

Note from Chairman, EPCA on visits to hot spots of NCR to ascertain ground-level enforcement of directions issued and actions taken

October 28, 2018

I have visited various 'hot spots' in continuation of our drive to identify local sources of pollution in Delhi and NCR region and to check on enforcement of measures directed under GRAP.

- Anand Vihar frequently over this period
- Narela , Bawana and nearby area on 21st October 2018
- Dwarka and Faridabad on 24th October 2018
- Nagloi, Mundka ,Tikri, Kamrudin Nagar, Ranshola, Hiran Kudana, Baprola and Bahadurgarh on 27th October 2018

These localities were classified as hot spots on the basis of high level of Particulate values observed at nearby CAAQM Stations. Preliminary analysis of data showed that these localities are highly impacted by local sources.

Anand Vihar: tagged as the most polluted location in NCR. Anand Vihar is mainly impacted by the presence of close localized sources such as the;

- Two Metro Terminals
- Railway terminal;
- Industrial areas;
- Two interstate bus terminal at Kaushambi (ISBT); and, Anand Vihar
- a major highway.

Yet this area has seen significant improvement, evident from the lower values observed in the recent past. However, several steps are yet to be taken, such as;

- Railways initiating parking and traffic controls and management in their area, and the development of public convenience and their operation;
- Swift completion of the Foot over bridge development;
- While RFID for inter-state bus has been initiated, yet the scheme is still to percolate at the level of city bus system;

- On the Kaushambi side, work is to be completed with respect to paving and traffic management;

Bawana and Narela :These Industrial areas were developed by the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (DSIIDC) and then handed over to private companies to manage the maintenance and waste disposal. These two companies are M/S Bawana Infrastructure Development P Ltd. for the Bawana area and M/S PNC Delhi Industrial infra Pvt Ltd. for the Narela area.

It is observed that **waste management** is the biggest challenge for these regions, almost all the vacant plots are full of industrial waste such as plastic, rubber and rubberised foam. Commonly found blackened areas and spots are evidence of repeated burning of the waste.

In the region it was observed that the waste is simply dumped all along the roads and thereafter subsequently burnt. During our inspection we witnessed several instances of such open burning. The fire services were unresponsive to our calls and the same was doused only after the intervention of the Local SDM. At other such sites private tankers were stopped and their services used for dousing the fire (see attached photographs).

On October 22, 2018, a meeting was called by me to discuss the issue with relevant officials of Delhi government DSIIDC, industry association and the two private companies responsible for waste disposal.

Given the complete disregard for waste disposal by the two private concessionaires, it was decided that Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) would penalise them to the tune of Rs.10,00,000 each. DSIIDC was fined Rs 5,00,000, for its lack of accountability. Fines were levied also on 44 industries (Rs. 50,000 each), two DDA construction sites (Rs.5,00,000 each) for their dust mismanagement.

It was also decided that DSIIDC would replace the contractors, if the situation did not improve. Furthermore, I have called an urgent meeting, with the Hon'ble LG on October 29th to discuss a resolution to this issue and how the plastic and other

waste can be disposed of without harming the environment and adding to toxic air pollution.

Dwarka: It is a residential area with relatively better infrastructure facilities, and yet one of the most polluted area in Delhi NCR on the basis of higher PM 10 values. My visit to Sector 8, 10, 21 and 23 of Dwarka found that there is huge dust pollution because of construction and garbage burning.

Instructions were given to the DDA and SDMC officials for undertaking sprinkling of water on dusty roads and construction areas. DPCC is instructed to impose fines on a contractor of the DMRC for the extension being undertaken at Sector 21 and the developer of the under construction Expo Centre at sector 23, to the tune of Rs. 5,00,000 each. Moreover, several construction sites were fined (Rs. 50,000 each by the SDMC) for not following dust suppression systems.

Nagloi, Mundka, Tikri, Kamrudin Nagar, Ranshola, Hiran Kudana, Baprola and Bahadurgarh: these locations were visited on 27th of October. It was noted that the Mundka CAAQM stations were observing very high particulate matter levels.

I found massive dumping of plastic and rubber waste, on the agricultural land of Tikri, Ghavera and Mundka being used for the illegal dumping of this waste. This waste is subsequently burnt and this is the key cause of pollution in the area.

The plastic market of DDA is also highly unorganised and is a major factor contributing to the deteriorating ambient air quality.

The market, where sale and purchase of waste material is undertaken has in many ways become a dumping ground for heaps of plastic, rubber and electronic waste. In particular the heavy dumping of shoe soles and the practice of subsequent burning, has a major potential to pollute the air of Delhi. We also noted several instances of municipal solid waste being dumped on the main road of Nagloi, moreover the manner of such dumping and subsequent clean up has meant that the area suffered from frequent traffic snarls.

It would also be prudent to undertake swift investigation on whether imported waste material is being dumped in these areas. It is proposed that the operation

of market may be stopped in winter months to help control the detrimental impact on air quality of Delhi and nearby areas. Local authorities may be directed to strictly deal with dumping of these wastes on agricultural land of area, as this practice will certainly degrade the land.

Revenue authorities have been directed to initiate proceedings U/s 81 of the DLR Act. (Delhi Land Revenue Act.) and vest the land in *gaon sabha*.

Faridabad: the area adjacent to Delhi boarder, modelled as a model industrial area was visited. It was noted that the general condition were unsatisfactory, with garbage and industrial waste being dumped and burnt at several locations. On a preliminary analysis it is still not clear which authority is responsible for undertaking the works in the area. A few industries in this area were also observed to be emitting black smoke and were asked to get action at the earliest.

Bahadurgarh Industrial Area: The area is completely unkept, full of garbage and sewer water flowing all over. Buildings have been built without observing proper guidelines issued in this regard. Heaps of rubber shoe sole were lying at many places which are usually set to fire during night. I have directed district authorities to organise night patrolling to stop this rampant garbage and industrial waste burning. The authorities have to also ensure waste disposal arrangements so that this situation does not arise.

Sd/-

(BhureLal)
Chairman, EPCA
October 28, 2018









