

Enforcement under new ordinance could be tricky

MM BUREAU

New Delhi/October 31
The process of penalising polluters in Delhi-NCR region under the union government's Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining Area Ordinance is likely to be a "tricky process", officials from Delhi's pollution control board and environment experts said on Friday.

Senior officials of the Delhi Pollution Control Board (DPCB) said since the ordinance says the CAQM "shall prevail in all matters relating air pollution", there is no clarity if DPCB can continue to levy fines over the set limit of ₹1 crore — the

maximum amount payable as fine for flouting pollution norms according to the Centre's ordinance.

DPCB is the capital's primary air quality monitoring and enforcement body.

The ordinance says polluters in Delhi-NCR can be fined up to ₹1 crore and/or face imprisonment up to a term of five years for violations.

The officials said because of a likely confusion on whether their enforcement teams would be able to issue 'on-the-spot' fines or not, there is a possibility of violation of air pollution norms increasing this time. "We were issuing fines

under the Air Act (1981), which does not have any such limit for penalties. However, technically now that the commission has been declared the sole authority for all pollution-related matters in Delhi-NCR, we are not sure to what extent will the state board be able to exercise this power," another DPCB official said.

Since October 15, when the winter segment of the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) came into effect, DPCB teams have imposed two fines worth ₹1 crore on municipal agencies for garbage burning in the open.

Fines ranging between ₹20 lakh and ₹50 lakh have also been issued to



construction agencies for flouting dust-control norms in the city. Over 400 ready-mix concrete plants and illegally operating industries have been issued fines ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹30 lakh.

According to the new ordinance, if the commission

will have to present the case before a first-class magistrate, who will probe the violation and order the penalty if the charge is proven in court. This can make the entire process more time consuming, giving a window to polluters to get away, experts said.

Environment experts said while a fine up to ₹1 crore and/or imprisonment of up to five years may seem "progressive", in reality it puts a limit on the fine that can be imposed, which is contrary to the polluter-pay principle.

Environment lawyer Ritwik Dutta said since the commission is an executive body and not a judicial body, it cannot issue directions.

For instance, if an agency is found to be flouting pollution norms, the new body can direct it to stop operations but it does not have the power to directly fine it.

"They (CAQM) will have to file a complaint case before a magistrate. An

investigation will be called to prove the violation. It will be a judicial trial; it will not be an executive order for punishment. They can tell the court that they want to impose a fine but to get it implemented, they will have to prove that the violation was committed and this could take as much time as it does," Dutta said.

Dutta said the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) had the same power of imposing fines (earlier up to ₹1 lakh), but in its years of existence they could not extract a single penalty.

"This route has proved unsuccessful earlier, and we

are resorting to same route again," he said.

Shibani Ghosh, an environmental lawyer and a Centre for Policy Research (CPR) fellow, said the provision for monetary penalties and imprisonment and the process of imposing such a penalty via courts is similar to what is available in the Air Act and the Environment (Protection) Act.

"If you look at National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports, convictions under the Air Act and EP Act are very low. The fear of criminal prosecution is only a deterrent if people notice that polluters are prosecuted and convicted."

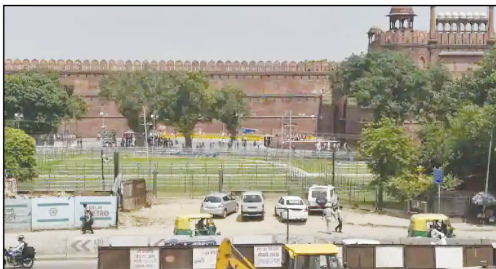
NGO report : MCD councillors skipped house meetings, asked fewer questions

MM BUREAU

New Delhi/October 31
The performance of municipal councillors in Delhi's three civic bodies — North, South and East — had fallen in the year 2019-20 as compared to previous years in terms of attendance in House meetings, the number of questions asked and the relevance of issues raised, a report card released by Praja Foundation, a non-government organisation, said on Friday.

The report titled "Delhi Councillor Report Card 2020" is prepared annually by the Praja Foundation where it rates elected representatives of the three civic bodies on the basis of data accessed through RTI and public accounts.

The report suggests the attendance of the councillors in Bharatiya Janata Party-



ruled civic bodies — North Delhi Municipal Corporation, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) — has

fallen compared to previous years.

"The performance of councillors has fallen in all three corporations in 2019-20. The attendance score fell

in the North Delhi Municipal Corporation from 75.32% in 2017-18 to 68.38% in 2019-20, in SDMC from 75.10% to 66.61% and in EDMC from 81.83% to 71.27%," said

Pradeep Kumar, director, Praja Foundation.

