

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2022

**TOWARDS A RESILIENT PLANET:
ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE**

February 16-18, 2022



“Evidence based action planning to achieve clean air”

16th February 2022 and Time: 3:30pm -5.00 pm (IST) | Duration: 90 minutes

Background note

The introduction of any substance(s) into the troposphere that is harmful to humans and other living beings or causes damage to the climate or materials is known as ambient air pollution. In 2019, air pollution was the 4th leading risk factor for premature deaths globally, surpassed by high blood pressure, tobacco use, and poor diet (SOGA 2020). According to the Global Burden Disease study, 1.7 million deaths were attributable to air pollution in India during 2019. Also, as per the World Air Quality Report (2020), twenty-two of the world's 30 most polluted cities are in India. Air pollution is one of the major concerns in fast-growing economies like India due to dynamically changing energy scenarios, increased fossil fuel consumption, and rapid urbanization. Air pollution has raised alarming concerns due to its immense impact on health, buildings/monuments, agriculture productivity, and climate change. To tackle burgeoning level of air pollution in the country, Government of India has launched the National Clean Air Action Plan (NCAP) on 10th January 2019 with a target of 20%-30% reduction of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration by 2024 considering 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration. In NCAP, 132 non-attainment cities had been identified across India which has consistently violated national ambient air quality standard for PM₁₀ for five years. One of the objectives of NCAP is to develop scientifically backed city specific clean air action plans for non-attainment cities.

Surat and Bangalore are identified as two of the non-attainment cities of Gujarat and Karnataka, respectively. TERI and WRI had developed a clean air action plan for Surat and CSTEP has developed a plan for Bangalore on the basis of the source apportionment study. In this context, a thematic event titled **“Evidence based action planning to achieve clean air”** is being organized at the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) event 2022 with the following objectives:

Objective 1: Which are the key low-hanging interventions for immediate and medium term air quality gains?

Objectives 2 : What are the major challenges faced by the regulatory agencies ?

Objective 3: What are learnings which can be used to effectively manage the air quality in similar Indian cities?

Objective 4: What are the learnings from the experiences of other countries and cities in tackling the problem of air quality?

The event will host stakeholders with national and international experiences on air quality management including representatives from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Gujarat pollution control board, Surat Municipal Corporation, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, and Bihar State Pollution Control Board.

The Thematic event will be organized in two sessions. The first session findings of the studies will be shared and reports will be launched. The second session will host a panel of experts, discussing the current gaps and limitations in air quality management plan different Indian cities, key interventions to be focussed for improvement in air quality in medium and short term, and learning from other Indian and international cities that can be applied in Surat and Bangalore.

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