



## DELHI AIR POLLUTION: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: Rai rolls out 21-point Winter Action Plan to combat air pollution

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

In a bid to combat Delhi's notorious winter pollution, the Minister emphasised the collaborative effort between the government and people to tackle the problem

### PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION TO BE KEY

Photo: Rajesh Mehta



- 1 Monitoring sources of pollution at 13 hotspots using drones 
- 2 A six-member special task force constituted to monitor pollution and take action
- 3 Enforcement of dust norms
- 4 Giving Harit Ratna Award to individuals, agencies, NGOs in private & govt sectors to combat air pollution
- 5 Operation of mobile anti-smog guns 
- 6 Public participation campaign
- 7 Controlling pollution caused by vehicles
- 8 Controlling stubble burning 
- 9 Setting up Green War Room and using Green Delhi app
- 10 Controlling Industrial pollution
- 11 Increasing green cover through tree plantation drives 
- 12 Conducting real-time source apportionment study
- 13 Setting up e-waste eco park
- 14 Banning firecrackers
- 15 Strict implementation of GRAP
- 16 Controlling open waste burning
- 17 Encouraging work from home and staggering office timings during peak pollution period
- 18 Encouraging voluntary private vehicle restriction
- 19 Preparing odd-even scheme, if needed
- 20 Using artificial rain 
- 21 Dialogue with Centre and neighbouring states

### Nature of the Problem:

- **Post-Monsoon Worsening:** Air pollution worsens due to temperature inversion, trapping pollutants like PM 2.5.
- **Year-Round Issue:** Pollution is a continuous problem, worse in winter but requires year-round efforts.



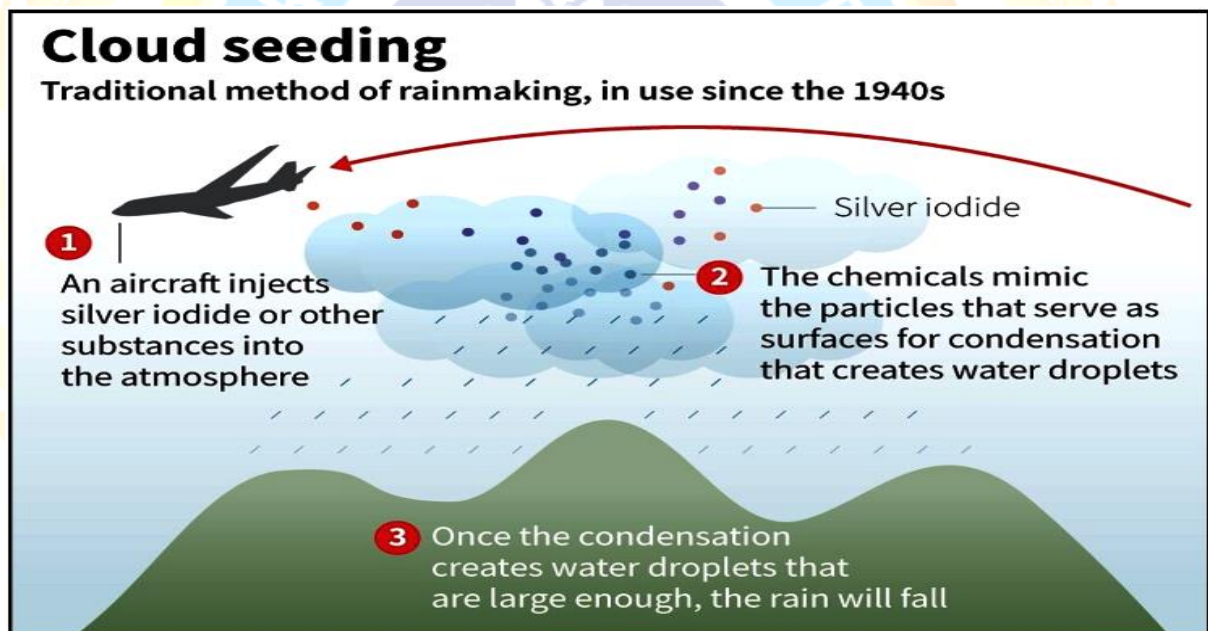
- **Inequality in Exposure:** Poorer communities face higher pollution risks, lacking resources like air purifiers.

