

The Pioneer — 15-November-2023

Water sprinkling on roads among new steps taken to fight pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As air quality worsened in the national capital, the AAP government on Tuesday listed a slew of measures including sprinkling of water in all the 70 assembly constituencies and stepped up monitoring of BS-3 Petrol and BS-4 Diesel vehicles and their entry into Delhi is prohibited. Delhi's Environment Minister Gopal Rai said in view of the rise in pollution in Delhi after Diwali, a special campaign to sprinkle water has been started in the entire Delhi from Tuesday. The Delhi government has deployed 215 mobile anti-smog guns to sprinkle water on roads across Delhi. There will be 70 mobile anti-smog guns for the 70 Assembly constituencies of Delhi to sprinkle water.

The Environment Minister said the government is running several campaigns in Delhi under the leadership to tighten the noose of pollution in Delhi. Be it the anti-dust campaign, anti-open burning campaign, or the spraying of biodecomposers, we have taken strict measures to curb pollution. Today, we are initiating another step to keep the pollution levels in check. We will run mobile anti-smog guns across Delhi, which will sprinkle water on roads, he said.

Rai said "We are starting a mega-campaign of sprinkling water on roads of Delhi from



today. I am optimistic that there will be an immediate reduction in pollution levels through this campaign. The campaign will run across Delhi and 60 mobile anti-smog guns have deployed on hotspots to keep pollution levels in check." He also said the Punjab Government has made significant efforts to reduce the cases of stubble burning. As a result of the efforts of the Government of Punjab, the incidence of stubble burning has come down by 60% this year as compared to the previous years."

To ensure strict compliance with GRAP-IV regulations, Labour Minister Raaj Kumar Anand, along with officials, conducted inspections at the Singhu border late Monday night. According to GRAP-IV regulations, the entry of BS-3 Petrol and BS-4 Diesel vehicles into Delhi is prohibited. The

inspection revealed continuous entry of diesel vehicles from Haryana into Delhi, which is a matter of concern.

The drivers were informed that entry of diesel vehicles into Delhi is restricted due to the deteriorating air quality. Stringent monitoring and implementation instructions for GRAP-IV were provided to the officials.

Anand said sending diesel vehicles from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to Delhi is contributing to increased pollution in the city.

The SDM Narela was directed to disseminate information through hoardings, banners, camps, and handbills to enforce a restriction on vehicle entry. Large banners with information on all directives and rules should be displayed at entry from Haryana to ensure drivers are informed in advance and refrain from entering Delhi.

Smog towers ineffective, says pollution panel

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

THE Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that smog towers are not a "practical solution" to curb pollution in the national capital mainly due to its enormous cost. It has also said that the two smog towers installed at Anand Vihar and Connaught Place have not been effective.

The DPCC views have been communicated to the Delhi government, but no concrete decision has emerged, the anti-

pollution body has said. "It has been found that the efficacy of the smog tower has not impacted the air quality," DPCC says in its action taken report on the worsening air pollution in the city.

The report said the Delhi area, which is 1,483 sq km, may require 47,229 smog towers costing Rs 11,80,725 crore (approx) plus a recurring cost of about Rs 15 lakh per month for each tower.

"In case a 17% reduction in a 100 m radius is to be considered

favourable, Delhi needs more than 40,000 such towers to cover its area. This cannot be a practical solution... the smog towers already erected may be used for dissemination of technical information about air pollution as a museum," the report said.

The two towers installed were meant for experiment and the "results are not at all encouraging to bear a heavy expenditure."

The report referred to the IIT-Bombay and DPCC's

Action taken: 'Use 2 smog towers as museum'

The DPCC report says in case a 17% cut in a 100-m radius is considered favourable, Delhi needs more than 40,000 smog towers to cover its area. This cannot be a practical solution. "The two smog towers may be used for dissemination of technical information about air pollution as a museum, it added.

own assessment, saying that the two smog towers have not been effective. **P3**



The city remained shrouded in smog on Tuesday, with the AQI level at most places approaching severe level even as anti-smog guns sprayed water on the roads in a bid to contain dust particles | SHEKHAR YADAV

AQI NEAR SEVERE LEVEL AGAIN, NO RELIEF SOON

Likely to slip into the severe category in the coming days due to unfavourable meteorological conditions predicted by weather dept

ZAID NAYEEMI @ New Delhi

THE Air Quality Index (AQI) in the national capital plunged to 397 (very poor) on Tuesday, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The major pollutants identified were PM2.5 and PM10.

