

# Ban entry of heavy vehicles in Delhi post-Diwali: CPCB

## CPCB mulls using artificial rain to tackle pollution after Diwali

SAYANTAN GHOSH

**NEW DELHI:** The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Tuesday recommended that there must be a ban on heavy vehicles post-Diwali if the pollution rises. The board also is mulling inducing artificial rain in Delhi after Diwali to wash away hazardous pollutants that is plaguing the national Capital.

According to a senior CPCB official, talks are being held with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for inducing artificial rain after Diwali when the pollution is expected to reach "severe-plus emergency" stage.

He said they are waiting for meteorological conditions to become stable and then use cloud seeding for inducing artificial rain. Cloud seeding is the process of combining different kinds of chemical agents—including silver iodide, dry ice and even common table salt—with existing clouds in an effort



Vehicles ply at slow pace near Anand Vihar due to smog in New Delhi on Tuesday PIC/PTI

to thicken the clouds and increase the chance of rain or snowfall.

Meanwhile, the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for the National Capital Region (NCR) or EPCA, a body appointed by the Supreme Court, has also issued an advisory on Tuesday, in which it has warned that pollution levels in Delhi-NCR would be 'severe' in the next week.

The advisory, written by Bhure Lal, Chairman, EPCA, to Chief Secretaries of Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan says, "There has been a significant intrusion of biomass (stubble) generated pollution early morning today owing to faster transport level winds (925hpa) coming from the North-West region. This has increased pollution levels significantly and Air

Quality Index (AQI) is likely to enter the severe category.

According to SAFAR (meteorological organisation), the contribution of biomass to Tuesday's pollution is estimated to be 24 percent. Surface wind speed which was moderate for the past three days is now inching towards calm conditions. The wind speed which was 29 kmph at transport height is declining now (15 kmph) and is likely to slow down intrusion.

Moisture in the air is increasing due to western disturbance withdrawal. The temperature will further cool down and fog is expected. The pollution is likely to get stabilised only by late evening."

The advisory goes on to say that in light of the development and warning, EPCA would like to reiterate that all the emergency orders already issued under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on October 12, October 27 and October 31, must intensify, and be implemented and enforced with utmost discipline and stringency and with zero tolerance.

### Avoid heavy physical activity and outdoor exposure after Diwali: Experts

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Avoid heavy physical activity on high air pollution days. The faster you breathe, the more polluted air you inhale, warned experts for the days after Diwali.

"You may not be able to avoid leaving the house for work. However, you can choose to avoid time outdoors at a park, doing lawn work, etc. If you have to be outdoors, limit activity to the early morning hours or wait until after sunset. This is important in high-ozone conditions (such as in many large cities) because sunshine increases Ozone levels. Avoid heavy physical activity also. The faster you breathe, the more polluted air you inhale," said Dr Shivani Sachdev Gour, a Gynecologist.

Air pollution is identified as one of major risk factor for high global burden of disease. As per WHO estimates, Ambient (outdoor air pollution) in both cities and rural areas was estimated to cause 4.2 million premature deaths worldwide in 2016. It is also important to note that most of these premature deaths occur in WHO-SEARO, which includes India.

"In children and adults, both short- and long-term exposure to ambient air pollution can lead to reduced lung function, frequent respiratory infections and asthma. Chronic Obstructed Lung Diseases gets aggravated during periods of very poor air quality index, which is being witnessed in Delhi for last couple of days. Maternal exposure to ambient air pollution is associated with adverse birth outcomes, such as low birth weight, pre-term birth and small gestational age births. Emerging evidence also suggests ambient air pollution may affect diabetes and neurological development in children," said Dr Dinesh Agarwal a Senior Technical Advisor, Health and Nutrition.

## 2018 has seen more days of better air quality: Delhi govt

SAYANTAN GHOSH

**NEW DELHI:** The year 2018 has seen more days of better air quality as compared to previous years, due to combined efforts of residents of Delhi and concerned agencies, observed the Delhi government on Tuesday.

"The year 2018 has seen more days of better air quality as compared to previous years, due to the combined efforts of residents of Delhi and concerned agencies. However, we collectively need to keep up our efforts, particularly on Diwali and after," said Delhi Environment Minister Imran Hussain.

An official statement from the government noted, "During the months of October and November, the air quality in northern India and particularly Delhi-NCR remains a cause of concern. This is due to a variety of factors and mainly influenced by agricultural waste burning in the Northern belt of India."

