

Haze Over Delhi

Why in news?

\n\n

\n

- Haze loomed over Delhi and its adjoining areas for over a week.

\n

- The air quality index reflected a "severe" degradation in air quality in Delhi.

\n

\n\n

How has pollution been in Delhi?

\n\n

\n

- Delhi witnessed high pollution levels in the recent winter.

\n

- Stubble burning in the neighbourhood regions was cited as the main reason.

\n

- Smoke from brick kilns and vehicular emissions added to the air pollution.

\n

- The weather patterns in winter season contributed for the sustenance of the pollution.

\n

- However, the current haze, in summer, cannot be attributed to these.

\n

\n\n

What are the reasons?

\n\n

\n

- Delhi now witnesses high levels of dust, causing haze, reducing visibility.

\n

- It also resulted in particulate matter (PM) levels shooting to over 8 times the normal range.

\n

- Dust storms originating from Rajasthan and wind direction are said to be the cause.

\n

- But besides this, local sources of pollution are also said to be the reasons.

\n

\n\n

How to address this?

\n\n

\n

- Emergency measures will have to be soon initiated and all construction activity stopped.

\n

- Delhi government has been directed to carry out water sprinkling to bring down the PM levels.

\n

- Modelling and measurements to evaluate the exact sources of the dust particles are essential to deal with it.

\n

- Cities like Delhi require a green belt around it to reduce pollution levels.

\n

- But greening open spaces or reforestation of land largely remain as concepts.

\n

- Delhi needs long term planning and systematic research on dealing with the perpetual problem of pollution.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: BusinessLine

\n