## Causes of Air Pollution:

- **Year-Round Sources:** Biomass burning, vehicular emissions, trash burning, industrial pollution.
- **Seasonal Aggravators:** Farm stubble burning, festival firecrackers worsen pollution in winter.
- **Meteorological Factors:** Winter air stagnation and temperature inversion trap pollutants near the ground.

## Superficial Solutions:

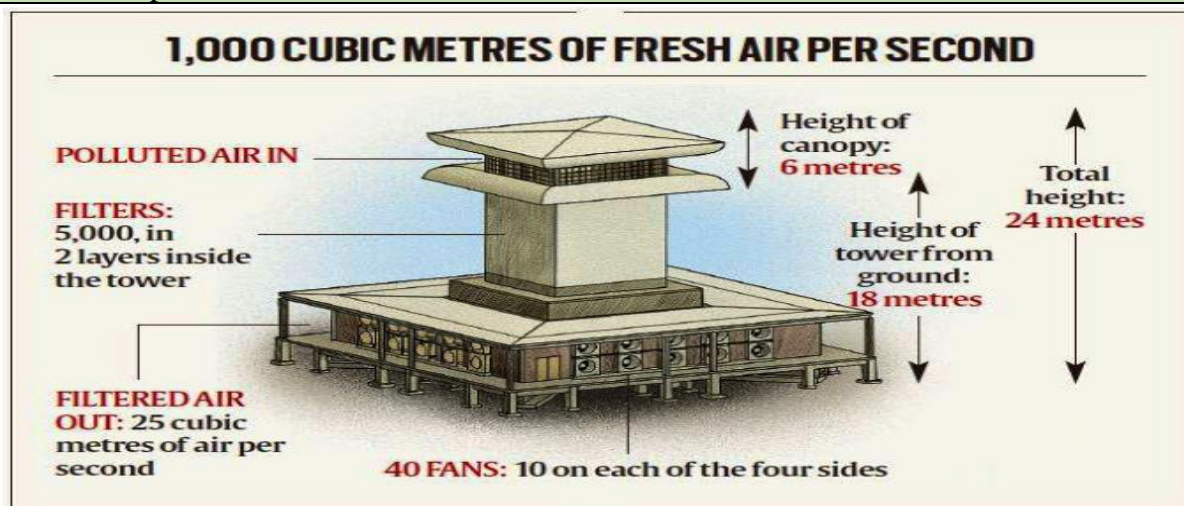
- **Cloud Seeding:** Induces rain but is a short-term, limited-impact solution with potential unintended effects.
- **Smog Towers:** Large air purifiers with limited reach; their energy use may add to emissions.





## Government Initiatives to Control Delhi's Pollution

- **Green War Room:** A team monitoring 20 government agencies' real-time actions against pollution daily.
- **Green Delhi App:** A mobile app for citizens to report pollution issues like garbage burning, industrial emissions, and traffic congestion.
- **Bio-Decomposer:** A PUSA-developed solution to decompose crop residue without burning, with free spraying in Delhi's farmlands.
- **Water Sprinklers:** Use of water sprinklers, road sweepers, anti-smog guns, and sprinkling on buildings to reduce dust.
- **Industry Pollution Control:** Monitoring industrial pollution, promoting clean fuels (like PNG), and establishing India's first e-waste eco-park in Delhi.
- **PUC Enforcement:** Ensuring vehicles have Pollution Under Control certificates and banning non-essential trucks from entering the city.
- **Pollution Hotspots:** Identified 21 hotspots with special teams to control pollution sources.



## Concrete Solutions:

- **Coordinated Action:** Multi-sector efforts across transport, industry, and agriculture with year-round policies.
- **Capacity Building:** Stronger institutional frameworks and collaboration among stakeholders.
- **Comprehensive Monitoring:** Expand air quality monitoring beyond cities to rural and industrial areas.

## Moving Beyond Quick Fixes:

- **Sustained, Science-Based Efforts:** Long-term, equitable policies over short-term, technological fixes like cloud seeding and smog towers.



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**Source 1:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/delhis-winter-action-plan-launched-to-combat-air-pollution-with-new-initiatives/article68681982.ece>

**Source 2:** <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/delhis-winter-action-plan-for-pollution-appears-unconvincing-9591923/lite/>

**Source 3:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/rai-rolls-out-21-point-winter-action-plan-to-combat-air-pollution/article68683398.ece>



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