



Toxics Link
An NGO for Environmental Health



On the edge

Potential Hotspots in Delhi

Priti Mahesh, Toxics Link

Capital City

- Largest urban agglomeration in India by land area and population
- Home to more than 16 million
- Huge migration- lakhs of people from across the country



But what is it offering to its citizens???

Delhi

- Delhi -most polluted city in the world (air quality)
- Air pollution causes the death of about 10,500 people in Delhi every year
- Increase in respiratory and other pollution related diseases
- Health impacts from prolonged exposure to environmental pollution

One of the key factors...

- Delhi major industrial hub
 - No. of industries in 2001 – 1.29 lac
 - No. of employees – 14.4 lac
- Unsustainable migration leading to
 - Availability of cheap labour force
 - Increase in Informal business
- Unplanned industrial activity
- Recycling hub
- Industrial pollution leading air, water and soil contamination
- Waste concerns
- Inadequate surveillance
- Deteriorating environmental conditions

Creating Potential Hotspots??

Search for Potential Hotspots...

- 51 sites were shortlisted and assessed
- Factors considered
 - Industrial Process
 - Use of Chemicals
 - Discharge and Emissions (Air/Water/Soil)
 - Disposal Technique
 - Occupational Health and Safety
- Based on field survey and interviews
- Mix of authorized and non authorized industrial areas

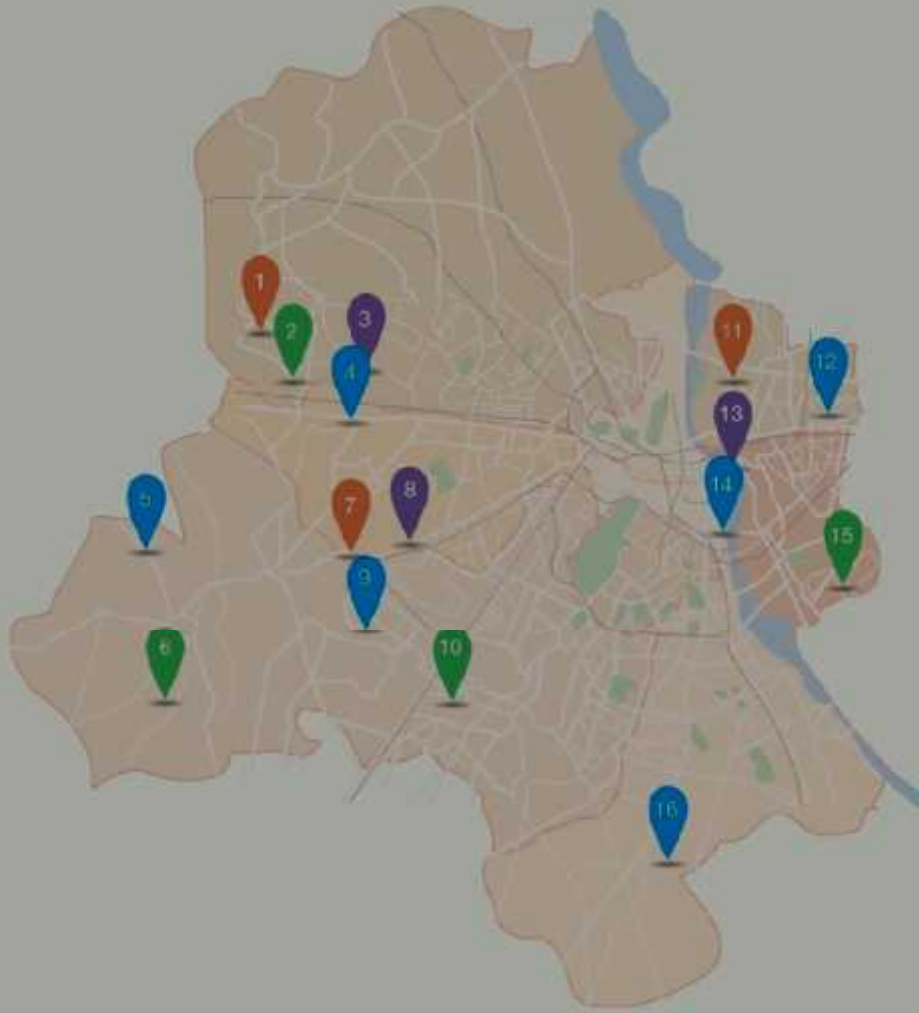
Shocking or Expected?