It added that the contribution from the agricultural waste in the recent past has gone as high as up to 60 per cent. There was a significant intrusion of stubble generated pollution on Monday, which has shown a declining trend on Tuesday, as we approach the Diwali day.

"The prominent wind direction is likely to remain North-



westerly from 6th and 7th November with cloud-free sky and mist in the morning.

The ventilation coefficient is expected within 7000-8000 m<sup>2</sup>/s. Winds coming from northwesterly direction bring the influence of biomass burning pollutants in Delhi-NCR. Though surface level wind is calm but upper wind brings pollutants," noted the statement.

"I appeal to everybody concerned to help in reducing the local sources, which contribute to air pollution. A celebration of cracker-free Deepawali is one such step, and I hope the residents of Delhi will continue their positive contribution," said Imran Hussain.

He added: I would like to take this occasion to share with the residents of the national capital, the existing ambient air quality position and would like to request the residents to persuade their near and dear ones for desisting from bursting fire crackers and convince their children about the importance of a green and clean Deepawali.

## Air purifying plants as Diwali gifts continue to be in vogue

PIYUSH OHRIE

**GURUGRAM:** It is that time of the year when there is an exchange of Diwali gifts between families, neighbors and friends. While Dry fruits, chocolate packets, and glassware items retain their popularity, there has been an addition in the list of offerings. Taking note of the poor air quality of Delhi-National Capital Region, most of the residents of Gurugram this time are presenting air purifying plants.

Not only are these proving to be reasonable but their significance on health accounts have grown manifolds over the years. At a time when air purifiers are still beyond the reach of many and are priced at a range of Rs 10,000 to Rs one lakh the focus is shifting towards these forms of plantations. A large number of buyers are frequenting the nurseries or even ordering such plants through the online platform.

The most popular of them includes *Areca*, *Money* and *snake plants* that have been identified as natural cleaners and an effective medium of tackling not only



the outdoor but also indoor pollution. Others include *Bonsai*, *Aloe Vera* and *Azadirachta*

*indica* (popularly known as *Neem*). The cost per plants can be Rs 50 and extend up to Rs 700 and beyond.

The usage of air purifying plants has also gained popularity among the multinational companies in Gurugram with most of the offices using it in large numbers.

"While there is a lot of hue and cry on the state of outdoor pollution, the fact remains that even the indoor pollution is extremely poor. I, therefore, felt that this time presenting an air purifying plants can be one of the most relevant gifts, I present," said Geetika Khanna, a city resident

"You can have your opinion of whether it can prove its utility or not in cleaning the air but it also had an added advantage of providing greenery indoors, something that is fast diminishing in the urban landscape," she added.

It is significant to note that the popularity of green plants has only increased despite various air purifiers entering the market. Not only on festive occasions but air freshener plants is gaining a lot of traction over the years.

## BJP demands Amanatullah Khan expulsion from AAP

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi BJP workers on Tuesday staged a demonstration outside the residence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, demanding that he expel MLA Amanatullah Khan from the Aam Aadmi Party. The protesters said that Khan had attacked Delhi BJP President Manoj Tiwari at the instance of Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia during the inauguration of the Signature Bridge on the Yamuna river on Sunday.

The BJP workers assembled at Chandagi Ram Akhara and marched towards the residence of Kejriwal, raising slogans against him and Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan. However, they were stopped meters away from the Chief Minister's residence. The police used mild force and water cannons to disperse the crowd. Some of the protesters were also taken into custody.

Delhi BJP General Secretary Rajesh Bhatia said that by attacking Tiwari, "Khan has insulted every worker of BJP, which should be condemned everywhere". "Tuesday's dem-



onstration is symbolic and peaceful and we demand that Kejriwal apologise publicly and dismiss Khan, who has a criminal history," Bhatia said.

Delhi BJP Vice President Jai Prakash said that Kejriwal and Khan had not only attacked Tiwari but also the pride of the entire poorvanchal community (people hailing mainly from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh). He called upon the members of the poorvanchal community, quite significant electorally, to boycott AAP and Kejriwal. "These people should also be kept away from the Chhath Puja ghats," Prakash said.

The Delhi BJP chief was manhandled by Khan and his party workers during the inauguration of the Signature Bridge in Wazirabad area on Sunday.

## Satyendar Jain directs official to lodge police complaint against BJP chief Manoj Tiwari

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday directed the additional chief secretary (home) to lodge a police complaint against state BJP chief Manoj Tiwari for allegedly indulging in violence at the Signature Bridge inauguration.

