



Introduction:

Delhi Clean Air Forum is a community platform and a campaign founded by the United Resident Joint Action (URJA), whose primary objective is to enable and empower citizens to voice out their concerns and opinion on air pollution in Delhi.

At the same time, the platform is also committed towards implementing various solutions through active involvement of the Resident Welfare Associations of Delhi (RWA), Traders Welfare Association and other relevant bodies.

DELHI CLEAN AIR FORUM (DCAF) was launched in 2016, as a part of a citizen's air pollution drive across Delhi targeting different geographic regions of Delhi NCR. During this, URJA organized four zonal level & two rural meetings with multiple stakeholder.

The objective was to discuss various local issues leading to air pollution and to map out various innovative solutions available at the neighborhood and community level including strategies for implementing them. During this the forum managed to bring Experts, Political leaders, Officials and the RWA under one roof - to get to the bottom of the problem, in order to find common ground.

At the end of the event the forum was successful in creating the necessary momentum and opinion for accelerating the ongoing transition towards a clean and sustainable Delhi. *Witnessed by over 400 RWA's who pledged to take a center stage and be accountability in their respective colonies, dedicated to keep Delhi's Air Clean.*

We understand that the scale of air pollution is large enough to be effected by phenomenon beyond the control of well-meaning groups, and it is time the Government who has to take even more proactive charge in fixing the problem. However, Delhi Clean Air Forum strongly believes that such involvement can lead to more appropriate and sustainable development solutions and stronger citizen groups and communities.

This will also further empower resident's helps identify and better manage the areas of conflict and their practical solutions, as well as participate in the decision-making process of fund utilization. Matter of fact, last year we learned that at the local levels, there are several disagreements and conflicts on solid waste management, road sweeping, garbage burning and most importantly construction dust and waste. During this the Government agencies were found to be ineffective in handling the problems due to lack of suitable mechanism in place.

Based on these learning's and feedback received from last year, Delhi Clean Air Forum is now entering it's second year - DCAF II.

Meanwhile the air quality in Delhi still remains very bad. Last year Delhi witnessed an apocalyptic climate - highest level of air pollution ever recorded in any city around the world. Delhi was blanketed in a toxic fog the morning after the festival of Diwali. The primary reason responsible for this catastrophic day was human activities in terms of burning of crackers and fireworks.

A 2015 study¹ found about half of Delhi's 4.4 million schoolchildren had compromised lung

¹<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/landmark-study-lies-buried-how-delhis-poisonous-air-is-damaging-its-children-for-life/>

capacity and would never completely recover. As a nation we have the world's highest rate of death from respiratory disease, according to the World Health Organisation, with 159 deaths per 100,000 people in 2012, about five times that of the UK and twice that of China². Unlike in Beijing, where a PM2.5 reading greater than 300 for more than three days triggers a "red alert" that closes schools, in Delhi there are no actual official government warnings over high levels of air pollution.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court last year criticised the inaction of successive Delhi and national governments in dealing with the problem and compared Delhi NCR (Inhabited by more than 25 million) people to "a Gas Chamber". Moving forward this year, Delhi Clean Air Forum is committed to work dedicatedly towards creating an enabling local environment that allows us to avoid repeats of last year's catastrophic event.

DCAF (II) 2017

The need of the hour is to build a political consensus on a common agenda. This can be done by developing local mechanism that allows enforcement of the "Graded Response Plan" brought in by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. There is therefore a dire need to bring relevant stakeholders together to act in unison and prioritise the enforcement of the 'Graded Action Response Plan'.

High level DCEF Discussion across 12 Zones of Delhi

DCAF 2017 aims to establish the air pollution debate at the 12 'administrative zonal division' level and thus create an understanding at the political & religious leadership level of the urgent need to activate the GRP in relation to air quality.

Through this DCAF wants to create a mechanism in each zone that will enable monitoring and reporting structure on Rapid Action Response Plan in accordance with the Graded Action Response Plan. This will be known as **Delhi Clean Air Zonal Group**, a network across different wards in 12 zones of Delhi and a coalition of local power structures and influencers. The zonal group will comprise of eminent citizens, influencers and stakeholders in the structures of power within a Municipal Zone.

PROGRAM:

Date	Venue
5 th June - "World Environment Day"	Inaugural Event at the India International Centre (IIC)
25 th June - 1 st zonal meeting	DCAF Zonal Meeting (Details to be shared later)

Annex:

Graded Response Plan (GRAP):

- The graded response plan has been mandated to bring in compliance to various rules and regulations to be ensured throughout the year. And actively during months when weather conditions turn more adverse.
- The basic idea is to introduce the vigour and stringency as a preventive measures to avoid any emergency, severe, and very poor air quality situation.
- The data considered for the action will come from the available monitoring grid in Delhi considering the entire NCR as in a common air shed.
- The plan mandates necessary preparations, including identification of sources and action plan, to be ready at least four weeks in advance. And actions to be initiated at least two weeks in advance of anticipated critical pollution days.

²<https://www.theguardian.com/world/india>

Concern raised by various members of the task force on Graded Response Plan:

- ❖ Ban and strictly regulate use of fire crackers with high noise levels and emissions with restrictions on manufacture and sale of fire crackers.
- ❖ Promote use of cleaner fuel and green technologies in crematoria
- ❖ Decongestion of arterial roads linked with national highways by introducing and strictly enforcing, no stopping and no parking zones through modern technology
- ❖ Ensure better monitoring and repairing of potholes for improving flow of traffic and reducing pollution
- ❖ Sprinkling of water on MSW dumping sites to suppress gaseous emissions.
- ❖ Implement waste management practices
- ❖ Spreading awareness among children about harmful effects of firecrackers including awareness about severe health impacts of air pollution.
- ❖ Seek and implement suggestions from school & college students on measures to reduce pollution
- ❖ Aggressively implementing community based solutions for waste management by introducing and incentivising composting pits in public and residential parks
- ❖ Ensuring installation and monitoring of more air quality monitoring stations in Delhi Ensure and ensuring wide publicity of Air Quality Index using display boards across the city
- ❖ Laying down a Policy for scrapping old and impounded vehicles in Delhi
- ❖ Linking purchase of vehicles with availability of parking space
- ❖ Introducing a revenue generating car parking policy for residential and public areas including markets with stringent technology based enforcement mechanism.
- ❖ Ensure strict action against the corrupt and non-performers in government agencies with an easy and transparent complaints system
- ❖ Popularize mobile apps on various aspects of air pollution and CPCB to further improve its website to provide uninterrupted information

About URJA:

URJA, the apex body of RWA in Delhi, was set up in 2005 it gathers, analyzes, disseminates information & aggregates public opinion to demand efficient delivery of civic amenities, health services, security, clean air and water to residents of Delhi through an accountable, efficient and responsive Government. We connect and network with around 2500 RWA apart from several significant NGOs.

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