The attendance percentage of councillors in 2019-20 was 70% in SDMC and 76% in EDMC. Mhaske said the overall questions raised by councillors fell by 29% from 18,128 in 2017-18 to 12,879 in 2019-20. The highest fall was in north corporation, where the number of questions raised fell by 35%, followed by SDMC with a 27% fall and EDMC, which reported 16% fall.

The report said 55 councillors (64%) in North Delhi, 56 (64%) in SDMC and 37 (62%) in EDMC scored less than 50% in raising the issues of their areas (obligatory duties) and showed "poor quality of deliberation".

The report said seven

councillors (3 north corporation, 3 SDMC, 1 EDMC) asked zero questions in 2019-20.

The report gave scores to the councillors and ranked them on parameters of attendance in the House, number of issues raised, relevance of issues and their accessibility.

Ravinder Kumar of Chandni Chowk (North Corporation), Satpal Khurwal of Vishnu Garden (SDMC) and BS Panwar of Shahdara North (EDMC) were given the first rank in their respective corporations.

Anamika Mithlesh, south Delhi mayor, said she has not yet seen the report and refused to comment on it. Mayors of the north and east corporations also refused comment citing similar reasons.

The report said seven

AAP, BJP spar over MCD functioning

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New Delhi/October 31
The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led municipal corporations of Delhi (MCD) over the issue of financial debts and their inability to pay salaries to doctors, which led to recent strikes by healthcare workers in the city. "The BJP has put a massive burden of debts on the residents of Delhi. They cannot even pay salaries to doctors. The BJP-ruled MCDs have to take ₹15,000 crore from the central government and must return ₹8,500 crore to Delhi government," said AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj. He said, "The MCDs have sealed Delhi's big markets and illegally taken conversion fee and parking charges, yet shops are sealed, shopkeepers are devastated. They should hand over the charge of the civic agencies to the



AAP. We can operate them with a surplus budget." The Delhi BJP's spokesperson said, "In 1994, the BJP has run Delhi government with a surplus budget. There is no debt burden on Delhi residents due to the MCDs. The sealing in a few markets faced by traders is due to failure of the Kejriwal government in terms of failure to issue appropriate notifications in the right time."

ISBT's likely to reopen from Today : Kailash Gahlot

MM BUREAU

New Delhi/October 31
Interstate bus services and ISBTs in Delhi are likely to reopen from November 1, even as senior Delhi government officials on Friday said they hoped the 20-passenger cap on buses would be lifted by next week.

State transport minister Kailash Gahlot said the decision to resume interstate buses and reopen the city's three ISBTs was approved by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in a meeting held on October 29.

"The minutes of the DDMA meeting held on October 29 were issued on Thursday and received by the transport department today (Friday). The department is now preparing standard operating procedures (SOPs) to be followed in ISBTs and aboard inter-state buses.



While the order will be issued by the transport department on Saturday, it is likely that resumption of interstate bus movement will be effective from November 1," Gahlot said.

The minister said no decision has been taken regarding lifting the restriction of 20 passengers in each of our Delhi Transport Corporation

(DTC) and cluster buses in the DDMA meeting. Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajaj had advised that the matter may be examined in light of the social distancing norms laid out for Covid-19 management.

"We had sent a proposal to increase the capacity of buses to 40 per bus after the October 23 DDMA meeting. I am yet to receive the file,"

Gahlot said.

A senior official in L-G Bajaj's office said the LG has, in all likelihood, approved the proposal to increase the passenger capacity in DTC and cluster buses.

The resumption of these services would mean that all three interstate bus terminals (ISBTs) in Delhi — Anand Vihar, Keshpur Gate, and Sarai Kale Khan — will also reopen after being shut for more than seven months. In Delhi, interstate bus services were suspended on March 21. But before the onset of the pandemic, the three ISBTs saw a combined footfall of over 250,000 every day. At least 3,467 buses from states such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Chhattisgarh would pass through these ISBTs every day.

Biker smashes challan machine after being stopped for helmet violation

MM BUREAU/New Delhi/October 31

A 26-year-old bike rider on Wednesday evening smashed the challan machine of the traffic police in east Delhi's Mandawali, after he was stopped for not wearing a helmet. Police said the man later not only had to pay the fine but was also arrested for destroying the challan machine. Jasmeet Singh, deputy commissioner of police (east), said that the man was booked for robbery, obstructing a public servant from performing his duty and under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. "He was arrested, but was let off on bail," said the DCP.

Investigators identified the man by his first name, Santan, a resident of east Delhi's Gandhi Nagar. Santan works at a call centre, said the officer. The alleged incident happened around 6.30pm on Wednesday, when traffic police assistant sub-inspector Kailash Chand was regulating vehicular movement near the Mother Dairy T-point in Mandawali. In his statement to the local police, Chand said that he noticed a motorcycle.

