



ORDER FOR RESTRICTIONS ON COMMERCIAL MARKETS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN DISTRICTS OF LAHORE, FAISALABAD, GUJRANWALA & MULTAN U/S 6(1) (t) OF THE PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1997

ORDER

WHEREAS, Government of Punjab is striving hard to control all possible intrinsic factors which cause air pollution and deteriorate quality of ambient air. Pre-emptive measures against all the sources of air pollution have already been started by EPA as well as other departments concerned.

2. **AND WHEREAS**, as per Section 2(xxiii) of The Punjab Environmental Protection Act 1997, **pollution** means the contamination of air, land or water by the discharge or emission of effluents or wastes or air pollutants or noise or other matter which either directly or indirectly or in combination with other discharges or substances alters unfavorably the chemical, physical, biological, radiation, thermal or radiological or aesthetic properties of the air, land or water or which may, or is likely to make the air, land or water unclean, noxious or impure or injurious, disagreeable or detrimental to the health, safety, welfare or property of persons or harmful to biodiversity;

3. **AND WHEREAS** the Health Advisory System for Critical Air Pollution Events (HAS-CAPEs) has been notified on 13.12.2022 under which the 1st meeting of Provincial CAPEs Committee (PCC) was held on 21.10.2024 which declared that Critical Air Pollution Event has taken place in Lahore. **Subsequently the Critical Air Pollution Events have also taken place in districts of Faisalabad, Multan and Gujranwala in last week. The average AQI of these districts has crossed the critical limit of 500 which is alarmingly hazardous for human health and wellbeing. An unprecedented rise in the number of patients with lungs and respiratory diseases, allergies, eye and throat irritation, pink eye disease is being observed. The spread of conjunctivitis/ pink eye disease due to bacterial or viral infection, smoke, dust or chemical exposure is posing a serious and imminent threat to public health. Hence it is mandatory to take all necessary measures for prevention and control of these diseases in said districts.**

4. **AND WHEREAS**, Section 6(1) (t) of the ibid Act empowers EPA to take or cause to be taken all necessary measures for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and

improvement of the environment, prevention and control of pollution and promotion of sustainable development;

5. **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh (PAS), Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab in exercise of the powers conferred upon me u/s 6(1) (t) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, do hereby order the following restrictions in districts of **Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad & Gujranwala**.

- a. Closure of all outdoor activities including outdoor sports events, exhibitions and festivals, outdoor dining of restaurants with the **exemption** of religious congregations, unavoidable religious rites including but not limited to the last rites, Namaz- e-Janaza, burial and related events.
- b. Closure of shops, markets and shopping malls at 8 pm. However, following sectors are **exempted** from the said restriction:
 - i. Pharmacies/ Medical Stores, Medical Facilities, Medical Laboratories, Vaccination Centers, Petrol Pumps, Oil Depots, Tandoors, Bakeries, Grocery / Karyana stores, Milk / Dairy Shops, Sweet Shops, Vegetable / Fruit Shops, Chicken / Meat Shops, E-commerce / Postal / Courier Services and Utility Services (Electricity, Natural Gas, Internet, Cellular Networks / Telecom).
 - ii. Large departmental stores may only keep their grocery / pharmacy sections open while all others sections will remain closed.
- c. Any other exemption, if deemed necessary, may be given by the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district.

6. **Any contravention to this order shall be punished U/S 188 PPC.**

7. **This order shall come into force with effect from 11th November 2024 (Monday) and shall remain in force till 17th November 2024 (Sunday). Further instructions in this regard will be issued on 17th November 2024 (Sunday).**

Issued under my hand and seal on this 10th day of November, 2024.



Dr. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH (PAS)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,
PUNJAB

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

O/C

- I. The Secretary, Environment Protection & Climate Change Department Punjab
- II. The Commissioners Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala & Multan.
- III. The Director General, DGPR, Lahore for wide publicity.
- IV. The Deputy Commissioners Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala & Multan for implementation.
- V. The City Police Officers Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala & Multan for implementation.
- VI. The Secretary, Judicial Water & Environment Commission (JWEC), Punjab
- VII. The Additional Secretary (Staff), Chief Secretary's Office, Lahore
- VIII. The Additional Secretary (Coordination), Chief Minister Office, Lahore.
- IX. The Chief Environment & Climate Change, P&D Board, Lahore
- X. PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D
- XI. PSO to Provincial Police Office/ IGP, Punjab
- XII. The Additional Director General (Ops & Imp), EPA Punjab
- XIII. The focal person concerned.
- XIV. The Deputy /Assistant Directors (Field), EPA, Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Multan
- XV. PA to Director General EPA Punjab

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