

**COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT  
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS  
17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building)  
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110016**

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F.No. A-110018/01/2021-CAQM/1461-1486

Dated: 16.11.2021

**Subject: Directions under Section 12 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 regarding steps for effective control of air pollution in wake of the prevailing air quality scenario in Delhi-NCR**

WHEREAS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021, has constituted the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (hereinafter referred to as the Commission);

WHEREAS, Section 30 of the Act, 2021 provides that anything done or any action taken under the erstwhile Ordinance 2020 shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of the Ordinance 2021;

WHEREAS, under Section 12 (1) of the Act, the Commission has powers to take all such measures, issue directions, etc., as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas;

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WHEREAS, Section 12 (2) (xi) of the Act, empowers the Commission to issue directions in writing to any person, officer, or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions;

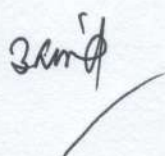
WHEREAS, the Commission has been highlighting that Road dust, dust from Construction and Demolition sites, Industrial Pollution, Vehicular Pollution, agricultural stubble burning, burning of biomass/ municipal solid waste, bursting of fire crackers etc. and unfavorable meteorological conditions in NCR particularly during the winter season are the major contributing factors for deterioration of air quality in the region;

WHEREAS, the Commission has repeatedly taken up the matter relating to air pollution in NCR with the State governments of Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Government of NCT of Delhi and various organisations concerned of the Central and State Governments/ GNCTD and has issued Directions, Advisories and conveyed decisions for effective implementation of measures for abating air pollution in NCR region;

The Commission has been holding meetings periodically to review the situation.

WHEREAS, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India heard the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1135 of 2020 titled as Aditya Dubey Vs. Union of India & Ors. on 15.11.2021;

WHEREAS, in respectful compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, 8th Meeting of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas was convened in an emergent mode at 10:00 am on 16.11.2021, to consider taking further and more stringent steps to effectively control air pollution in identified sectors viz. construction activities, industries,



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transport, thermal power plants, stubble burning etc. and also for consideration of "Work From Home" by the Central Government and State Governments for their offices in the NCR.

WHEREAS, Dr. V.K. Soni, Scientist 'F', IMD presented before the Commission, a perspective of the forecast for air quality, wind velocity, mixing depth etc. in the region in the coming days. It was advised that the air quality over Delhi-NCR is likely to remain in "Very Poor" category and may slip into Severe category by night on 16.11.2021. The air quality is likely to improve marginally but remain in Very Poor category on 17.11.2021 and 18.11.2021. The air quality is likely to remain in Very Poor category and improve from 21.11.2021 owing to relatively strong winds. PM<sub>2.5</sub> will be the predominant pollutant. Lower Ventilation Index in coming five days i.e. from 17.11.2021 to 21.11.2021 is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants.

WHEREAS, besides the Members of the Commission, Chief Secretaries/ Addl. Chief Secretaries/ Pr. Secretaries of the Departments concerned in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan were special invitees in the meeting to make their submissions and give their views and suggestions in this context. Secretaries to GOI in the Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Secretary of Power, Secretary of Deptt. of Personnel and Training and Addl. Secretary, MoHUA and other senior officers from organisations concerned in the Central Government and from the State of Punjab, NCR States and Govt. of NCT of Delhi also provided their valuable suggestions and inputs in the respective fields during the detailed discussions.

WHEREAS, based on the detailed deliberations and in after considering the views expressed by the special invitees from the Central/ State Governments/ GNCTD and the Members of the Commission and based on a general consensus which emerged in the meeting, as a matter of emergency and

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abundant caution, certain decisions are taken by the Commission in the matter.

NOW THEREFORE, in view of the facts stated above and the compelling need to prevent further deterioration of environment and towards improvement of air quality in Delhi and NCR, the Commission, in exercise of its powers conferred upon it under Section 12 (2) (xi) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021, directs that following measures shall be implemented with strict force with immediate effect:

**1. Industrial Pollution**

**NCR States and GNCTD shall ensure that:**

- (i) All Industries in NCR having gas connectivity shall be run only on gas as a fuel failing which Industries concerned shall be closed.
- (ii) This Commission has already repeatedly directed not to permit any industry to use unapproved fuels. All industries in NCR still using unapproved fuels shall be closed by respective Governments with immediate effect.
- (iii) All Industries in NCR where gas connectivity is available shall immediately be shifted to gas and State Governments to furnish industry-wise date of shifting.
- (iv) NCR State Governments and GNCTD shall further set up effective enforcement mechanism including intensive and continuous drives by deputing adequate number of teams consisting of senior officers

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to monitor compliance of air pollution emission control norms by Industrial Units and for suitable penal action and / or closure.

