

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
6th Level, C-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002

F. No.10 (39)/ENV/2021/ 5817-5843

Dated: 02nd December, 2021

Subject: Directions u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to close Schools, Colleges, Educational / Coaching Institutes, Skill Development & Training Institutes, Other Training Institutes, Libraries (except where exams are being conducted) with immediate effect in Delhi.

Whereas, Delhi faces grave air pollution particularly in winter season and level of pollutants like Particulate Matter Concentration (PM2.5 and PM10) goes much beyond the prescribed standards for Ambient Air Quality.

Whereas, in pursuance of the directions in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1135 of 2020 titled as Aditya Dubey Vs. Union of India & Ors of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, on 15.11.2021, the Commission For Air Quality in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, convened an emergency meeting on 16.11.2021 and in pursuance of the same, had issued directions on 16.11.2021 under Section 12 of the Commission For Air Quality in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 closing all public and private Schools, Colleges and Education Institutions in NCR until further orders allowing only online mode of education.

And whereas the Commission for Air Quality in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas on 25.11.2021 directed that "*the NCR States and the Govt. of NCT of Delhi may consider and take appropriate decisions for resumption of physical classes in schools, colleges and educational institutions in the NCR. However, wherever the State Governments / GNCTD opt to continue with the online mode of education, such schools/ colleges / educational institutions shall be permitted to open for the purpose of conduct of examinations and practical's etc.*"

And whereas, after a review of air pollution scenario, all schools / educational institutions were re-opened by GNCTD on 26.11.2021 subject to further review.

And whereas air pollution levels still are very poor, and the forecast of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Government of India as on 02.12.2021 as per their Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi predicts that air quality is likely to remain in very poor category on 03.12.2021 and 04.12.2021, and winds are likely to remain slow/calm during 3rd to 5th December which are unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants, and the air quality for subsequent five days is also likely to remain in Very Poor category.



And whereas air pollution affects severely the health of citizens and research has shown that vulnerable population especially children are more susceptible to diseases occurring due to severe air pollution including respiratory problems and cutaneous diseases.

And whereas, in the present context, any large scale action towards reducing the exposure of school children to poor quality of air would be beneficial towards the long term health of children.

Now, therefore, in view of the above, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with notification No.SO667 (E) issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India dated 10.09.1992, following direction is hereby issued:

All Schools, Colleges, Educational / Coaching Institutes, Skill Development & Training Institutes, Other Training Institutes, Libraries (except where exams are being conducted) shall be closed with immediate effect till further review.

All authorities concerned shall implement the aforesaid directions in letter and spirit. The violation of the directions issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 or the rules made there under shall be punishable under Section 15 of the said Act which includes imprisonment upto five years and / or with fine which may extend to Rs. One Lakh or with both.

**By order and in the name of the
Lieutenant Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi**


**(Sanjeev Khirwar)
Pr. Secretary (Environment)**

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Copy for compliance to:

1. All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries/ HODs of Government of NCT of Delhi.
2. The Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, I.N.A., New Delhi
3. Commissioner of Police, Delhi
4. Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council.
5. Pr. Secretary (Revenue)-cum-Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD
6. Commissioner, Transport, GNCTD
7. Commissioner (South DMC/East DMC/North DMC).

8. Principal Secretary, Education, Government of NCT of Delhi
9. Secretary, Higher Education, Government of NCT of Delhi
10. Secretary, Training and Technical Education, Government of NCT of Delhi
11. Secretary, (I&P) for wide publicity in NCT of Delhi
12. CEO, Delhi Cantonment Board.
13. All District Magistrates of Delhi
14. All District DCPs of Delhi
15. DGHS, GNCTD
16. Member Secretary, DPCC, GNCTD

Copy for kind information to:

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi
2. Addl. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, GNCTD
3. Secretary to Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, GNCTD
4. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Health, GNCTD
5. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Revenue, GNCTD
6. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of General Administration Department, GNCTD
7. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Social Welfare, GNCTD
8. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Food & Supply, GNCTD
9. Addl. Chief Secretary (Environment), GNCTD
10. Pr. Secretary (Environment), GNCTD
11. Guard file.

Copy to:

1. Secretary to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi.
3. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister (E&F), GNCTD
4. SO to Chief Secretary, Govt. Of Delhi.


(Sanjeev Khirwar)
Pr. Secretary (Environment)