

Barricades in Delhi, and a highway threat in Karnataka

● NETWORK: AMBER

Central Delhi is under protest curbs for a second day, after Saturday's barricades let only government ID holders through and mobile data was cut inside the zone¹. In the Gulf, Riyadh's airport was hit for the third time this week and shut while the damage was assessed². Down south, the threat to watch is Karnataka: cane farmers meet the food minister in Delhi tomorrow, and say they'll block highways across the state from Tuesday if the talks fail³.

HOW'S EACH REGION HOLDING UP?



DATES TO WATCH

● Sun 11 Oct	Central Delhi protest curbs
● 11–15 Oct	NH-10 night closures
● Tue 13 Oct	Karnataka cane farmers' blockade threat
● 13–24 Oct	Kolkata Puja curbs and immersions
● Thu 15 Oct	Navi Mumbai demurrage waiver ends ⁴
● 26–27 Oct	Kolkata Puja curbs and immersions, again
● 26 Oct–5 Nov	NH-10 night closures, again
● Sat 31 Oct	Delhi's BS-IV exemption ends
● GREEN	the sale season as usual, which can still be busy
● AMBER	something beyond the season is slowing freight
● RED	something is stopping freight across a state or a route

North ● GREEN	Central Delhi's protest curbs are back for a second day, with diversions from 6 am around Connaught Place, Mandi House, Patel Chowk and Lutyens' Delhi ⁵ . The city as a whole ran just a point over its usual traffic on Saturday ⁶ , so the strain sits in the centre's last mile, not at the hubs on the edge of town.
West ● GREEN	DP World opened the second phase of its Nhava Sheva Business Park on Wednesday: 42 more acres and about a million square feet of warehousing beside JNPA ⁷ . That's more room to hold boxes off the quay, at a port running record months.
South ● GREEN	Karnataka's cane farmers meet the food minister at Krishi Bhavan tomorrow, and say an indefinite blockade of national highways at every district headquarters starts on Tuesday if the talks fail ³ . In Chennai, the Prime Minister opens a paved storage yard and four export-import godowns at the port today, and a new coal berth at Kamarajar ⁸ .
East ● GREEN	Kolkata's puja curbs start on Tuesday: goods vehicles held off the roads for set hours till the 19th, port trucks allowed only between noon and 4 pm, then immersion bans from the 20th ⁹ . That's the usual Puja strain, and Kolkata's traffic actually eased on Mahalaya with the trucks off the road.
Northeast ● AMBER	The trucks held at the Bengal border are still the region's problem. Sikkim's one road stays shut at night till Thursday.
Central ● GREEN	The region's one problem is the farmers' blockade on NH-30 in Kabirdham, and it's one district so far. If they go indefinite, as they threaten, the Raipur–Jabalpur road is the one to get impacted.

NETWORK INSIGHTS

1 Barricades first, then a blackout

The last mile in protest week
MEDIUM CONFIDENCE

Inside the protest zone, mobile data was cut from 10 pm on Friday through Saturday evening, the widest curb in Delhi since the 2019 citizenship protests, and The Hindu reports it hit gig workers who needed data to take orders and navigate deliveries¹⁰. So how many deliveries actually missed? Nobody has counted, and the platforms haven't said. Is it a one-off? The road curbs are back today, and the organisers say they'll march every day until the Chief Election Commissioner is removed⁵.

So a protest zone can impact last mile deliveries, quick commerce and same-day promises into city centres with protests on the calendar.

2 Now the Gulf's airports are in range too

India to Saudi Arabia, by sea and air
MEDIUM CONFIDENCE

Houthi missiles hit Riyadh's King Khalid airport on Saturday for the third time this week, killing 12 and wounding 309, and operations were suspended while the damage was assessed; the Houthis say any aircraft in Saudi airspace outside Mecca and Medina is a target². Indian airlines had already cancelled their Riyadh flights, IndiGo through Friday and Air India, Air India Express and Akasa through Saturday¹¹. At sea, Iran's Guards say a tanker hit a mine in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, after 13 incidents involving tankers around the strait between 28th September and 5th October, and ships there have been under attack since February¹². So what was the fallback for Gulf cargo that couldn't wait for a slow, expensive ship? Air. That's actually the route that broke this week.

Exports of perishables, medicines and spare parts into Saudi Arabia are at risk, where a missed flight has no quick substitute.

3 A planning office that reads the e-way bills

Transport planning, all modes
HIGH CONFIDENCE

The Cabinet approved an Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority on 6th October, and on Saturday the government set out what it will do: a national transport master plan looking ten years or more ahead, across roads, rail, ports, airports, waterways and city transport, and a technical check on every central project of ₹500 crore or more, before and after it's built¹³. The bit that actually interests me is the data. It's to build one repository joining e-way bills, FASTag, Vahan registrations, GPS

feeds and city traffic systems, to map where freight starts and ends¹³. Why does that matter? Because today those sources sit with different agencies, and this page is pieced together from the scraps that reach public view. Will the freight maps be public? I don't know yet.

