



## Now, Delhi plans November rain to breathe easy

Clearing the air: An anti-smog gun sprays water droplets to curb air pollution in the national capital on Wednesday. - **Photo:** Sushil Kumar Verma

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Reeling from noxious air, the national capital would now be attempting to induce artificial rain to tackle the rising pollution levels.

Announcing this on Wednesday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said he met experts from IIT Kanpur to explore the possibility of cloud seeding for rain, and the cloudy weather forecast for November 20-21 could provide an opportune time to execute the plan. Cloud seeding has been attempted earlier in other parts of the country as well, including Maharashtra.

The Delhi government, he said, will receive a detailed proposal from the institute that would be submitted to the Supreme Court for its go-ahead. Mr. Rai also cleared the confusion over the implementation of the 'odd-even' or vehicle-rationing scheme, saying the government would submit two case studies to the court for its perusal and nod for roll-out.

Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, in a post on X, also referred to the meeting with experts from IIT Kanpur. "... Enquired about the effectiveness of the technology and asked them to submit a concrete proposal," he said.

### Equipment ready

“We have an aircraft and cloud seeding equipment, and our team has been closely monitoring the cloud situation,” said Professor Sachchida Nand Tripathi, member, steering and monitoring committee, National Clean Air Programme, IIT Kanpur.

While proposing the plan to the Supreme Court on Friday, the AAP government intends to request for cooperation from the Centre through the court.

On the odd-even scheme, Mr. Rai said the government would be submitting studies from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago and the Delhi Technological University regarding the scheme’s effectiveness.

The Supreme Court had on Tuesday called the Delhi government’s efforts as “all optics” and wondered if the odd-even scheme curbed vehicular pollution in the past. The top court has asked the government to look at short-term steps to mitigate the situation on an immediate basis.

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