

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1228/2024

**In the matter of:**

News Item titled "Lancet study links alarming mortality rates to poor air quality 12 strategies to combat country's air pollution crisis" appearing in the Indian Express dated 13.09.2024"

**NDOH:-**

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Filed by:

New Delhi:

Dated: 01.01.2025

Delhi Pollution Control Committee

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**In the matter of:**

News Item titled "Lancet study links alarming mortality rates to poor air quality  
12 strategies to combat country's air pollution crisis" appearing in the Indian  
Express dated 13.09.2024

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL  
COMMITTEE WITH RESPECT TO THE ORDER DATED.**

I, M.S. Rawat, Sr. Environmental Engineer, Delhi Pollution Control Committee,  
3th Floor, Block-B, IT Park, Shastri Park, Delhi- 110053, do hereby solemnly  
affirm and state as under:

1. That, I am working as Sr. Environmental Engineer, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and am conversant with the facts of the present case on the basis of record maintained by Delhi Pollution Control Committee in its ordinary course.
2. That Hon'ble NGT vide Order dated 15.10.2024 impleaded the Delhi Pollution Control committee (hereinafter referred as DPCC) as Respondent no. 6.
3. The matter is related to a recent study published in Lancet Planetary Health, which has highlighted the severe impact of poor air quality on mortality rates in 10 major Indian cities. The study reveals that approximately 33,000 deaths annually are linked to air pollution levels that exceed the World Health

Organization (WHO) guidelines. The cities examined include Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Shimla, and Varanasi. It is alleged that this is largely due to emissions from vehicles, industrial activities, and construction dust.

4. That the similar issue of abatement of air pollution in Delhi and NCR states is being rigorously and extensively is being dealt by the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India in WP(C ) 13029/1985 titled as MC Mehta vs Union of India and Others. The GNCTD has filed various affidavits in recent past on 30.10.2024, 04.11.2024, 08.11.2024, 21.11.2024, 22.11.2024, 2.12.2024, 05.12.2024 and 12.12.2024. these affidavits mentioned action taken by various departments of GNCTD including DPCC.
5. That with consistent efforts from stakeholder departments, 'Good days' (good/satisfactory/moderate days together) have increased from 157 in 2018 to 206 in 2023 during the months of January to October. This year till 29.10.2024, there have been 201 number of 'Good days' (good/satisfactory/moderate days together).
6. That to mitigate air pollution during winter season, Govt. of Delhi has proactively been implementing a 21-point Winter Action Plan 2024 (October 2024 till February 2025) with approximately 30 Stakeholder Departments of GNCTD and daily action taken reports are mandated to be submitted to the Department of Environment. To prepare a concrete Action plan, an expert meet was also held on 29.08.2024 with various experts from international, national level organizations/ departments, practitioners, non-government organizations, academia, researchers, and others to discuss effective ways for addressing air pollution issues during the winter season in Delhi followed by stakeholder departments meeting on 05.09.2024. A colloquium was also organised to discuss



Long-Term Strategies for Mitigation of Air Pollution in Delhi on 26.09.2024 wherein several reputed institutions and organizations presented their projects/research findings and strategies for air pollution mitigation in Delhi.

7. That, the identified sources of air pollution are, as per the study conducted by Department of Environment, Govt. of Delhi through IIT Kanpur, are as under: -

- a. Vehicular pollution.
- b. Dust from Road and construction and demolition activities.
- c. Open burning of dry leaves/garbage
- d. Industrial pollution emissions.
- e. Burning of crop residue.

8. That, 13 hotspots have been identified based on annual average of PM<sub>10</sub> (exceeding 300 micrograms) and for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (exceeding 100 micrograms). In 2019, with respect to Hotspot Monitoring, EPCA had directed for preparation of Clear Action Plan for identified 13 hotspots namely: Okhla, Dwarka, Ashok Vihar, Bawana, Narela, Mundka, Punjabi Bagh, Wazirpur, Rohini, Vivek Vihar, Anand Vihar, R K Puram, Jahangir Puri. The action plans had been submitted to CPCB and EPCA in 2019.

The concerned Dy. Commissioner of the MCD of respective zone is the nodal officer. Various actions taken by the Zonal Offices include, checking of illegal dumping of garbage/plastic waste, C&D waste and penalizing the violators through challans. A number of actions are being taken in the field to control air

pollution in regular coordination with other stakeholders like DDA, PWD, Delhi Traffic DMRC, I&FC, DJB and Delhi Police etc. which include paving of unpaved roads, patch repair work of potholes, registration of C&D sites more than 500 sqm area on DPCC-C&D portal & their regular monitoring, dense greening of existing parks & greening of open areas, daily water sprinkling on



dusty roads, installation of antismog guns on high rise buildings, C&D sites and mechanized sweeping of roads. Further, all out efforts are also being made to ensure that all necessary measures have been taken at the construction sites to prevent dust emission.

