

Delhi Film Production Checklist: Locations, Logistics, and Essentials

Introduction

This checklist equips line producers with essential information for planning film shoots in Delhi, its NCR outskirts, and the Agra–Noida Expressway corridor. Delhi's cinematic diversity, from Chandni Chowk's vibrant markets to Gurugram's skyscrapers, is supported by robust infrastructure like Noida Film City and Karol Bagh equipment rentals. Drawing from India Cine Hub and NFDC data, this guide covers key filming locations, permit requirements, weather considerations, and essential gear to ensure efficient production in India's multifaceted filming capital.

Key Shoot Locations in Delhi

Location	Vibe / Use Case	Permits	Best Time to Shoot
Chandni Chowk & Old Delhi	Grit, chaos, authentic Indian textures	Local municipal, Delhi Police	Early morning or off-peak
Lodhi Gardens / Roshanara Bagh	Calm, symmetrical, royal greenery	ASI for historical spots	Morning, weekdays
Hauz Khas Village & Fort	Bohemian charm, historic-modern fusion	Local authorities, ASI (fort)	Early morning or golden hour
Humayun's Tomb / Mehrauli Park	Regal Mughal aesthetics	Strict ASI clearance	Sunrise or late afternoon
Qutub Minar / Agrasen ki Baoli	Monumental heritage, symmetry	ASI permissions	Early morning
India Gate / Connaught Place	Colonial power, modern commerce	NDMC, Delhi Police	Dusk or dawn
Yamuna Ghat / Sadar Bazar	Raw realism, local vibrancy	Ward-level permissions	Daylight, less crowd hours
Okhla Bird Sanctuary	Wetlands, nature aesthetics	Forest Dept., Noida authority	Dawn or foggy winter mornings
Noida Film City	Studio setups, green screens	Standard rental permissions	Weekdays, controlled conditions
Gurugram Glass Towers	Modern India, business parks	Private estates, RWAs	Evenings or early mornings

NCR Outskirts Filming Logistics

Location	Vibe / Use Case	Permits	Best Time
Neemrana Fort (Rajasthan)	Heritage grandeur, fort settings	Privately managed	Weekdays, golden hour
Manesar	Modern-industrial, farmhouse	Local panchayat/estate	Early mornings
Surajkund (Faridabad)	Rustic charm, crafts fair setup	Local municipal, SDM	Non-festival days
Damdama Lake (Gurgaon)	Lakeside serenity, adventure	Forest Dept., district	Early morning or dusk

Sohna Road Villages	Arid, semi-rural, village vibe	Village sarpanch	Morning, soft light
Murthal & Highway Dhabas	Iconic Punjabi food culture	Minimal, location	Off-peak hours, evenings
Greater Noida Film City	Institutional, tech campuses	Private estate, studio	Weekdays, non-event
Noida Forest Patches	Raw nature, birdlife	Forest Dept., local police	Dawn or golden hour
Badkhal Lake (Faridabad)	Reservoir, dry-season look	Haryana Tourism, local	Winter or post-monsoon
Tughlaqabad Outskirts	Ancient ruins, barren landscape	ASI, MCD or SDMC	Early morning

Agra–Noida Expressway Filming Logistics

Location	Vibe / Use Case	Permits	Best Time
Yamuna Expressway Stretch	Long clean highway, car chases	Jaypee Infra, Traffic Police	Early morning (low traffic)
Jewar Area (near airport)	Futuristic, open patches	Local panchayat or DM	Post-monsoon, golden hour
Dankaur / Tappal Villages	Rural realism, dusty plains	Gram panchayat, DM	Morning or evening
Mathura Industrial Corridor	Warehouses, power plants	District industrial estate	Weekdays (non-operational)
Vrindavan Ghats & Yamuna Bank	Spiritual, serene, temple shots	Temple trust, local admin	Early morning, weekdays
Taj Mahal Periphery	Recognizable skyline, heritage	ASI, Archaeological Circle	Sunrise (strict slot)
Agra Cantt / Red Fort Walls	Mughal military architecture	ASI, Military cantonment	Morning, soft light
Itmad-ud-Daulah	Marble architecture, gardens	ASI, camera rules	Golden hour or cloudy day
Mehtab Bagh	Best reverse view of Taj Mahal	ASI, limited entry slots	Sunset (Taj silhouette)
Agra–Fatehabad Highway	Clean tarmac, mustard fields	Local RTO, PWD, traffic	Morning or evening

