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Cubbon Park reopens for vehicular traffic

BENGALURU, DHNS

Activists questioned the government's decision to allow traffic inside Cubbon Park from Wednesday at a time when two departments have proposed a ban on vehicular movement inside the green zone. Some activists held a protest in front of the park on Wednesday morning.

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, a member of Heritage Beku, said the lockdown was a trial period, which has helped environmentalists, public and even officials understand the need to protect the park.

She noted that the BBMP has sought a ban on traffic in Cubbon Park, which was echoed by the Horticulture Department and the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT).

"It is distressing to see that traffic is being allowed inside



Cubbon Park was opened amid protests by activists.

DH PHOTO/S K DINESH

the park at a time a decision on the proposal is still pending," she said.

Responding to a question on a simulation study submitted to the government that said banning vehicles in

Cubbon Park will lead to traffic congestion in the Central Business District area, she said citizens and experts have also conducted a study that showed that the diversion caused by the closure will only require commuters on surrounding roads to travel an average of an additional 330 metres.

Meanwhile, a petition has been filed before the high court opposing any move to allow vehicular movement inside the park.

The Cubbon Park Walkers Association has filed the petition, contending that the restriction on the movement of vehicles during the lockdown had improved the environment inside the park.

The petition sought directions to the authorities not to allow vehicular movement. The petition is likely to come up for hearing either this week or the next.