Unaccepted Realities

- 18 probable hotspots
- More than 7000 units located in these area
- Around 1.5 lakh employed
- Spread
- Violation of Land use norms
- Illegal operations

Right in our Backyard....

 Lead Acid Battery	 Pickling	 Dyeing	 Landfill
 E-waste	 CFL Recycling	 Metal Scrap	
 CRT	 Furnace Operation	 Automobile Scrap	



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Saraypur  | 7. Moti Nagar  | 13. Old Silampur & Shastri Park    |
| 2. Badli  | 8. Anand Parbat  | 14. Yamuna Vihar and Gokulpuri  |
| 3. Libaspur  | 9. Wazirpur  | 15. Ghazipur  |
| 4. Bhalswa  | 10. Mayapuri    | 16. Okhla  |
| 5. Ranhola Village  | 11. Mustafabad   | |
| 6. Najafgarh  | 12. Mandoli  | |

Industrial operations

- Operational in residential colonies or villages
- Hazardous processes
- Careless use of chemicals
- Open burning and dumping of waste or spent chemicals
- Zero environmental norms
- Air, water and soil contamination
- Vulnerable population employed
- No occupational & health safety measures
- Low wages

Banned



Lead Acid Battery



E-waste handling



Pickling and Furnace

Lurking threats?

- CFL recycling and refurbishing
- Dyeing
- Metal Scrap industry
- Plastic extrusion



Leaded air

Prem Nagar

- Lead Acid Battery recycling
- More than 100 units in the area
- Crude furnaces to recover the metal
- Lead plates melted...no control on toxic fumes and ash
- Workers with no PPE
- Proximity to residential area

Acidic in Nature

A person is silhouetted against a bright, glowing light source, likely a furnace or a large industrial tank. The person is holding a long pole or tool, possibly for stirring or sampling. The overall scene is hazy and industrial, suggesting a hazardous work environment.

Wazirpur

- One of the dirtiest area
- More than 1000 units
- Pickling is the main business
- Concentrated acids used in operation
- Unventilated spaces- acid fumes, breathing problems
- Low quality PPE