Delhi Location Planning & Timelines

Zone / Location	Shoot Type	Time Slot	Notes / Tips
India Gate & Rajpath	Grand, formal shots	5:30 AM–7:30 AM	Best light, minimal crowds; NDMC permissions
Lutyens Bungalow Zone	Colonial, tree-lined roads	6:00 AM–9:00 AM	Wrap early to avoid security checks
Connaught Place	Urban, cosmopolitan shots	7:00 AM–9:00 AM or 10:30 PM–12:30 AM	Night permits easier; central location
Lodhi Garden & Safdarjung Tomb	Nature, couples, royal looks	6:30 AM–9:00 AM	ASI permissions; golden hour
Humayun's Tomb / Sunder Nursery	Heritage, botanical	7:00 AM–10:00 AM	Heritage permission, ticketed entry
Hauz Khas Fort & Lake	Youthful, indie, bohemian	6:30 AM–8:30 AM (fort), 10:00 PM–midnight (lanes)	Fort closes early; nightlife okay
Qutub Minar Complex	Monumental frames	6:30 AM–9:00 AM	Strict ASI supervision; avoid weekends
Yamuna Ghat	River edge, spiritual visuals	Sunrise–8:30 AM	Boat hire available; magical winter light
Okhla Bird Sanctuary	Wetland, docu-style visuals	6:00 AM–8:30 AM	Forest permission; very atmospheric
Mehrauli Archeological Park	Grunge, forgotten monuments	7:00 AM–9:00 AM	Sparse crowds; bring gear support
Jama Masjid / Chandni Chowk	Crowded market, heritage	7:00 AM–9:00 AM or 9:00 PM onwards	Early or late to avoid footfall

Noida Expressway / Yamuna Expressway	Drone, driving, highway shoots	5:00 AM–7:00 AM	Traffic Police NOC; low traffic
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Weather Considerations for Filming

Season	Conditions	Filming Tips
Winter (Dec–Feb)	Cold mornings (5–10°C), pleasant days (15–22°C), foggy	Warm layers for crew; avoid early Jan shoots due to fog; good light by 10am
Spring / Early Summer (Mar–Early May)	Warming (25–38°C), clear skies, some haze	Shoot before noon or after 3pm to avoid harsh sun
Peak Summer (Mid May–June)	Hot (40–48°C), dry winds, heatwaves	Avoid mid-day; provide water, electrolytes, sunscreen, AC vans
Monsoon (July–Sept)	Humid, showers, heavy downpours	Monitor forecast; use rain covers, non-slip flooring; buffer days
Post-Monsoon / Autumn (Oct–Nov)	Cooler evenings, clear skies, golden light	Ideal for exteriors; avoid early mornings post-Diwali due to smog

Filming Essentials Checklist

All Seasons

- Battery backups and powerbanks (for power cuts in outskirts)
- Portable shades/tents for gear
- Portable toilets for remote/park locations
- Strong footwear for crews (varied terrain)

Summer (May–June)

- Icy water buckets and cool towels
- Schedule scenes pre-11AM or post-4PM
- Reflective modifiers and ND filters for sun glare

Winter (Dec–Jan)

- Fog masks for camera optics
- Hot beverages and heaters for basecamp
- Avoid 6–8AM schedules unless fog aesthetic desired

Monsoon (July–Sept)

- Tarpaulin wraps and waterproof matte boxes
- Local fixers for real-time updates on waterlogging
- Alternate location nearby for outdoor units

Air Quality Advisory (Post-Diwali to Early Jan)

- Limit elderly/child talent exposure (AQI often 300+)
- Use air purifiers in vanity vans/green rooms
- Avoid open-air crowd scenes during AQI spikes
- Consider NCR locations (Aravalli belts, Noida) for cleaner air