

## SUCCESS STORY BEHIND IMPROVEMENT OF AIR QUALITY

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has taken following actions for improvement of air quality of Kolkata following the Comprehensive Action Plan:

- **Water sprinkling on busy roads to mitigate air pollution caused by vehicular movement:** West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) has initiated extensive water sprinkling program for controlling air pollution due to road dust (during the winter season i.e. November to February). Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, Howrah Municipal Corporation, South Dum Dum Municipality, Barrackpore Police Commissionerate and Siliguri Police Commissionerate have engaged dedicated water sprinkling vehicles in their respective jurisdictions. In addition to the above, as per request of WBPCB, Fire Department also conducting water sprinkling program in various stretches of road in Kolkata. Water sprinkling is being done on a regular basis on busy and dust prone stretches of roads to ensure mitigation of dust pollution due to vehicular movement. Necessary operational cost in this regard is being entirely borne by WBPCB.



Water sprinkling on roads

- **Dousing of fire in existing Dhapa area and Pramodnagar Dump site:** During the dry spell of winter auto ignition of methane gas generated naturally in existing waste dump sites results into uncontrolled fire; this leads to indiscriminate burning of waste and generation of obnoxious gases seriously contributing to air pollution. This season as requested by WBPCB, fire department has initiated continuous efforts at Dhapa and Pramodnagar dump sites with dedicated fire tenders and continuous water sprinkling is being carried out on regular basis to douse such fires and keep the waste moist to ensure that incidents of such spontaneous ignition of waste are minimized. This has contributed remarkably towards improvement of air quality in and around Kolkata.



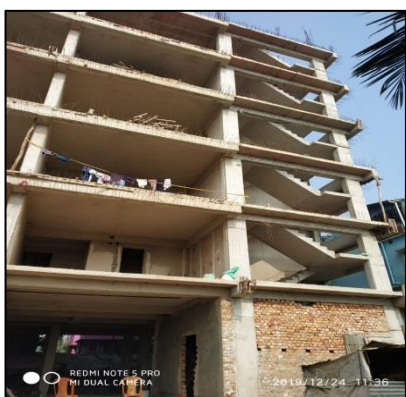
Dousing of fire in dump sites

- Distribution of LPG and gas ovens to coal based road side eateries:** Recent study for identification of sources of air pollution and relative contribution of different such sources towards such pollution revealed that roadside coal based eateries contributes significantly towards deterioration of air quality of urban areas in and around Kolkata. To address the issue, WBPCB proactively conducted series of programs involving Kolkata Police, Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, Howrah Municipal Corporation and Public Sector LPG companies like IOCL and HPCL and distributed around 2500 LPG cylinders to road side coal based eatery owners. The cost incurred for the first cylinder and required gadgets and ovens has been borne by WBPCB. It is expected that such conversion of coal based eateries to LPG will significantly contribute towards improvement of the air quality of the concerned urban area.



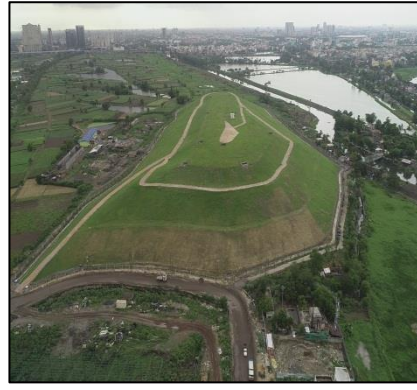
**LPG cylinder distribution to coal based road side eateries**

- Strict monitoring on Construction and Demolition activities:** Recent study has suggested that emission of dust from the construction sector contributes significantly towards degradation of urban air quality. WBPCB has in the recent time strictly monitored such projects and ensured that standard operating practice is strictly adhered to by all the projects. Construction activity and storage of construction material under covered condition, regular water sprinkling, maintaining god housekeeping and other such measures have remarkably reduced the emission of dust from such construction projects.



**Construction projects before and after intervention of WBPCB**

- Capping of old Dhapa Dump Site:** WBPCB has recently completed the closure and containment of the old Dhapa MSW dump site through a World Bank aided project. The old dump site which used to be source of air pollution by contributing through obnoxious odour and poisonous flue gas resulting from burning of waste has been covered with lush green grass after covering the same with geo-textile membrane with proper engineering technique and keeping proper provision of leachate treatment facility. The site which once used to be the eyesore in the city skyline is now in the process of becoming tourist attraction in the near future.



**View of Dhapa before and after the Closure and Containment job**

- Complete banning of open burning of solid wastes:** In the recent years uncontrolled and indiscriminate burning of leather turnings in around Kolkata leather complex used to contribute to a large extent towards worsening of air quality of Kolkata and adjoining areas. WBPCB with the help of police authorities has initiated stern action against such nuisance this year and conducted joint raids to stop such illegal activities. As a result sources of toxic flue gases which used to have a very bad effect on the air quality of the city have largely been eliminated to a large extent leading to significant improvement of ambient air quality.

**Air Quality Improvement in Kolkata in recent time**

