates in any programme, we will not allow,” the university said.

The students had been on an indefinite strike. On Tuesday, the ninth day of the strike, students gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor’s office, following which a scuffle apparently broke out between two groups of students. On Wednesday, the students had called for a university strike against the violence.

The police said they have received a complaint from a group of students alleging that they were assaulted. “We are looking into the matter,” a police officer said.

### Support from AMU

Salman Imtiaz, president of the Aligarh Muslim University Students’ Union, on Wednesday expressed solidarity with the students of Jamia Millia Islamia.

Inviting Israelis to Indian universities is a mockery of the country’s long-standing position, said Mr. Imtiaz in a statement. He condemned the issuance of show-cause notice and said action against students expressing dissent in a democratic way amounts to “intimidation and harassment”.