

Press Release

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY AND NOISE LEVEL REPORT IN CHENNAI CITY DURING DEEPAVALI – 2022

The Honourable Supreme Court of India in WRIT PETITION(C) No.728/2015 dated 23.10.2018. has directed Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and respective State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) of the States and Union Territories shall carry out short-term monitoring in their cities for 14 days (commencing from 7 days prior to Diwali and ending 7 days after Diwali). Based on the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court the Government issued a direction for bursting of fire crackers between 6.00 a.m to 7.00 a.m and 7.00 p.m to 8.00 p.m on 24th November 2022.

Based on the above direction by Honourable Supreme Court of India and Central Pollution Control Board, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has conducted manual monitoring in seven different locations in Chennai city, viz., Besant Nagar, T.Nagar, Nungambakkam, Triplicane, Sowcarpet, Valasaravakkam and Tiruvottiyur to monitor the impact of bursting of crackers during Deepavali festival celebrations on Ambient Air Quality and also Noise levels in Chennai city.

The Monitoring is being conducted as per Central Pollution Control Board guidelines for a period of 15 days (commencing from 17.10.2022 06.00hrs to 01.11.2022, 06.00 hrs i.e, 7 days before and after Deepavali).

The report of the Ambient Air Quality monitoring conducted for the last 3 years for the Air Quality Index (AQI) are summarised in **Table - 1**.

The report of the Noise level monitoring conducted for the last 3 years on pre-Deepavali day from 18.00 hrs to 24.00 hrs and on Deepavali day from 18.00 hrs to 24.00 hrs are summarised in **Table-2**.

In this year (2022) the lowest Noise level value was observed on the pre Deepavali day i.e., on 18.10.2022, 54.8 dB(A) at Besant Nagar and highest Noise Level value was 64.5 dB(A) at Valasaravakkam. During the Deepavali day i.e., on 24.10.2022

the lowest Noise level value observed was 66.0 dB(A) at Besant Nagar and the highest Noise Level value was 79.7 dB(A) at Thiruvottiyur. The Noise Level values observed on Deepavali day (24.10.2022) are higher than National Ambient Noise Standards (i.e., 55.0 dB(A) during day time and 65.0dB(A) during night time).

The Air Quality Index (AQI) observed on 24th October 2022 from 6.00 a.m, to 25th October 2022, 6.00 am the average value of AQI in Chennai city ranges between **345** to **786** and the Air quality status was very poor (the lowest value of AQI was at Besant Nagar and the highest value of AQI was at Sowcarpet). This is due to large number of people indulged in very active bursting of fire crackers (mainly night crackers and sky shots) and high relative humidity and low wind speed. The climatic condition is not conducive for the effective dispersion of the smoke emanated from the bursting of crackers. This attributes to high value in Air Quality Index (AQI) on Deepavali day of 2022 in Chennai city.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has conducted awareness programme through District Collectors, Corporation Commissioners, Municipalities, Police, School students, Print and Social media, FM Radio and TV, banners and pamphlets across the State educating and bringing awareness of pollution due to bursting of crackers during Deepavali 2022.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has advised the general public for safe bursting of crackers and to avoid bursting of crackers near sensitive areas such as hospitals, places of worships and highly vulnerable areas.

Chairperson
TNPCB, Chennai

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