



Press Release

Launched: Low Emission Zones Basics, India's first step-by-step planning guide on LEZs

14 November 2024

ITDP India launched its flagship publication, *Low Emission Zone Basics*, on Thursday, during a webinar attended by esteemed experts, including Shashi Verma, Chief Technology Officer, Transport for London (TfL); Dr. Anju Goel, Associate Director at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); Parin Visariya, Deputy Manager at ITDP India; Dr. Sandra Wappelhorst, Senior Researcher at The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), Berlin; Sree Kumar Kumaraswamy, Program Director at World Resources Institute (WRI); and Dr. Vivek Vaidyanathan, Program Manager at Artha Global.

The illustrated *Low Emission Zone Basics* guide provides step-by-step guidance to help Indian cities implement Low Emission Zones (LEZs) effectively. Following the launch, an engaging panel discussion explored the role of national and state governments in establishing LEZs across Indian cities.

*In his keynote address, **Shashi Verma, Chief Technology Officer, TfL**, highlighted the importance of government support, saying, "The need of the hour is for the Government of India, to have an enabling legal framework in place which can then be easily used to implement LEZs. The second thing that Central government can invest in is better collection and dissemination of data and research on the sources of pollution. To date, the public debate around pollution is clouded in fog with some suggesting it is because of Diwali and some suggesting it is because of crop burning, which is fundamentally not true. Air pollution in Gangetic plains is far more complex and getting better evidence is something central government can work on."*

*Spotlighting the need for cities to consider LEZs, **Aswathy Dilip, Managing Director ITDP India** said, "Internationally, LEZs have proven effective in lowering vehicle emissions which is a pressing need of the hour in India. To this end, we've developed the *LEZ Basics*, an illustrative, step-by-step practical guide shaped by our work on developing LEZ strategies in Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune, and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. This accessible publication offers city administrations and stakeholders a clear roadmap for initiating LEZs in their contexts, empowering them with a straightforward approach to cleaner, healthier urban environments."*

Key contents of Low Emission Zones Basics

- **Comprehensive Step by Step Guide:** The publication outlines a step-by-step process for implementing LEZs, including identifying priority locations, developing a vehicle restriction strategy, including complementary interventions, figuring the best enforcement methodology etc.
- **Emission Estimation:** The publication details the methodology to estimate tailpipe emissions from various vehicle types in your city in order to identify the highly polluting vehicles.
- **LEZ Types:** The publication provides a practical comparison of ‘priced’ versus ‘non-priced’ LEZs, allowing cities to choose an approach that aligns with their unique needs and context.
- **Public Outreach Strategies:** The publication provides recommendations on how cities can go about building support for LEZs through community engagement and outreach.

What are LEZs:

LEZs are designated areas or pan city initiatives that restrict highly **polluting vehicles within their boundaries** to improve air quality, benefiting public health and accelerating a shift to cleaner transport options. LEZs provide an opportunity to improve public transport and non-motorised transport facilities in the city like footpaths and cycle tracks. This also helps in addressing issues such as congestion and lack of road safety.

As per ITDP India and ICCT’s 2023 survey of about 5000+ vehicles in Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune, and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, we observed that the use of pre BS-6 vehicles (mainly BS-3 and 4) is as high as 65-70% of all vehicles surveyed. These vehicle categories (pre BS-6) are highly polluting. Further, close to 90% of the total particulate matter (PM) emissions from road transport comes from two-wheelers, light motor vehicles, and light and heavy goods vehicles.

As per Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways, one pre-BS car pollutes as good as 11 BS-6 cars, and one pre-BS truck pollutes equal to 14 BS-6 trucks. It’s high time that we restrict the use of high polluting vehicles for better public health.

The impact of LEZs:

This publication comes at a pivotal time, as India faces yet another winter marked by severe air pollution. As of November 14, India’s national capital- Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) has been in the ‘Very Poor’ category for over two weeks, with vehicular emissions identified as a major contributor.

ITDP India in fact has been working with Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune, and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, for over a year in developing LEZ plans and supporting them with implementation. **As per the estimates from the latest ICCT estimates, we could achieve 79% reduction in PM emissions if**

BS-2,3,4 vehicles were gradually to shift to BS-6 vehicles (from 2026-2030) in Pimpri Chinchwad.

*“LEZs can be a powerful tool to fast-track the reduction in transport emissions. LEZ is a diet plan for a city’s transport system, where harmful vehicles are flushed out, and healthier transport modes become the norm,” said **Parin Visariya, Deputy Manager, ITDP India.***

To watch the insightful points shared by various experts, check out our [Youtube Live stream](#)

Access the entire publication, [here](#)

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About ITDP India:

The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) works with cities in India to create healthy and liveable communities through high-quality public transport including e-mobility, safe spaces for walking & cycling, traffic reduction mechanisms, and people-centered policies. We believe that shifting from single-occupancy private cars to high-capacity public transport and zero-carbon modes such as walking and cycling, would drastically cut emissions, reduce traffic congestion, and better connect low-income communities to the opportunities and resources they need. The team at ITDP India includes architects, urban planners, researchers, and e-mobility & transport experts, all of whom are committed to making visible, on-the-ground improvements by providing cities with technical expertise, policy solutions, research publications, and training programmes.