Action Plans at 13 hotspots takes into account following specific mitigation measures such as:

- removal of plastic waste, garbage,
- malba/ construction and demolition
- repair of road patches and pot holes,
- de-congestion of congested traffic points,
- mechanical road sweeping and water sprinkling of roads,
- closure of polluting and unauthorized industries,
- night patrolling to check violations with respect to bio-mass burning etc.

Department of Environment, GNCTD and DPCC have inventorised and mapped major point air pollution sources at all 13 hotspots of Delhi, which includes vulnerable/susceptible areas of dumping of plastic waste/garbage/malba/construction and demolition waste, unpaved roadsides, patches and pot holes, congested traffic points, road dust, major construction sites, vulnerable areas of municipal solid waste burning, non-paved parking sites etc. The inventory is used by Nodal Officers for regular inspections and field actions such as removal of malba, C&D waste, garbage, paving of road sides, repair of potholes, removal of traffic congestions, mitigation of road dust re-suspension etc.

#### 9. Use of IT for control of Pollution



i. **Green Delhi Application and Green War Room (GWR) for public grievance redressal:** Govt. of Delhi launched Green Delhi App having 27 agencies of Delhi on one platform both for android and iOS mobile phone users. The grievances uploaded on Green Delhi App are monitored through Green War Room. More than 81226 complaints received through this app and resolution of more than 88% is done. 17 category of complaints can be filed in Green Delhi App by Citizens and their redressal time ranges from 2 hrs (eg Burning of Biomass/garden waste/plastic waste etc) to one week depending upon type of complaint. Complaints categories include Air Pollution due to industries, Dumping of Construction & Demolition Waste, Noise pollution, Burning and dumping of garbage/plastic waste etc, Potholes on Roads, Road Dust, EOL vehicles plying on roads , etc.

ii. **SAMEER App and social media:**

All the complaints received through SAMEER app and social media are dealt with proper care on a daily basis. All the complaints are forwarded to relevant departments timely and their resolution is monitored at the senior level.

### 10. Prohibition of Open Burning

Open burning of biomass and solid waste is another significant contributor to air pollution especially during winters.

National Green Tribunal vide, its various orders in OA 21 of 2014 titled "Vardhman Kaushik Vs Union of India & Ors", regarding air-Pollution in Delhi has passed directions for controlling Air Pollution.



National Green Tribunal vide its order dated 28th April, 2015 has imposed compensation on burning of any kind of garbage leaves, waste plastic, rubber, self-moulding compound and such other material in open as under:

*"...the person who is found actually burning such material and/or responsible abating such burning would be liable to pay compensation in terms of Section 15 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for polluting environment and would be liable to pay a sum of Rs 5,000 to be paid instantaneously."*

Key highlights of WAP 2024 in controlling open burning are:

- a) 588 enforcement teams have been deployed for identification and challaning of biomass and solid waste burning incidences. The amount of garbage lifted is 2,88,725.49 metric tonnes during October 2024.
- b) A detailed protocol is in place for controlling fire at landfill sites and as a result the number of landfill fires have come down to 159 in 2017 to one in 2024.
- c) Around 203 Lakh MT legacy waste is planned to be bio-mined by December, 2028 at all three dumpsites and would thus exert a huge influence on prevention of fires in the future.
- d) Regular meetings are being held with Resident Welfare Association (RWAs) for ensuring providing of electric heaters to security guards. During last winter, 996 RWAs had been contacted and 189 RWAs had provided electric heaters to security guards. Similar efforts have been initiated this year also.

#### **11. Control of stubble burning:**

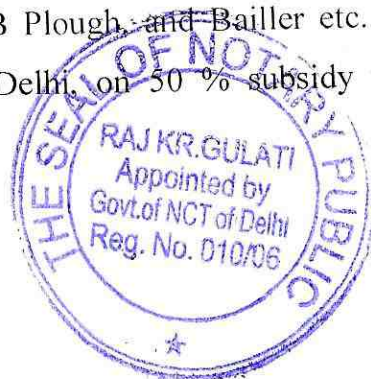
In compliance to CAQM direction no. 10 dated 10.06.2021 and direction no. 32 dated 16.08.2021 and direction 40 dated 16.9.2021 Action Plan

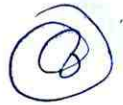


(2024-25) for prevention and control of Paddy Stubble burning in 2024 in Delhi has been prepared. In 2024-25, GNCTD is targeting 5000 Acres of non-basmati paddy area for spraying of Bio decomposers in agricultural fields of Delhi. So far 2432 acres of fields have been sprayed since 03.10.2024 in the fields at North, North-West, West, Central and South-west districts.

