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CRACKDOWN ON 'OBSCENE ACTIVITIES'

Soon, 100 cops in plainclothes to patrol Delhi Metro coaches

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IN A bid to crack down on acts of "nuisance" and "obscene activities" inside the Delhi Metro, Delhi Police will now deploy over 100 of its personnel in civilian clothes inside the compartments at pre-identified stations, official said. Along with DMRC and CISF officials, these police personnel will prosecute offenders on the spot and take further legal action, officers added.

A senior police officer said that in view of the increasing number of incidents of "public obscenity" inside compartments, teams of Delhi Police personnel, comprising constables and head constables, have been briefed on travelling in the coaches in civilian clothes along with at least two Delhi Metro officials and two CISF personnel to keep a tab on such activities. "Personnel will be deployed at most of the prominent Metro stations and they have been told to randomly enter compartments and travel in them until a few stations to check on any such nuisance...woman constables in civilian clothes will also keep a check on women's compartments...personnel in uniforms have also been deployed," said the officer.



Woman constables in civilian clothes will also keep a check on women's compartments. *Archive*

The development comes after Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) wrote to the Delhi Police to strengthen patrolling at stations and inside Metro compartments to curb such incidents.

A senior DMRC official said that more than five flying squads comprising three to four personnel have also been deployed separately inside compartments to prosecute offenders on the spot and issue them a penalty of Rs 200 under Section 59 of The Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002. "In serious cases, Delhi Police personnel will be called and a case under IPC sections pertaining to obscenity will be lodged," said the official.

The Metro official further said that CCTV cameras inside compartments will also be monitored for such activities and police will be contacted accordingly. "Passengers have been requested to call on the DMRC helpline number 155370 and provide details," the official said. In addition, a senior police officer said, commuters will be briefed to not upload such incidents on social media and instead, report them to the station control room or to CISF personnel. "At least half-a-dozen police personnel will be deployed at crucial stations like Rajiv Chowk, Kashmere Gate and Central Secretariat. They will quickly rush to the spot after a particular passenger is identified and made to de-board the coach," added the officer.