In his note to Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Manoj Parida, Jain said Tiwari and his associates indulged in hooliganism to overawe the highest functionaries of the government at the event where Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other cabinet ministers were present.

"Manoj Tiwari and his associates formed an unlawful assembly, forcibly entered (reached) the dias with the intention to attack and harm the chief minister and council of ministers and create a ruckus, obstructed and assaulted public servant," Jain said.

"It is therefore directed that home department

immediately lodges a formal complaint with the CP (commissioner of police) and concerned DCP/police station against Manoj Tiwari and his associates..." the note said.

Tiwari and his supporters allegedly got into a scuffle with AAP members and police at the inaugural event of the newly-built Signature Bridge here on Sunday.

The BJP leader had gone to the event to stage a protest for allegedly not being invited to the inauguration despite being Member of Parliament from the area.

Jain said a CD containing various videos of the event showed the "lawlessness" Tiwari and his associates indulged in.

The BJP had on Sunday said that AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan used abusive language and pushed Tiwari. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party responded on Monday, saying Khan was trying to prevent Tiwari from getting onto the stage where Kejriwal and other leaders were present.

## Delhi CM felicitates manual scavengers

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday felicitated trainees of the first batch of skill development in Delhi for 50 identified manual scavengers and dependents in Shahdara district at the District Collector's office, Nand Nagri in Trans Yamuna area.

Felicitating the trainees of the programme, Kejriwal focused on the implementation of the project and appreciated the efforts of the District Magistrate (Shahdara and East). He mentioned that the move was small but it has a great potential. As it was a pilot project in Shahdara, it will be implemented in other districts too.

On other hands, a section of Delhi BJP leaders and workers waved black flags at Kejriwal and raised slogans against him in Nand Nagri where he



had gone to attend an official function.

The skill development programme for manual scavengers was launched on August 24 by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the presence of Member of Parliament Shatrughan Sinha, Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam, civil servants and

NGOs at the same venue.

Gautam said Delhi is perhaps the first state to have state monitoring committee, vigilance committee and survey committee to ensure the proper implementation of the project. In the beginning, a total of 28 manual scavengers were identified in the district who were involved in manual scaveng-

ing for the past five to 15 years. The educational qualification of these identified manual scavengers ranged from illiteracy to B Com (H) with an average salary of Rs 2,000 a month to Rs 8,000 a month and aged between 18 and 60 years.

The training programme was initiated by the District Magistrate to provide an alternative means of livelihood, honour and dignity to manual scavengers. The training was imparted in housekeeping for a period of three months. Trainees were paid a stipend of Rs 1,000 a month with other facilities and assured job in the housekeeping sector with minimum wages.

The training of manual scavengers and their dependents was organised in collaboration with Centre for Advocacy and Research, Action Aid, Mahila Pragati Manch and Sadik Masih Medical Social Servant Society.

**DELHI POLICE**  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Attention!

**Hon'ble Supreme Court Guidelines**  
FOR SALE & USE OF FIRECRACKERS

- ▶ **No item(s) other than the Reduced Emission firecrackers (Improved crackers) and Reduced Emission firecrackers Green crackers: Safe Water and Air Sprinklers (SWAS) as prescribed and approved by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO) shall be sold in the premises.**
- ▶ **Categories of firecrackers banned/not permitted**
  - Joined Firecrackers (series crackers or laris)
  - Fireworks containing barium salts/ lithium/ arsenic/ antimony/ lead/ mercury
  - Firecrackers manufactured earlier but non-permissible as per above Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment.
- ▶ **Only those crackers permitted to be sold whose decibel (sound) level are within the permissible limits (125dB(A) or 145 dB(C)pk at 4 meters from the point of bursting)**
- ▶ **Bursting of fireworks not allowed in silence zones : Silence Zone is an area comprising not less than 100 meters around hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority.**
- ▶ **Timings of Firecracking as per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court:**

<b>From 08.00 PM till 10.00 PM</b>	<b>on Diwali Days</b>
<b>From 04.00 AM till 05.00 AM</b>	<b>on Gurgurab</b>
<b>From 09.00 PM till 10.00 PM</b>	<b>on Christmas Eve &amp; New Year Eve.</b>
<b>From 11.55 PM till 12.30 AM</b>	
- ▶ **Community fire cracking to be undertaken at pre-identified areas/fields as far as possible.**

**ALL CONCERNED TO PLEASE NOTE & ABIDE.**

**Delhi Police Wishes You A Happy Diwali**