Light from a dark corner

Moti Nagar

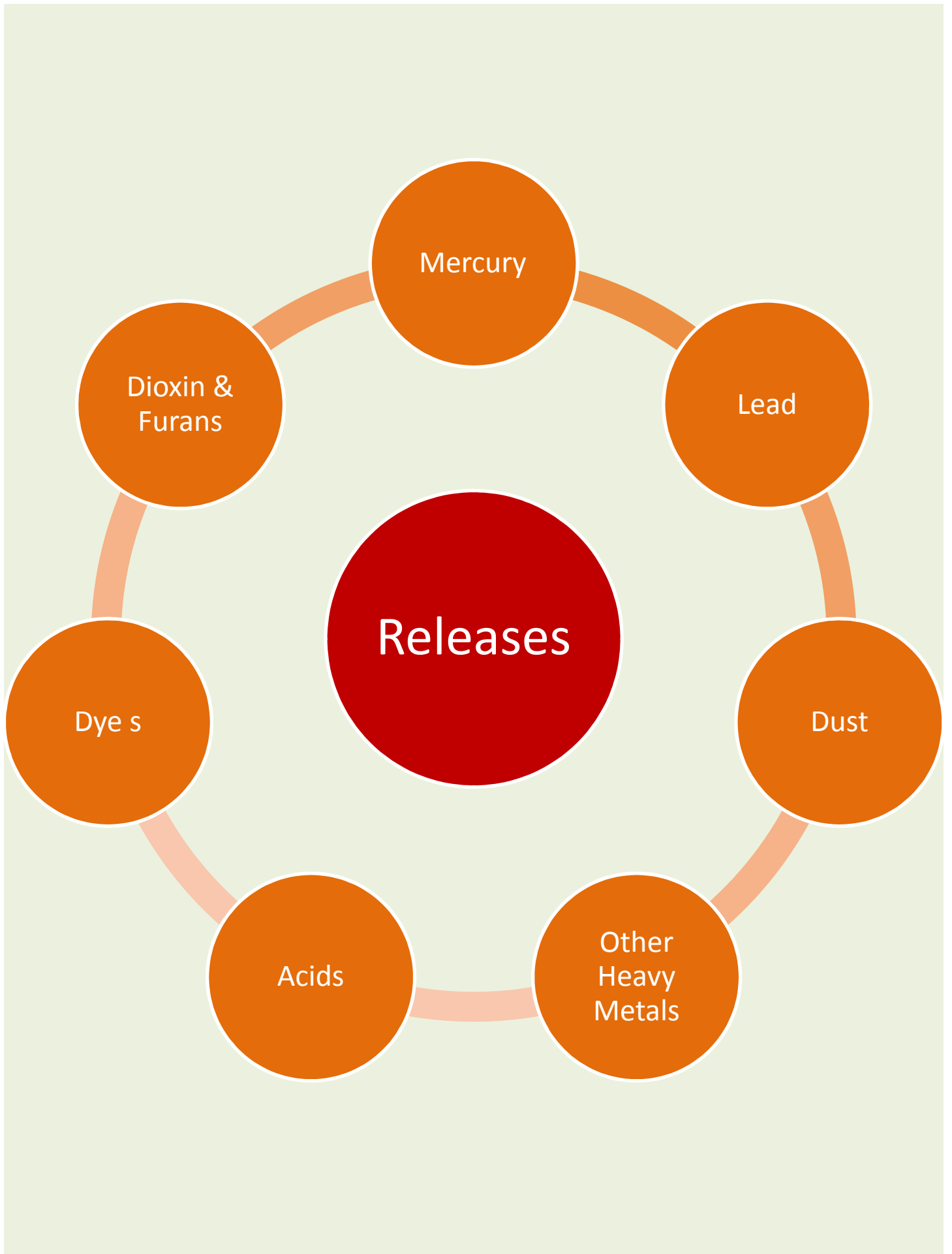
- CFL assembly and reassembly
- More than 1000 units
- Residential area- household industry
- Women and children employed
- Breakage- concerns on mercury release
- Dumping with MSW



Picture this!

Old Seelampur, Shastri Park, Gokulpuri...

- E-waste dismantling and handling
- CRT regunning
- More than 500 units
- Women and teenage boys employed
- Blow torch- lead fumes
- Non- recyclables dumped
- Residential



Waste Unlimited

- 3 landfills
- Overburdened
- No leachate collection system- leading to Groundwater contamination
- Ragpickers scavenging through waste- inhuman conditions
- 16 Closed landfill sites- Tests, Remediation?
- GHGs



Concerns from Past

- Fly ash dumping sites in Delhi – Buradi, Sarai Kale Khan, Millennium Bus depot etc.
- Chemical Market
- Yamuna
- Historical or legacy sites
 - Brick kiln
 - Stone crushing: Badapur, Lalkuan etc.
 - Chemical manufacturing: Zakhira
 - Cement manufacturing unit: Okhla
- No study on contamination levels
- No remediation action taken

Open secret

- Operations increasing
- Spreading to neighbouring areas
- No action

Lack of Planning/ Lack of
Resources/Corruption???

Hurdles

- Not much work in this area
- Many hidden locations- hard to find information
- Unit owners and workers not willing to share information or concerns
- Formal industrial areas and association not forthcoming

Many Delhis

- Air pollution is now the fifth largest killer in India, findings of Global Burden of Disease report
- Many other cities and towns ON THE EDGE