That, it is most respectfully submitted that the Development Department, Govt. of NCT Delhi, is taking following measures to prevent burning of paddy crop residue/ stubble:-

- (i) 11 no. day night teams have been deployed for inspection and keeping strict vigil against the paddy stubble burning incidents.
- (ii) Further, Govt. of NCT of Delhi has started spray of Bio-decomposer solution at paddy growing farmers field in an area of 5000-acre paddy fields and about 2432 acre have been covered under spray of bio-decomposer till 24.10.2024. This bio-decomposer spray has been conducted through Central Warehousing Corporation, A Govt. of India Undertaking Agency.
- (iii) 25 farmers awareness training programmes have been conducted in villages to aware sensitize farmers not to burn paddy crop residue / stubble.
- (iv) 365 paddy crop residue management machineries comprising of Super-seeder, Happy Seeder, Paddy straw chopper, zero trill drill machine, Super SMS, MB Plough, and Bailer etc. have been provided to farmers of Delhi, on 50% subsidy w.e.f. 2019-20 to 2023-24.





Further, 12 crop residue/stubble burning incidents have been reported in NCT of Delhi, this year as per satellite reports received from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Pusa New Delhi. Necessary action has been taken by concerned SDM with filing of 12 FIRs against violators.

## 12. Control of Vehicular Pollution:

The vehicular emission has significant contribution of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) in ambient air quality during winter season. As per study on Comprehensive study on air pollution control and greenhouse gases in Delhi conducted by IIT Kanpur (2015), the percent contribution of particulate matter from vehicles is 25.1% of PM2.5 and 19.7% of PM10 in ambient air during winters. Accordingly following steps were taken to counter it:

### i. Imposition of charge on light and heavy-duty commercial vehicles

**entering Delhi:** In compliance with the order dated 16.12.2015 of this Hon'ble Supreme Court, Environment Compensation Charge (ECC) is levied on Delhi bound light and heavy-duty commercial goods vehicles. Notifications have been issued as per the directions of this Hon'ble Court and are being implemented by the Transport Department and Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

**ii. Deployment of CNG and e-buses for public transport:** As on September 2024, there are 9.22 Lakhs CNG vehicles out of total 83.15 lakhs registered vehicles (excluding old age and PNG driven) in Delhi. 2002 Electric buses are also operational. Total Number of electric vehicles presently registered in Delhi is 3,27,003.



Irrespective of the CAQM direction no. 78 dated 19.10.2023 whereby states of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been directed that all bus services from any city / town in the States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to Delhi / other areas in NCR shall be only with EV/ CNG/ BS-VI Diesel buses, City of Delhi has already converted its public transport into CNG/ electric mode. In order to ensure compliance of Direction No. 78 issued on 19.10.2023, Transport Department/ Traffic Police Department of GNCTD has deployed 18 Teams of 6 each in borders as well as around ISBTs to keep check on this.

- iii. **Augmentation of Public transport:** Presently, the city bus fleet consists of 7615 buses (DTC- 4468 and Cluster-3147) including 2002 E buses. Target to augment total fleet is of 10,925 buses including approx. 8000 E buses. One Delhi Application has been re-launched on 02.11.2022 for Live Tracking of Buses, Online Bus Ticket/ Pass and Electric vehicle charging stations locations.

Another bunch of 1112 Electric buses (12 mtr) and 1530 Electric buses (9 mtr) [total 2899 e-Buses] to be inducted by FY 2024-25. Apart from this, LoAs have been issued for engaging 1040 AC Low Floor e-buses (9 mtr. Length) to be delivered by 2024-2025, for last mile connectivity.

During the implementation of GRAP Stage II, extra shuttle service with 106 buses and 1844 trips/ day w.e.f 26.10.2024 has been deployed on different city routes till AQI/ environmental condition is normalized.

Till date 2248 Delhi Metro coaches are in service, and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has inducted additional 78 coaches for additional 40 trips.



Since invocation of GRAP Stage-II w. e. f. 22.10.2024, DMRC operated additional 40 trips (Total for all lines) on weekdays.

