



## **TERI welcomes SC's move to restrict sale of firecrackers in Delhi/NCR**

### **Press release**

**New Delhi, 10 October 2017:** The Energy and Resources Institute welcomes the restriction by Supreme Court on the sale of firecrackers in Delhi/NCR. "This will play a crucial role in regulating air pollution in the region and reduce the impact on human health. The ban would ensure that the levels of air pollutants do not reach as high a limit as they did last year around Diwali. With meteorological conditions not being favourable for dispersing dust and particulate matter in a short interval, the regulation is a step in the right direction," said **Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, TERI.**

Last year around Diwali, Delhi/NCR experienced an alarming increase in the level of pollutants which led to deteriorated air quality for a period of about 10 days, in which cracker bursting was one of the contributors along with other sources of pollution and adverse meteorological conditions. TERI had even submitted a 10-point Emergency Response Plan to the Delhi government and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to manage the health crisis ([Read full report here](#)).

**Mr Sumit Sharma, Associate Director, TERI** commented, "We must support this move and try to celebrate this Diwali in a greener way by not bursting crackers which cause both air and noise pollution. The move will certainly lead to lesser pollution levels, especially during the days after Diwali. However, for effective control of air pollution in the city, stringent measures are required for other major sources, which emit toxic pollutants all round the year."

Exposure to PM2.5 and other heavy metal residues in the air can lead to various respiratory diseases that could be of a cancerous nature. The ban by the Supreme Court would ensure that unlike previous years Delhi does not gasp for clean air after Diwali, and those suffering from respiratory diseases do not have to consider leaving the city during this time.

In this regard, we can draw some examples from other countries as in some States of US, where cracker burning is generally restricted and only regulated community celebrations are allowed on certain occasions like 4th of July.

**About TERI**

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a leading think tank dedicated to conducting research for sustainable development of India and the Global South. TERI was established in 1974 as an information centre on energy issues. Over the decades, it has made a mark as a research institute, whose policy and technology solutions have transformed people's lives and the environment.

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