

DU alumnus Justice Siddharth Mridul directs Discipline on Delhi Roads



Justice Siddharth Mridul

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NEWDELHI : There are over 100,000 illegal e-rickshaws plying on the roads of the National Capital and many of them are operating on 236 roads where *movement of these vehicles has been prohibited*, the Delhi High Court was informed on Wednesday 01.08.2018.

The Court was apprised of these facts during the hearing of a contempt petition filed by two *gramin sewa* vehicle owners against the Commissioner of Traffic Varsha Joshi and other authorities for not regularising and giving proper licences to e-rickshaws in the Capital.

“In order to regulate the movement of e-rickshaws, the Government of NCT of Delhi prohibited their movement and parking on 236 roads in December 2014 under Section 115 Motor Vehicles Act, 1988” the status report said.

Standing Counsel also said efforts are being made by both the traffic department and the transport department of the Delhi Government to regularise these e-rickshaws and cap their number at 50,000.

However, **Justice Siddharth Mridul** asked Government Counsel how a cap can be imposed when these vehicles are already plying on the streets.

“How can you introduce a cap when they are already plying on the roads? There are already a lakh running without licences,” the Court said, seeking to know the number of licences issued to e-rickshaws.

His Lordship also sought to know about the steps taken by authorities in regulating the menace of illegal e-rickshaws that operate **outside Metro stations**.

“What about the Mehrauli - Badarpur Road, the roads that lead to Max Hospital and Qutub Minar? The road is always blocked because of e-rickshaws parked outside the Saket Metro station. *Outside every Metro station there is a jam* because of e-rickshaws that are double- and triple-parked,” the Court remarked.

The Court stated that the efforts of the authorities are not showing any result. “Proof of the pudding is in the eating. We want officers on the field and not in the Court,” **Justice Mridul** added .

Following this, the Court asked them to file a joint status/action taken report, informing it about the steps taken.

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