**2. Thermal Power Plants**

- (i) Of the 11 thermal power plants located within 300 km radius of Delhi, only 5 power plants namely NTPC, Jhajjar; Mahatma Gandhi TPS, CLP Jhajjar; Panipat TPS, HPGCL; Nabha Power Ltd. TPS, Rajpura and Talwandi Sabo TPS, Mansa shall only be allowed to schedule their operations and the rest shall remain inoperative at least till 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.
- (ii) Secretary, Ministry of Power informed that load requirements, if any, arising out of such closures shall be duly facilitated through power supply from other power plants located beyond 300 km radius of Delhi.

**3. Vehicular Pollution / Transport**

**NCR States and GNCTD shall:**

- (i) Stop entry of trucks in Delhi except the trucks carrying essential commodities, till 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 subject to further review for extension of this date.
- (ii) Plying of diesel and petrol vehicles of more than 10 and 15 years respectively in NCR is a serious matter and the authorities shall ensure that no vehicles of more than 10 years and 15 years using diesel and petrol respectively are found plying on road.

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- (iii) Stop plying of visibly polluting vehicles and vehicles without PUC in NCR. Checks for PUC may be primarily carried out at the petrol pumps so as to obviate congestion on free roads.
- (v) Deploy traffic task-force teams to closely monitor all busy traffic intersections, busy market areas, unauthorized parking lots etc. and take every possible step towards ensuring smooth flow of traffic and avoiding congestion.
- (vi) GNCTD to expeditiously procure and put on road adequate number of CNG buses at the earliest.

**4. Dust Control Measures**

**NCR States and GNCTD shall ensure:**

- (i) To stop construction and demolition activities in NCR till 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 except for the following categories of projects:
  - (a) Railway services / Railway stations
  - (b) Metro Rail corporation services, including stations
  - (c) Airports and Inter State Bus Terminals (ISBTs)
  - (d) National security/ defence related activities / projects of National importance;  
subject to strict compliance of the C&D Waste Management Rules and dust control norms including compliance with the directions of the Commission.
- (iii) Deploy Anti-smog guns, water sprinklers (including supplementing such efforts through large scale deployment of fire tenders etc.) and

application of dust suppressants to be carried out in all vulnerable hotspots, at least 3 times in a day.

- (iv) Augment availability of road sweeping machines and water sprinklers in NCR through emergent procurement measures.
- (v) Set up effective enforcement mechanism including intensive drives by deputing adequate number of teams consisting of senior officers to monitor compliance of air pollution emission control norms by the C&D projects and heavy penal action and/ or closure directions be issued with immediate effect.
- (vi) Impose heavy penalty on persons/ organizations responsible for stacking construction materials or C&D waste on roads and right of ways in NCR.

#### **5. DG Sets**

**NCR States and GNCTD shall enforce** a strict ban on use of DG sets, except for emergency services, which are stipulated in the orders of the Sub-Committee on invocation of GRAP from time to time. Uninterrupted power supply to facilitate the effectiveness of this measure shall to be ensured by the respective electricity supply agencies in Delhi-NCR.

#### **6. Encouraging Work From Home (WFH) to further ease vehicular pollution**

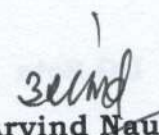
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(i) NCR State Governments shall allow Work from Home (WFH) for at least 50% of their staff in offices in NCR, till 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 subject to further review.

(ii) NCR State Governments shall encourage at least 50% of staff working in private establishments in NCR are also allowed to work from home till 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 subject to further review.

7. All public and private Schools, Colleges and Educational Institutions in NCR shall remain closed until further orders allowing only online mode of education.

8. These directions shall be closely monitored by the Chief Secretaries of NCR States / GNCTD on a regular basis for effective field level implementation and control of air pollution and compliance report shall be filed before this Commission on 22.11.2021.

  
(Arvind Nautiyal)

Member Secretary

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To:

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh

Copy to:



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1. The Chairperson and all Members of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas
2. All Associate Members of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
4. The Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India
5. The Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India
6. The Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India

*Arvind Nautiyal*  
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Member Secretary