The next corridors, terminals and bypasses will be picked by a body that can see where freight actually goes, and anyone siting hubs and warehouses for the next ten years would want to see those maps too.

THE LANES I'M WATCHING

NH-27 at Srirampur

● AMBER

THE NORTHEAST'S ROAD OUT, AT THE BENGAL BORDER

Hundreds of outbound trucks with coal and petroleum coke held at Srirampur and Buxirhat for days, as of Friday's report; Bengal Police cite papers, transporters say they carry e-way bills and invoices¹⁴.

NH-30 Raipur-Jabalpur

● AMBER

CHHATTISGARH TO MADHYA PRADESH

Kabirdham's farmers had NH-30 and the roads to Raipur, Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon blocked for about 20 hours by Friday morning, over 23 demands, and threaten to go indefinite¹⁵. Amber till Monday unless they do.

NH-10 Siliguri-Gangtok

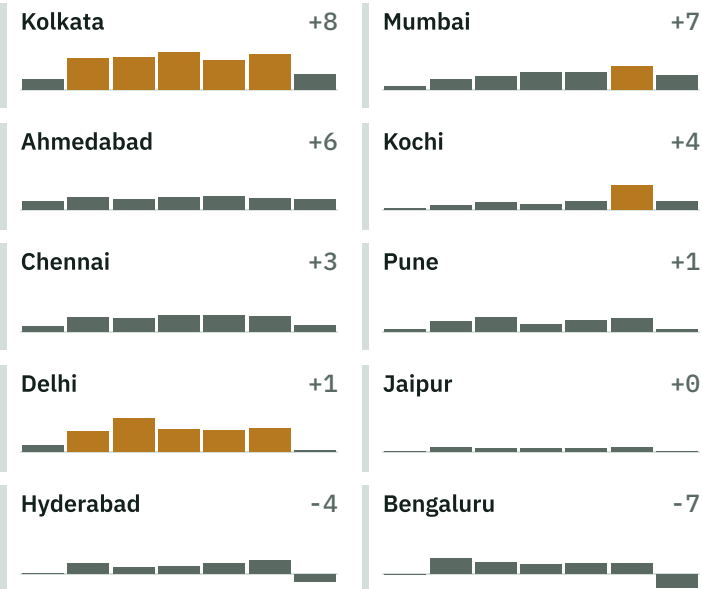
● AMBER

SIKKIM'S ONE AND ONLY TRUNK ROAD

Shut to all vehicles 9 pm to 6 am on the 52 km Sevoke-Rangpo stretch till Thursday, and again 26th October–5th November¹⁶.

MEASURED THIS MORNING

City roads against usual, daily, 4–10 Oct⁶ **amber = 10+ over**
Saturday was quieter than Friday almost everywhere. Kolkata fell to 8 points over usual from 18 on its Mahalaya goods-vehicle ban, Delhi to 1 from 12 despite the protest curbs, and Bengaluru and Hyderabad ran below usual.



SOURCES

Built from public sources only. The ratings are my judgement on the likelihood of on-time delivery or cost-impact, not measured service levels or actual cost estimates. Confidence is High when the facts are dated and primary or measured, Medium when they rest on a proxy or a forecast. If I am wrong, we'll find out in the subsequent weeks. Map boundaries: DataMeet, CC BY 4.0.

1. The Hindu: locked out of central Delhi, daily-wage workers lose a day's earnings, 11 Oct
2. Al Jazeera: 12 killed in Houthi attack on Riyadh airport, 10 Oct
3. ChiniMandi: Karnataka cane farmers' blockade threat, 10 Oct
4. STAT Times: NMIA corrective measures, 3 Oct
5. Business Standard (PTI): Delhi traffic curbs for a second day, 11 Oct
6. TomTom Traffic Index: congestion against usual, ten cities
7. Data Portuaria: DP World's Nhava Sheva Business Park phase 2, 10 Oct
8. The Hindu: Modi to open ₹13,000 crore of projects in Chennai, 10 Oct
9. Millennium Post: Kolkata Police Puja traffic plan, 5 Oct
10. The Hindu: net shutdown adds to disruption in the capital, 11 Oct
11. Aerospace Global News: airlines cancel Riyadh flights, 9 Oct
12. Bhaskar English: tanker hits mine in Hormuz, 11 Oct
13. PIB: Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority factsheet, 10 Oct
14. Sentinel Assam: trucks stranded at Assam–Bengal border, 9 Oct
15. IBC24: Kawardha farmers' chakka jam on NH-30, 9 Oct (Hindi)
16. ThePrint: NH-10 night curbs (NHIDCL order), 5 Oct