

**ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION (PREVENTION & CONTROL) AUTHORITY
for the National Capital Region**

**Dr. Bhure Lal
Chairman**

**EPCA-R/2019/L-53
November 01, 2019**

Urgent directions regarding GRAP

Dear Madam,

The air quality Delhi and NCR has deteriorated further as of last night and is now at the Severe+ level. We have to take this as a public health emergency as air pollution is now hazardous and will have adverse health impacts on all, but particularly our children. As I have explained in my letter of October 31, 2019, current air quality is a combination of the accumulated toxins because of local pollution, which was further spiked because of cracker burning on Diwali night, combined with stubble burning and extremely adverse weather. The IMD informs us that the weather will improve in the next few days, but it is difficult to say if this improvement will lead to substantial reduction in pollution.

In this circumstance, we are constrained to take further measures to combat this pollution, over the above the measures that have already directed. These measures are as follows and you are requested to direct immediate compliance with these:

1. **Construction activities in Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida to remain closed till morning of November 5, 2019** (current ban on construction was only 6 PM to 6 AM and this is now extended to be complete banned till Monday, November 5, 2019, morning).
2. **Hot mix plants, stone crushers to be closed till morning of November 5, 2019 in all NCR districts** (current ban is on operation between 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM).
3. **All coal and other fuel based industries, which have not shifted to natural gas or agro-residue (with exemption to power-plants) to remain closed in Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Sonapat, Panipat and Bahadurgarh, Bhiwadi till morning of November 5, 2019. In Delhi industries, which have not yet shifted to PNG to remain closed during till morning of November 5, 2019.**
4. **Cracker burning is completely banned for this entire winter period.** We note that there are festivals coming and given the experience over Diwali, when in spite of all efforts, cracker burning was extremely high and led to accumulation of toxins in the air, this measure is needed.

This is in addition to the directions already issued on October 7, 25, 31, 2019. The list of currently issued directions is given below for your easy review and action.

Furthermore, as I have stated in my previous correspondence, it is imperative that we take urgent steps to stop local sources of pollution, as this will only add to the already polluted air. This requires stringent vigilance and punitive action against all cases of local pollution, from plastic and garbage burning to dust pollution. I am also constrained to say that in spite of all our efforts, there are still many instances of local pollution and therefore, enforcement needs to be stepped up further.