

Theme 3

Crafting Sustainable solution for Cleaner, Healthier Air in Delhi

Delhi's air pollution crisis demands sustainable solutions to achieve cleaner and healthier air for its residents. Key strategies may include promoting renewable energy sources, transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs), and implementing stricter emission norms for industries and vehicles. Expanding green cover through urban afforestation and creating vertical gardens along roads and buildings can help mitigate pollution. Effective waste management systems, particularly to prevent stubble burning and reduce landfill emissions, are crucial. Enhancing public transportation and encouraging carpooling can reduce vehicular emissions, while policies like congestion pricing can disincentivize private vehicle use. Citizen involvement, awareness campaigns, and incentives for adopting green practices are essential to ensure long-term success. An integrated approach involving government agencies, industries, and the public can transform Delhi into a city with cleaner, breathable air.

Possible Challenges

Financial Constraints: High costs of implementing large-scale solutions like EV infrastructure, renewable energy projects, and air quality monitoring systems.

Behavioural Change: Encouraging people to shift to public transport, EVs, or carpooling can be slow and challenging.

Regulatory Enforcement: Weak enforcement of pollution control norms for industries, vehicles, and waste management.

Dependence on Neighbouring States: Issues like stubble burning require cooperation from neighbouring states, which may not always align with Delhi's goals.

Urbanization Pressure: Rapid urbanization and construction activities contribute to sustained pollution levels, making it hard to curb emissions.

Coordination Among Agencies: Multiple stakeholders—local government, national agencies, and private entities—need to work in tandem, which can lead to delays and inefficiencies.

Public Awareness and Participation: Achieving widespread understanding and support for eco-friendly practices, such as waste segregation and reduced vehicle use, can be difficult.

Seasonal Variations: Factors like winter smog, caused by temperature inversion, require adaptive and proactive solutions.

Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC):

The **DPCC** is the main body responsible for regulating and controlling pollution in Delhi, including air quality. It monitors air pollution levels, enforces regulations, and implements measures to reduce emissions from industries, vehicles, and other sources.

Delhi Government - Department of Environment:

The **Department of Environment** under the Delhi Government works on formulating policies and strategies to reduce pollution and improve air quality. It also coordinates with other departments and agencies to address environmental issues like air pollution.

Delhi Transport Department:

The **Transport Department** plays a critical role in reducing air pollution by implementing policies to promote cleaner transportation, such as the promotion of electric vehicles (EVs), regulation of vehicle emissions, and the introduction of cleaner public transport options like CNG buses and metro services.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD):

The **MCD** is responsible for managing waste, including the handling of construction and demolition waste, which can contribute to dust pollution. They also play a role in improving sanitation and reducing sources of air pollution from waste burning.

For more readings follow the links below:

<https://udd.delhi.gov.in/>

<https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/#gsc.tab=0>

<https://transport.delhi.gov.in/>

<https://mcdonline.nic.in/portal>