Climate Change (IPCC). Moreover, in winter months, slow winds and cool temperatures trap dust and pollutants closer to the ground forming smog. It takes alarming levels after the Diwali in autumn due to release of firecrackers. Odd-even number plates on alternate days did create some awareness, but it was halfhearted.

There is a spectrum of health problems related to this pollution, stating from allergies and respiratory conditions, including asthma, reduced lung function, and increased incidence of cancers. Children have long-term effects – 4.4 million of whom are already suffering from irreversible lung damage.

Nonrespiratory effects of air pollution are also seen more in Delhi such as hypertension, chronic headache, eye irritation, sore throat, and skin irritation. Many studies on air pollution and mortality from Delhi found that all-natural-cause mortality and morbidity increased with increased air pollution.

OTHER PROBLEMS

Many trains passing through Delhi were canceled/diverted by Indian Railways. Furthermore, due to poor visibility conditions, many flights were canceled/delayed. Moreover, abandonment of a cricket test match due to pollution as both the Indian and the Sri Lankan cricket teams found it was difficult for playing.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Guidelines issued by the National Disaster Management Authority include avoid outdoor activities during early morning and evening, stay indoors as much as one can and do work from home, keep children in homes as much as possible, in case of breathing difficulty avoid stepping out, go out during bright and sunny times, avoid smoking, not to burn garbage, drink more amount of water to flush toxins from the body, not to do strenuous activity, eat Vitamin C-rich fruits, use air purifiers/nasal filters, keep air-purifying plants such as Aloe vera in homes/offices, use lanes instead of main roads, and avoid areas with heave dust/smoke.

Other measures use public transports, find ride-sharing partners, sign up for carpooling, enhancement of parking fee, closure of some thermal power plants, and hundreds...
of brick kilns, buy green electricity, use indoor plants and restore the green, and use environmentally friendly fuels for vehicles as well as for cooking. Like China, a Smog Free Tower\(^9\) can also make at government level. This largest air purifier of the world is made by a Dutch artist Daan Roosegaarde, and it is powered by solar energy, situated at Rotterdam, Beijing, Tianjin, and Dalian, takes 30,000 m\(^3\) of polluted air/hour, cleans its PM\(_{10}\) and PM\(_{2.5}\) particles, and releases the clean air back; the smog particles filtered by this tower are turned into diamonds after compressing for 30 min.

REFERENCES

1. Mishra M. Poison in the air: Declining air quality in India. Lung India 2019;36:160-1.
2. World Health Organization. Ambient (outdoor) Air Quality and Health. Fact Sheets. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization. Available from: http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-(outdoor)-air-quality-and-health. [Last accessed on 2018 May 02].
3. Central Pollution Control Board. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Gazette of India, Extraordinary. Central Pollution Control Board. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. New Delhi: Central Pollution Control Board. Available from: http://www.cpcb.nic.in/air-quality-standard. [Last accessed on 2009 Nov 18].
4. Chaitanya VS. Air pollution in Delhi Essay – Case Study. Available from: https://www.kitchenarena.in/delhi-air-pollution/. [Last accessed on 2018 May 03].
5. Kedia S. Delhi is Gasping for Air – Six Reasons why the National Capital is becoming a ‘Gas Chamber’. Available from: https://www.yourstory.com/2017/11/delhi-air-pollution-six-reasons. [Last accessed on 2017 Nov 08].
6. Sharma AR, Kharol SK, Badarinath KV, Singh D. Impact of agriculture crop residue burning on atmospheric aerosol loading – A study over Punjab state, India. Ann Geophys 2010;28:367-79.
7. Sindhwani R, Goyal P. Assessment of traffic-generated gaseous and articulate matter emissions and trends over Delhi (2000-2010. Atmos Pollut Res 2014;5:438-46.
8. Rizwan S, Nongkynrih B, Gupta SK. “Air pollution in Delhi: Its magnitude and effects on health”. Indian J Community Med 2013;38:4-8.
9. Reissman H. This Tower Sucks up Smog and Turns it Into Diamonds. Available from: https://www.ideas.ted.com/this-tower-sucks-up-smog-and-turns-it-into-diamonds/. [Last accessed on 2017 Oct 31].

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.