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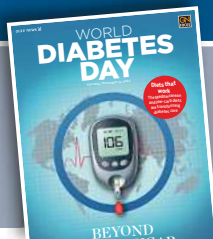
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# GULF NEWS

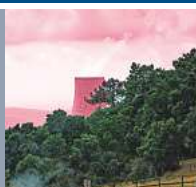


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## TRUMP, BIDEN MEET IN WHITE HOUSE, VOW SMOOTH TRANSFER

■ US President Joe Biden meets with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, DC, yesterday. Trump thanked Biden for pledging a smooth transfer of power as the victorious Republican made a historic return to the White House. Trump added that the transition would be 'as smooth as you can get'. **SEE ALSO P10**

## Delhi toxic smog smashes WHO limit

Several flights delayed across northern India due to swirling clouds

**NEW DELHI**

Residents of India's capital New Delhi choked in a blanketing toxic smog yesterday as worsening air pollution surged past 50 times the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended daily maximum. Many in the city cannot afford air filters, nor do they have

homes they can effectively seal from the misery of foul smelling air blamed for thousands of premature deaths.

Cooler temperatures and slow-moving winds trap deadly pollutants each winter, stretching from mid-October until at least January.

At dawn yesterday, "hazardous" pollutant levels in parts of the sprawling urban area of more than 30 million people topped 806 micrograms per cubic metre, according to monitoring firm IQAir.

That is more than 53 times the World Health Organisation recommended daily maximum of fine particulate matter — dangerous cancer-causing microparticles known as PM2.5 pollutants that enter the bloodstream through the lungs.

Swirling white clouds of smog also delayed several flights across northern India.

By midday, when air usually is at its best, it eased to about 25-35 times above danger levels, depending on different districts. —AFP

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strikes | P9**

## Swerving kills 32 in Dubai in 10 months

POLICE INTRODUCE STRICTER PENALTIES FOR RECKLESS DRIVING

**DUBAI**

BY AGHADDIR ALI  
Senior Reporter

Police in Dubai yesterday issued a fresh warning against reckless driving, revealing an alarming statistic of 32 people dying in accidents caused by swerving since the start of this year.

These sudden lane changes and abrupt turns also caused crashes in which dozens of people were seriously injured, the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police said.

Underscoring the danger of this kind of erratic driving, police said swerving or "sudden deviation" has now become the third leading cause of serious traffic accidents (after distracted driving and speeding).

**New punishment**

In a clampdown on dangerous driving, Dubai Police announced new punishments — which went into force at the beginning of this month — for serious violations. This includes a 30-day impoundment for swerving, as per the latest amendments to Decree No. 29 of 2015 — which were an-

nounced in October and came into effect on November 1.

The same Decree already imposes a Dh1,000 fine and the imposition of four black points — which remain in effect — on the driver's license for swerving.

It is noteworthy to point out that new punishments (as per Article 31 of Federal Decree-Law No. 14 of 2024) will become applicable on March 29, 2025, which say, among other rules, that a motorist can be arrested if caught driving in a reckless manner or in a manner that poses a danger to the public.

**Avoid distractions**

Mainly behind these fatal accidents are mobile phone use and other distractions while driving, the Department warned.

A senior official from the Department said: "The Department urges drivers to stay vigilant and focused while driving, stressing the need to avoid distractions like mobile phone use. Additionally, the Department highlights the importance of following traffic signals when changing lanes."

**SEE ALSO P2**

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