**iv. Promotion of Electric Vehicles:** Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy was notified by the Transport department on 07.08.2020. The policy aims to encourage rapid adoption of Electric vehicles in Delhi and establishing the necessary charging infrastructure for electric vehicles at an accelerated pace through implementation of following measures:

- a. Financial Incentives - Purchase incentives, Scrapping incentives, Interest subvention on loans.
- b. Waiver of road tax and registration fees
- c. Establishment of network of charging stations and swappable batteries stations.

3,27,003 E-Vehicles are registered in Delhi upto 15.10.2023, which amounts to 14.53% of the total new registration of vehicles this year.

**v. Installation of Public Charging Infrastructure across the city:** Delhi Electric Vehicle policy provides for creation of an enabling environment for the provision of private as well as public charging Infrastructure.

3100 EV charging station having 4793 charging points and 318 battery swapping stations are in place. Installation of around 18,000 public charging points will be done by 2025.

Public Charging points:

- 13,000 points by 2024
- 18,000 points by 2025



Out of 70 bus depots, 21 depots are electrified and remaining depots shall be electrified by 2024-25.

Transport Department in under process to notify "Motor vehicle aggregator scheme" for passenger mobility service providers, last-mile delivery service provider and e-commerce entities are planned to adopt 100 % EVs by 2030.

**vi. Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS):** Delhi Traffic Police has prepared a project for Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) which has been approved "In Principle" by the MHA. The ITMS project is aimed to improve mobility, discipline and road safety on Delhi roads by using technology based traffic solutions and enforcement. This project is expected to play critical role in congestion management, lane discipline, adaptive traffic control signal, over-speeding, etc. through optimized signal timings based on real time intelligent inputs by using GIS map-based modeling.

RFP has been submitted by C-DAC. Matter is under submission for approval of MHA for acceptance of DPR and RFP.

In compliance to letter no. A -110011/07/2020/CAQM-VP-101 dated 12.02.2021 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) and also minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of CAQM held on 20.01.2021, a task force under Department of Transport, GNCTD vide order dated 08.04.2021 was constituted to continuously monitor and take corrective steps towards smooth traffic management, including expediting development of an "Intelligent Traffic Management System" (ITMS).



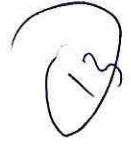
385 teams of Transport dept. and Delhi Traffic Police are presently constituted for Vehicular Pollution Control and 1800-2000 officials deployed on daily basis for smooth traffic management, with special focus on traffic congestion points.

**vii. Set up infrastructure for material recovery and disposal of End-of-Life (EOL) vehicles:** As per Vahan data base till 09.10.2024, 60,03,054 vehicles have been deregistered, NOC has been issued to 8,96,000 vehicles and 1,64,779 vehicles have been scrapped. Transport Department in joint drive with Delhi Traffic Police is taking action against EOL vehicles and in the month of October 2024 alone, 3258 vehicles were impounded. The actions taken regarding RVSF is as mentioned below:

(i) Delhi has adopted the National Single Window System (NSWS) for scrapping the End-of-Life vehicles. The new RVSF (Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility) have to apply as per the new policy guidelines. Due to cost of land for setting up of RVSFs, at present there is no RVSF registered in Delhi, and are being served by the facilities in States. However, there exist around 20 RVSFs across border of Delhi in neighbouring state Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, services of which have been engaged by Transport Department, GNCTD. The department also facilitate every RVSF willing to register themselves with the Delhi Transport Department. Motor Vehicle Tax Concession, Waiver of liabilities if any EOL under consideration and the matter is under submission.

(ii) A dedicated scrapping cell including officials from Transport Department, MSTC, representative of APAG (an NGO associated with





Transport department) is established to streamline the process of scrapping policy.

(iii) Delhi has completed all formalities for making Delhi Live on National Single Window System (NSWS) and applications for setting up RVSF in Delhi can be uploaded online on NSWS portal.

**viii. Action taken for phasing out existing Diesel auto rickshaws-by**

31.12.2024 in - Delhi: There are no diesel Auto-Rickshaw in Delhi. Hon'ble Supreme Court has capped the total Auto-Rickshaw number to 1 lakh out of which around 94K Auto-Rickshaws are plying. 2579 electric Auto-rickshaw has also got registered till 15-10-2024. It is being contemplated through EV Policy 2.0 that replacement of CNG e-rickshaw will be done through EV rickshaw only after a certain date. Hence, the process of phasing out CNG auto rickshaws will also be phased out after the policy is rolled out in Delhi and only e- rickshaws will be registered.

