



## Odd-Even Rule Cleaning up Delhi's Air?

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**ABSTRACT:** Delhi, the national capital of the country is known for its monuments, food, culture, traditions, history, educational institutions, markets, shopping, entertainment, transport hub, politics, religion, etc. got a new label of “one of the most polluted cities” in the world after the WHO’s report of 2015. According to report Delhi had the world’s deadliest air and its pollution levels were 10 times higher than the WHO’s limits especially the concentration of PM 2.5. After getting the new title for the city, odd-even rule came to rescue basically it was an initiative taken by the Delhi government to bring down the levels of pollutants by limiting vehicular emissions. Looking at the success of such an initiative in countries like Rome, France and especially in Beijing during the 2008 Olympics, the Delhi government too got inspired and adopted this policy and even made the people of Delhi adopt it. According to this rule, all the private vehicles (including all two-wheelers and four-wheelers) will only be allowed to run on the roads of Delhi according to their registration numbers. For example if a vehicle’s registration no. ends with an odd digit it will run on the road on odd day and vice versa for even. The odd- even rule or scheme was adopted and implemented twice in Delhi once during winter’s (1<sup>st</sup> January, 2015-15<sup>th</sup> January, 2015) and once in summer’s (15<sup>th</sup> April, 2015-30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015) for a span of fifteen days and its impacts on the air quality of the city were observed. It was implemented twice to see the impact of the scheme on air pollution in both the seasons even the problems that were faced during the phase I were found a solution and further the effect on air quality was judged. In this paper the two phases of the scheme are studied, compared and evaluated thoroughly. Even the pre, post and during the scheme air quality for the 8 different areas where the stations of different pollution control boards are present was studied. A comparison with other countries where such initiative has been taken is done. Further analysis shows that the scheme is not a long run strategy since it reduces the concentration of one pollutant at a time by certain levels not all. © 2016 iGlobal Research and Publishing Foundation. All rights reserved.

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