Blue sky; Clear Lungs; birds chirping: nature reclaiming space

View of the Himalayas from Saharanpur. Photo Courtesy: Twitter/@rameshpandeyifs
Agenda: Industry has huge contribution to pollution

Source: CSE Report on Assessment of Industrial Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR, 2020
Coal dominates industrial fuels

Total Annual Fuel Consumption
(in million tonnes per year)

- Agro: 1.12
- Coal: 1.4
- Gas: 0.22
- Liquid fuel: 0.53
- Wood: 0.42

Total 1.41 million tonnes of coal is consumed annually in the six districts: this contributes massively to the pollution load

Source: CSE Report on Assessment of Industrial Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR, 2020
• **Maximum annual coal consumption** in Sonipat district followed by Bhiwadi
• **Sonipat** also consumes highest amount of gas fuel among all districts. Shows scope for fuel switch
• **Alwar** district is the **biggest consumer of agro based fuel**

Source: CSE Report on Assessment of Industrial Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR, 2020
Source: CSE Report on Assessment of Industrial Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR, 2020

**District-wise Pollution Load**

**(in tonnes per annum)**

- **Sonipat district**: Highest controlled and uncontrolled pollution load for PM, SOx and NOx.
- **Alwar district**: Second highest controlled and uncontrolled load for PM
- **Faridabad**: Second highest controlled and uncontrolled load for SOx
- **Bhiwadi Region**: Second highest controlled load for NOx
Findings

• 1.41 million tonnes of coal is still being used in these districts which is far above 0.22 tonnes of gas being consumed as a fuel.

• Sonipat district is the largest coal consuming district and has the highest overall pollution load amongst all the other 6 regions.

• Industries are small scale; difficult to monitor and enforce pollution norms

• The major hotspot areas contribute between 35 to 80% of the pollution load of that district. Priority action
Agenda 4: The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Natural gas transition

- This time for industry; not just vehicles
- In 2000, Delhi cleaned up air by moving to clean gas fuel
- Now we need natural gas for combustion in industries across NCR
- But the problem is not supply
- The problem is price – dirty fuel coal is under GST so tax is lower and industries get credit; under OGL – so can be imported.
- But clean fuel – gas – is heavily taxed – over 40% tax
- For CNG the policy was keep dirty fuel (diesel) cost higher than clean fuel – we need this now
Agenda 5: ‘clean’ power is critical

Delhi has closed all coal power plants
All NCR power plants need to meet the new emission standards by 2019; rest by 2022
• But our recent report finds that many power plants in NCR will did not meet the 2019 deadline; will not even meet the 2022 deadline. Same with 70% of installed capacity
• Unacceptable

• We want a first-run policy – only those plants that meet the emission notification should be allowed to sell power

• We also need a affordable-reliable power policy as industry needs to switch for dirty fuel to cleaner fuel – power plants that meet 2015 standards; gas power or renewable power

Source: CSE Report - Coal-based Power Norms: Where do we stand today, 2020
The agenda for ‘New Normal’: Post-lockdown to keep the gains of blue skies and clear lungs
Agenda: urgent and take action at scale

1. Do not delay the BS6 emission norms for vehicles; instead use this opportunity for a double-win strategy – **scrap heavy vehicles and replace them with BS6**: financial stimulus and clean air

2. Move at scale to **introduce cleaner battery vehicles** for paratransit and public transport – **mandate and pay for** the change starting with autorickshaws; taxi (where CNG is not available); bus and tram/light rail

3. **Start public transport** with all global best experience of ensuring safety

4. Use financial stimulus to **augment public transport** in cities – bus, metro and light-rail – do this at scale and speed

5. **Cycle and walk must be part of the ‘new-normal’** – incentivize people to reduce travel; take cycles to work
Agenda for clean air post-lockdown
Economic stimulus that is green

• 6. Bring natural gas under GST to reduce tax burden and to incentivize clean fuel over dirty

• 7. Remove coal from Open General License (OGL) – so that imports can be regulated and use can be monitored

• 8. Ensure power plants across the country meet 2015 emission standards – introduce First-Run policy so that only clean power can sell electricity
Disruption at speed and scale
Action must also match speed and scale

• Need a financial stimulus for green economy

• Our right to clean air is not negotiable