

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
Department of Environment & Forests
6th floor, C-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002

F. No. 10 (39)/ENV/2021/4941-4970 Dated: 13th November, 2021

Subject:- Directions u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to close construction / demolition activities, all Schools, Colleges, Educational / Coaching Institutes, Skill Development & Training Institutes, other Training Institutes, libraries (except where exams are being conducted) and all offices of GNCT of Delhi / Autonomous Bodies / Corporations and advisory to private offices/ establishments

Whereas, Delhi faces grave air pollution particularly in winter season and level of pollutants like Particulate Matter Concentration (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) goes much beyond the prescribed standards for Ambient Air Quality.

And whereas, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide its various orders has directed Govt. of NCT of Delhi and DPCC to initiate steps to curb Fugitive Emissions/ Air Pollution in NCT of Delhi.

And whereas, while air quality conditions were good during October 2021 and recorded the cleanest October in six years, the month of November, 2021 is presently witnessing severe air quality due to combination of factors including stubble burning, vehicular emissions, waste burning and dust pollution.

And whereas, while the average AQI of October, 2021 was 173, the average AQI of November, 2021 increased steeply to 388 (till 12th November, 2021) and touched high AQI levels of 462 and 471 on 5th and 12th November respectively.

And whereas the forecast for the coming days is also not favourable due to continuous inflow of emissions from agricultural residue burning and prevailing meteorological conditions, including slow winds during day time, coupled with calm winds during evening night are extremely unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants; and such unfavourable meteorological conditions are likely to remain for next few days and as a consequence the prediction given by India Meteorological Department is that the air quality is likely to remain in severe category.



And whereas, construction and demolition activities as well as vehicular pollution would cause extensive air pollution and releases harmful air pollutants particularly when AQI is already in "Severe" category.

And whereas air pollution affects severely the health of citizens and research has shown that vulnerable population especially children are more susceptible to diseases occurring due to severe air pollution including respiratory problems and cutaneous diseases.

Now, therefore, in view of the above and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with notification No. SO667(E) issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India dated 10.09.1992 and keeping in view the need in public interest to curb high air pollution in Delhi, following directions are hereby issued:

- (i) All Schools, Colleges, Educational / Coaching Institutes, Skill Development & Training Institutes, Other Training Institutes, Libraries (except where exams are being conducted) shall be closed with immediate effect till 20.11.2021.
- (ii) All construction and demolition activities will be closed with immediate effect till 17.11.2021.
- (iii) All offices of GNCT of Delhi / Autonomous Bodies / Corporations shall remain closed with immediate effect till 17.11.2021 except those involved in essential and emergency services such as Health and Family Welfare and all related medical establishments, Police, Prisons, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire and emergency Services, District Administration, DPCC, Environment Department, Pay & Account Office, Electricity, PWD, I&FC, Water and Sanitation, Public Transport (Air / Railways/ Delhi Metro / Buses) including all incidental services / activities that are essential for smooth functioning of all modes of public transport (such as handling of cargo, ticketing, air freight station, CFS, ICD etc.) ,disaster management and related services, NIC, and Municipal services, and all other essential services. The uninterrupted delivery of public services shall be ensured by the concerned departments /agencies. However, all the officers / officials shall work from home.

- (iv) All private offices / establishments are advised to allow their staff to work from home, so as to ensure least vehicular movement on the roads till 17.11.2021.

The District Magistrates and District Deputy Commissioners of Police as well as all Authorities concerned shall implement the aforesaid directions in letter and spirit.

The violation of the directions issued under Section 5 of the the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 or the rules made thereunder shall be punishable under Section 15 of the said Act which includes imprisonment upto five years and / or with fine which may extended to Rs one Lakh or with both.

By order and in the name of the
Lieutenant Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi


(Sanjeev Khirwar)
Pr. Secretary (Environment)

Copy for compliance to:

1. All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries/HODs of Government of NCT of Delhi.
2. The Vice Chairman, Delhi, Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, I.N.A., New Delhi
3. Commissioner of Police, Delhi
4. Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council.
5. Pr. Secretary (Revenue)-cum-Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD
6. Pr. Secretary (Transport), GNCTD
7. Commissioner (South DMC/East DMC/North DMC).
8. Secretary (I&P) for wide publicity in NCT of Delhi
9. CEO, Delhi Cantonment Board.
10. All District Magistrates of Delhi
11. All District DCPs of Delhi
12. DGHS, GNCTD
13. Member Secretary, DPCC, GNCTD

Copy for kind information to:-

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi
2. Addl. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, GNCTD
3. Secretary to Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, GNCTD
4. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Health, GNCTD
5. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, GNCTD
6. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of General Administration Department, GNCTD
7. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare, GNCTD
8. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Food & Supply, GNCTD
9. Addl. Chief Secretary (Home)/ State Nodal Officer, GNCTD
10. Addl. Chief Secretary (UD), GNCTD
11. Pr. Secretary (Environment), GNCTD
12. Guard file.

Copy to:

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi.
3. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister (E&F), GNCTD
4. OSD to Chief Secretary, Govt. Of Delhi.