The index was recorded at 218 (poor category) on Diwali and 358 (poor category) on Monday.

The AQI crossed 400 (severe category) in several parts of Delhi on Tuesday. The value at Nehru Nagar, Anand Vihar, ITO, Punjabi Bagh, RK Puram, and Dwarka was 450, 439, 427, 423, 422 and 406 respectively.

Other towns in the National Capital Region (NCR) also recorded AQI in the very poor category. While Gurugram recorded an AQI of 386, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Greater Noida recorded an AQI of 384 (very poor), 364 (very poor), 356 (very poor), and 348 (very poor) respectively.

An official from the Commis-

sion for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has said that the spike in pollution levels post Diwali was due to two factors - firecracker bursting and farm fires - with the former being the predominant reason.

As per data from a system developed by Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, stubble-burning contributed to 12% of the air pollution in Delhi on Tuesday. Further, it has been predicted that stubble-burning is likely to account for 14% of the air pollution on Wednesday and 6% on Thursday.

Since the people of the national capital defied the Supreme Court's order of bursting crackers during Diwali and the weather department has forecasted mainly clear sky, with no rains, for the coming days, Delhi's AQI is expected to slip into severe category.

Earlier, the national capital recorded its best air quality on Diwali (Sunday) in the eight years. However, on Monday, Delhi was the most polluted

city in the world.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'.

In a related development, Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday said people associated with the BJP are offering "absurd" justifications for supporting firecracker bursting during Diwali, which resulted in a sharp spike in pollution levels in the national capital.

Rai also emphasised that the Delhi government plans to bolster its water sprinkling efforts by deploying additional water sprinklers and anti-smog guns in areas recording hazardous pollution levels.

"The BJP alleges that the AAP government in Delhi failed to curb firecracker bursting. However, it's the BJP-controlled police in Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh that failed to prevent firecracker burning," he alleged.

Wabag exploring partnerships to produce green hydrogen, leveraging water tech expertise

G Balachandar
Chennai

Va Tech Wabag, a leading global player in the water technology space, is exploring strategic partnership opportunities in the green hydrogen segment. The Chennai-headquartered company believes that its in-house capabilities and experience will come in handy as it plans to emerge as a water partner to companies focusing on the production of green hydrogen.

Though green hydrogen — which has the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions — is not economically viable yet, a number of companies are investing in the



Rajiv Mittal, CMD,
Va Tech WABAG

segment as they expect costs to come down gradually.

“In the next 5 years or so, green hydrogen will become economically viable and it will see the success the solar power segment witnessed. 20 years ago, everyone said solar wouldn’t work, but it

is now successfully competing with thermal,” Rajiv Mittal, Chairman and Managing Director of Va Tech Wabag Ltd told *businessline*.

Water is a raw material for hydrogen production. If the water is not clean, it gives scales to the electrodes and the efficiency of the electrodes will come down. That’s where Wabag sees its role in providing safe and clean water for hydrogen production. “We can produce cleaner water than others,” claims Mittal.

HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

For the production of green hydrogen, three important things need to be put together — green energy, electrodes and water.

As a water partner, Wabag could build, operate and maintain the water treatment plant to provide the green hydrogen companies with a reliable source of clean water. “There are a number of companies in touch with Wabag to rope us as a water partner,” he added.

Meanwhile, Wabag is also working on putting up a pilot green hydrogen unit. For this, the company plans to get the electrodes from top electrode makers, and work with leading solar panel suppliers to build a green power supply for the project. “By next year or so, we will be in a position to demonstrate the pilot project of green hydrogen production,” he added.