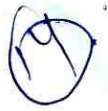
**ix. Colour Coded stickers:** About 25.7 lakh live registered vehicles (Excl. Two-Wheeler. E-Rickshaw and e-Cart) on which High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) stickers to be affixed:

- a. Vehicles older than 2019 on which stickers affixed: 10.19 lakhs
- b. Vehicles after 2019 on which stickers affixed: 9.41 lakhs
- c. Total stickers affixed: 19.6 lakhs roughly
- d. Balance stickers to be affixed: 6.09 lakhs



**x. Entry of Heavy trucks in Delhi:** The directions of the Hon'ble Apex Court

are being implemented by the Delhi Police w.e.f. 27.7.2002. The traffic police staff is deployed at major border entry points from where maximum number of traffic enters Delhi from the neighbouring districts of the States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, particularly, the goods traffic. The traffic



police staff check the goods vehicles intending to enter Delhi and return the goods vehicles which are not found to be destined for Delhi. Traffic police staff also assists and coordinate with the staff of toll tax collecting agency of MCD in returning of non-destined goods vehicles. Traffic police staff is regularly briefed and sensitized in this respect to ensure necessary compliance. The details of goods vehicles checked and returned by Delhi Traffic Police are as under:-

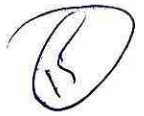
Period	2022	2023	2024 [up to 15.10.24]	Fortnightly Data [01.10.24 to 15.10.24]
Vehicles checked	12,268	23,089	12,643	4715
Vehicles returned	3,274	10,012	1429	706

MCD has installed fully automated RFID at 13 major toll plazas and hand-held devices at remaining 111 entry points. An application has been filed before this Hon'ble Court for allocation of additional budget for installation of automated RFID system at 10 more locations.

**xi. Enforcement under Winter Action Plan 2024:** The WAP 2024 provides special focus on targeted enforcement against polluting vehicles. Some of the key highlights are:

- a) An average of more than 6168 vehicles have been checked daily for Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate as part of campaign during October 2024.
- b) 385 enforcement teams have been deployed for checking of vehicles, and 60717 challans for PUCC violations have been





issued during October 2024. 2,82,664 challans have been issued in 2024 (till 27.10.2024).

- c) Targeted action for impounding more than 10-year-old Diesel and 15-year-old Petrol vehicles is being taken. 3258 vehicles have been impounded alone in the month of October 2024.
- d) 282711 No. of Vehicles without PUC/Visibly Polluting vehicles were challaned in 2024 till 27.10.2024.
- e) 8,95,012 No. of notices and 5,93,603 No. of Challans were issued for unauthorised Parking from 01.01.2024 to 27.10.2024.
- f) Action on refuelling of vehicles only subject to a valid PUC certificate: 30 Motor cycle team of enforcement wing of transport department has been deployed at petrol pumps. Moreover, Transport Dept. is considering the option of App based solution which may be provided to the Petrol pumps with their attendants to identify the vehicles without valid PUC and further the attendants will guide the vehicle owner for getting PUC. In a pilot project at 100 petrol pumps, AAVEG software was installed through Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Cameras and e-challans have been issued online linked to Vahan database. A total of 10,000 challans has been issued in this manner and Transport department is floating a tender to scale up to more number of petrol pumps. Further with the success of the AAVEG pilot project, Transport Department has floated tender for 500 Petrol Pumps.
- g) Out of total of 134 traffic congestion points, 87 congestion points have been resolved using engineering, regulation and enforcement-based strategies.



- h) Traffic alerts are being broad casted through 44 Variable message signboards functional with 3G connectivity and through social media platforms – Facebook and Twitter. Action has been taken to ensure that traffic signals are functional and on time repair takes place in case of faults.


### 13. Control of Industrial Pollution

In compliance to CAQM direction no. 64 dated 02.06.2022 and direction no. 65 dated 23.06.2022 regarding approved fuels, 1910 industrial units have converted to PNG to curb air pollution due to industrial emissions. Remaining 137 units are running on approved fuels and have also been registered to be converted to PNG. Regular inspections are carried out to check the use of PNG in the industries. 58 no. of joint teams of DPCC and DSIIDC undertake inspections at industrial areas for pollution check.

### 14. Implementation of GRAP orders:

As per CAQM orders dated 14.10.2024 and 21.10.2024, necessary action as per actions envisaged under Stage I and Stage II under GRAP is being taken by the stakeholder departments in Delhi. Daily action taken report is being submitted by these departments to Environment Department which is then submitted to CAQM in prescribed format daily.



  
DEPONENT

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VERIFICATION :

9 JAN 2025

Verified at New Delhi on this day of January, 2025 that the contents made in the above mentioned affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and from information received by me which I believe to be true and correct and are also nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

DEPONENT



ATTESTED

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

9 JAN 2025