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NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Regulation 29 (1) (a) read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that Twenty Third meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Monday, the 09th day of November, 2020 at 03.30 p.m. at the Corporate Office of the Company at Rama House, 23, Najafgarh Road Industrial Area, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi - 110015, inter alia to consider and approve the Standalone Un-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half-year ended on 30th September, 2020.

For RAMA VISION LIMITED
Place: New Delhi (Raj Kumar Gupta)
Date: October 29, 2020 G.M. (Legal) & Company Secretary

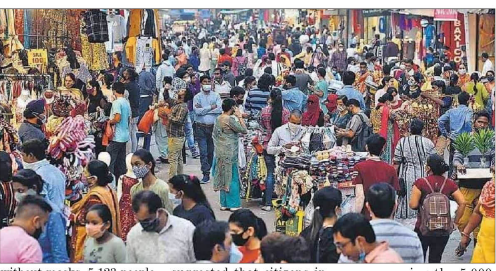
South, West districts worst mask offenders in Delhi

MM BUREAU

New Delhi/October 31
Amid a fresh surge in coronavirus disease cases, an analysis of Delhi Police's data shows that south and west police districts are the worst in maintaining mask discipline with the maximum number of violations — highlighting the difficulty in enforcing Covid-19 guidelines.

According to data (updated until October 27) seen by HT, at least 47,795 people were fined for not wearing masks in the police's south district that proceeds from Ambekar Nagar and Kalkaji to South Campus near Moti Bagh. Until two months ago, south district — which also includes areas such as Defence Colony, RK Puram — did not figure in the top or even the second in the list of violators.

In west Delhi, which stood second after south with 40,556 violations, Rajouri Garden police station reported the maximum number of people



without masks. 5,123 people were prosecuted in Rajouri Garden.

The maximum number of violations two months ago (data up to August 27) 22,136, were reported from Outer Delhi district, which includes places such as Mangolpuri, Anam Vihar, Sultanpuri and Kaulhawala. The west district was number 2 on the list then, with 16,772 people fined. The police data had then

suggested that citizens in south Delhi were much better at following the mask rule compared to other districts.

Earlier this month, a report prepared by the National Control for Disease Control (NCDC) had cautioned that the Capital needs to gear up to tackle a surge of up to 15,000 cases per day during winter and in the festive season.

In the backdrop of daily

Delhi, the Kotla Mubarakpur police station registered the highest number of violations at 4,335, followed by CR Park at 4,192.

A senior police officer, who did not wish to be named, said, "Every district DCP has been assigned the task of identifying a different area each day in each police station where police have to strictly enforce the mask rule. It could be outside a temple, a mosque or at a market area."

Kotla Mubarakpur police station includes areas such as the South Extension markets, Ring Road, Sewa Nagar and Kidwai Nagar. Police said their focus in the festive season will be markets. They will also fine shopkeepers who allow shoppers inside without masks.

The local MLA from Kirti Nagar, Madan Lal, said he will launch a special drive to ensure residents adhere to the rule. "It is good the police are active and issuing challans to those not wearing masks or violating guidelines. The Delhi

government has been creating awareness and appealed to people to always wear masks."

A police officer from the west district said their focus will be on markets such as Rajouri Garden, Tilak Nagar and Jankapuri, where people have started coming out for festive shopping. Police data shows West Delhi continuously featured among the top three districts with most violators.

"We have started making public announcements in markets. People must wear mask at all times," said a mid-level police officer from west Delhi.

Dhanvati Chandela, MLA from Rajouri Garden, said, "We are carrying out campaigns to raise awareness. The number must be high because many people from outside come to eateries here and flout rules."

An on-the-spot fine of ₹500 is imposed for not wearing a mask, under a rule passed by the government in June.

A drive to penalise those

moving about in public spaces without masks was launched on June 14. Until October 27, Delhi Police fined 432,049 people for not wearing masks and collected at least ₹21.60 crore in fines.

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NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to provisions of Regulations 29, 33 & 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the meeting of Board of Directors of the company will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, mainly to consider and approve the Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and period ended on September 30, 2020 along with other matters incidental and related thereto.

In view of the above the Trading Window for dealing in the company's scrip by the members of the promoter group, designated persons and other connected persons of the company has been closed from Thursday, October 01, 2020 till the end of 48 hours of the news paper publication of the consolidated financial results of the company for the Quarter and period ended on September 30, 2020. It is in terms of SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 as amended on April 1, 2019 and in terms of the Circular Ref. No. NSE/CML/IR/11 dated 02/04/2019 and in terms of Code of Conduct of the Company.

For ALPS INDUSTRIES LTD.
Place: GHAZIABAD (AJAY GUPTA)
DATED: OCTOBER 31, 2020 COMPANY SECRETARY & GENERAL MANAGER - LEGAL