छठ पूजा से पहले यमुना सफेद झाग से पटी

नई दिल्ली। छठ महापर्व से पहले यमुना झागों से पट गई है। चार दिवसीय छठ पर्व के पहले दिन नहाय-खाय से पहले श्रद्धालु यमुना में स्नान करते हैं। बताया जा रहा है कि यमुना नदी के पानी में कैमिकल की मात्रा ज्यादा होने के कारण सफेद झाग दिखाई देने लगे हैं।

छठ पर्व बृहस्पतिवार को नहाय-खाय के साथ शुरू होगा। इस दिन नदियों में स्नान करने की परंपरा है। लिहाजा राजधानी में छठ पर्व मनाने वाली व्रती यमुना नदी में स्नान करने पहुंचती हैं, मगर राजधानी में गत दो वर्षों की तरह इस बार भी यमुना नदी में कैमिकल युक्त पानी अधिक आने पर आईटीओ घाट से लेकर कालिंदी कुंज तक वह झागों से पट गई है। ब्यूरो

दिल्ली में अब पानी पर भी संकट, यमुना हुई जहरीली

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली में हवा में प्रदूषण के बाद अब पानी भी प्रदूषित हो गया है। यमुना का पानी भी पहले से अधिक जहरीला हो गया है। खतरनाक रसायनों की अधिकता की वजह से यमुना झाग से ढकी हुई नजर आ रही है। यमुना में झाग ऐसे समय पर बढ़ गया है जब छठ पूजा बेहद नजदीक है और रोक के बावजूद बड़ी संख्या में व्रती नदी में पूजा करने पहुंचते हैं। दिल्ली में मंगलवार को सीपीबीसी के अनुसार



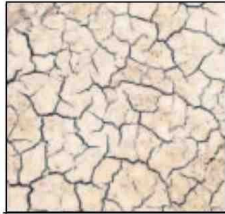
दिल्ली का औसत एक्वआई 400 गंभीर श्रेणी में पहुंच गई। दिल्ली के 21 इलाकों में गंभीर श्रेणी में एक्वआई दर्ज की गई। दिल्ली के दिलशाद गार्डन में केवल खराब श्रेणी में एक्वआई दर्ज की गई बाकी जगहों पर बेहद खराब श्रेणी का हवा दर्ज की गई।

रिपोर्ट | दुनियाभर में पानी की गंभीर कमी वाले इलाकों में हर 3 में से 1 बच्चा, भारत सहित पांच देशों में सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित

43 करोड़ बच्चों को जरूरतभर जल मयस्सर नहीं

न्यूयॉर्क, एजेंसी। पूरी दुनिया में 43.6 करोड़ तथा भारत में 13.38 करोड़ बच्चों के पास हर दिन की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त पानी नहीं है। जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण स्थिति और खराब होने का खतरा है। यूनिसेफ की ओर से जारी नई रिपोर्ट में दावा किया गया है।

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दुनियाभर में हर 3 में से 1 बच्चा (यानी 73.9 करोड़) पानी की गंभीर कमी वाले इलाके में रह रहा है। पानी की घटती उपलब्धता, अपर्याप्त पेयजल और स्वच्छता से जीवन खतरा बढ़ा है।



2000
के बाद से
सूखे की
संख्या और
अवधि 29
फीसदी बढ़ी

जलवायु संकट का प्रभाव

बच्चों को जलवायु संकट के प्रभावों का खामियाजा भुगतना पड़ता है। इनमें बीमारी, प्रदूषण और सूखा जैसी मौसम की घटनाएं शामिल हैं। गर्भधारण के क्षण से लेकर वयस्क होने तक अंग प्रभावित होते हैं।

सबसे अधिक प्रभावित उप-सहारा अफ्रीका

पर्याप्त पानी न मिलने से जीवन, स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण खतरे में पड़ गया है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार सबसे अधिक प्रभावित लोग उप-सहारा अफ्रीका, मध्य और दक्षिणी एशिया और पूर्वी और दक्षिण-पूर्वी एशिया में निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देश हैं।

शीर्ष 10 देश जहां बच्चे पर्याप्त पानी से महारूम

देश	बच्चों की संख्या (करोड़)
भारत	13.38
नाइजीरिया	2.65
पाकिस्तान	2.42
इथियोपिया	2.32
चीन	2.03
नाइजर	1.43
तंजानिया	1.39
यमन	1.27
सूडान	1.22
केन्या	1.06

करोड़ में बच्चों की संख्या
ऑक्टोबर 2022 के

66 धरती का गर्म होना बच्चों के लिए विनाशकारी है। - कैथरीन रसेल
यूनिसेफ की कार्यकारी निदेशक

ये अधिक प्रभावित

दुनिया के सर्वाधिक प्रभावित देशों में भारत, नाइजर, सूडान, बुर्किना फासो और जॉर्डन हैं। यहां गर्मी के दिन तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं।