

## HOW BAD IS DELHI'S AIR?

According to the World Health Organization, 92% of the world's population is breathing air so toxic that it is killing 3 million people every year.

Many of these deaths occur in low- and middle income countries in Asia which have seen a rapid urban expansion, industrial activity and increasing in car use. Today, Asia is home to sixteen of the world's megacities, with population exceeding, more than 10 million people.

The booming Indian metropolis of New Delhi is no stranger to a grey smog filled sky. In October 2016 the New Delhi air quality index, used by government to communicate the state of air quality, peaked at 999 – the safe limit for health is 150. This has some commuters declaring New Delhi to be the most polluted city of earth. Although, such a title is an oversimplification of the situation and is can be inaccurate and misleading.

In India while air pollution is becoming an issues for discussion this is limited to the educated, elite and city public. Even among these sections, people have a tendency to see themselves as being only the victims of poor air quality rather than as contributors to the problem.

In 2017, Clean Air Asia (CAA), undertook a survey on how residents of New Delhi perceive air pollution. Together with volunteers from CAA's Youth for Clean Air Network and officials from some embassies in New Delhi, 1,500 residents from five areas of the city were questioned on about air pollution through a structured questionnaire that had questions on sources, solutions and policy.

Unsurprisingly, air pollution emerged as a main concern compared to other types of pollution with 40% of respondents feeling air quality had declined in the past year. People also related the impact of bad air to their health and acknowledged that they were victim of breathlessness and respiratory disorders. On sources, the immediate response of majority respondents was vehicles with burning of solid waste coming a close second.

The government of New Delhi had earlier an odd-even scheme to restrict car use. This allowed for odd and even number cars to ply on alternate days of the week to restrict the flow of traffic on the roads between 8 am and 8 pm, except on Sundays Fines were imposed on drivers who ignored the ban. Interestingly while 68% of residents identified this as a policy action to address air pollution, many felt such an initiative was failing to make a difference. This was also because the scheme was tried as a trial run for a very short period of time of 30 days.

Despite Indian launching a national air quality index in 2014, 74% of respondents were unaware that they could have access to air quality data. Those that did relied on mobile phone apps and the internet to access information on air quality.

When it came to taking action to improve air quality in the city, 23% of respondents favoured banning polluting vehicle followed by using alternative CNG fuelled vehicles (17%). Although people were eager to take action, they were unaware of what needs to be done, beyond using public transport and planting a trees (27%). It was interesting that people did not relate reducing pollution to issues like crop burning in the neighbouring states.

Many respondents complained of polluting vehicles and their increased number as a source of air pollution. Very few were aware of the impact of waste burning and transboundary issues. Although crop burning is illegal in India, it is still practicable. October and November is peak burning seas in neighbouring Punjab with agricultural fires being responsible for the winter smog in New Delhi.

In response to the survey, Clean Air Asia developed the VAYU App to inform citizens about the state of air quality in New Delhi and across another 37 Indian cities, to highlight actions individuals can take to protect their health.

VAYU means air in Hindi, stands for Value Air You Use. As well as informing people about the air quality, it also has a pledge component that promotes them to take action for better air.

If New Delhi and other cities in are to tackle the scourge of air pollution, further effort is needed to increase public awareness of the causes of air pollution and measures to take to protect health during pollution episodes. More importantly, we all need to recognise that were are all polluters and the fundamentally the decisions we make every day can directly or indirectly affect the air we breathe.



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### CAA AT NEWSX-SUNDAY GUARDIAN'S GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT CONCLAVE

CAA was invited to speak at the 'Global Environment Conclave on Environment, Ecology and Wildlife' organized by The Sunday Guardian in association with NewsX on June 25, 2018 at Taj Diplomatic Enclave in, New Delhi. The theme for the international conclave was 'An Integrated Vision for Sustainability-Agenda 2030', focussing on the collective action of all stakeholders in the area of conservation of environment, ecosystem and wildlife.

Organised by The Sunday Guardian and NewsX India's fastest growing news and infotainment network with multiple interests in print, electronic and digital media, the conclave saw the presence of several political leaders, experts and corporates. CAA India Director, Parthana Borah spoke about the need for integrating air pollution at the initial stages of development planning strategy. She said that that while it is important to look at air pollution and other environmental issues from a regulatory perspective it is also necessary to make it a part of the development agenda, integrating issues like economic benefits of clean air. The panel comprised Dr Bhure Lal, Chairman EPCA who emphasised the need for public engagement to increase the demand for clean air and Nila Madhav Panda, eminent film maker and director of the acclaimed film on climate change- Kadwi Hawa.

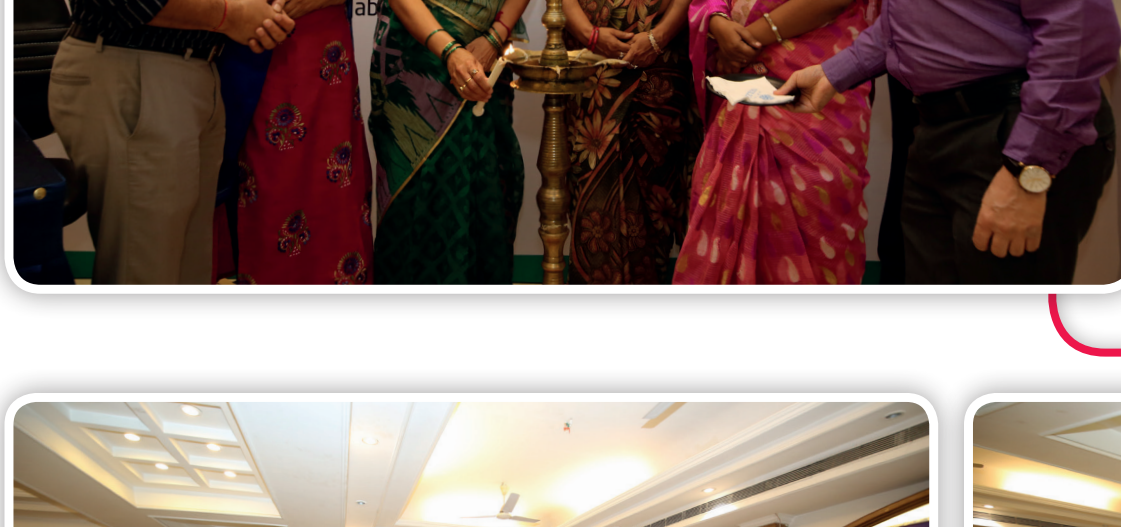


### CAA BRINGS AIR QUALITY DISCUSSIONS TO WORKSHOP ON SAFE AND HEALTHY JOURNEYS TO SCHOOL ORGANISED BY UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and the United Nations Environment Programme organized "A Safe and Healthy Journey to School for Every Child: Workshop on Child Road Traffic Injury Prevention in East Asia and the Pacific". Clean Air Asia was invited to explore ways of integrating the issue of air quality in this context. Parthana Borah, India Director, CAA attended this two day workshop and presented on the need for training children as a champions for promoting better air quality.

The meeting was held with support from FIA Foundation, UNICEF headquarters, the World Health Organization and NGOs specializing in air pollution and road safety matters. The main themes of the workshop were child road traffic injury prevention and improving air quality through implementation of global best practices, e.g. low carbon mobility. Participants in the meeting included representatives of governments in the region, non-governmental organizations, academia and UNICEF country offices in Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The regional workshop was organized in the framework of global Child Road Traffic Injury Prevention Programme implemented by UNICEF with support from the FIA Foundation.

During the workshop the participants reviewed proposals for a priority action framework and a practitioner's network to continue the joint work on air quality and road safety for children's health and wellbeing. Following the conclusion of the two-day workshop, global and regional partners met to discuss next steps to operationalize a network for joint work on road safety and clean air under the Child Health Initiative.



### CITY CONSULTATION WORKSHOP- JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH



**"After being ranked 7th smart city in the country and 1st in the state, commitment of Jabalpur towards minimizing air pollution level also increases. The vehicles in the city should use CNG and vehicles older than 15 years should be banned by state pollution control board and administration for the betterment of city residents. CNG or battery-operated vehicles should be used for public transportation so that the air pollution can be minimized."** – Dr. (Ms) Swati Godbole, Mayor Municipal Corporation Jabalpur

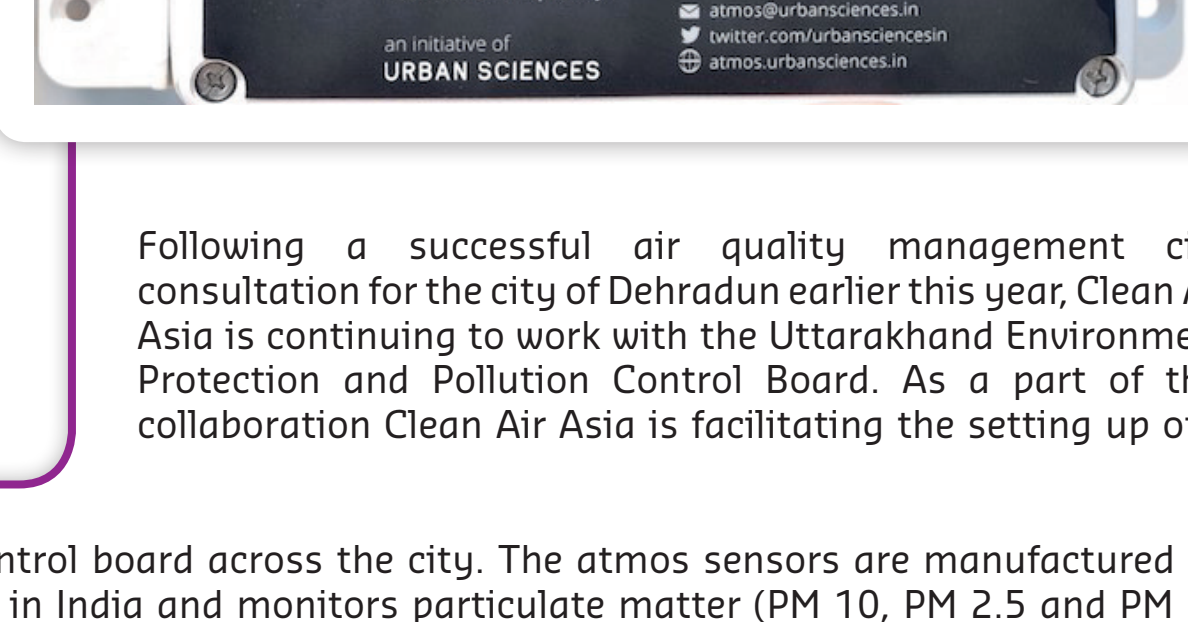
A City Consultation Workshop on Bridging the Knowledge Gap was organized in Jabalpur on 25th of July. The workshop was supported by Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation and was jointly organized with Smart City Jabalpur Limited, Municipal Corporation Jabalpur, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and Regional State Pollution Control Board Jabalpur.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Mayor of Jabalpur Dr. (Ms) Swati Godbole and Chandramauli Shukla, Municipal Commissioner and Executive

Director, Jabalpur Smart City Ltd. The workshop was attended by 41 participants who came from different sectors like smart cities, pollution control board, municipal corporation, NGO's, local representatives and industries.

Presentations were made by Clean Air Asia, IIT Delhi, NIUA, Municipal Corporation and State Pollution Control Board. The presentations focused on air quality status in Jabalpur and its impacts on human health. State Pollution Control Board presented the air quality monitoring data of Jabalpur and suggested some actions for betterment of air quality in the city. Municipal Corporation presented the initiatives taken as part of smart cities mission in Jabalpur which directly address air quality. CAA presented its CAST study findings and cities clean air certification while IIT Delhi presented air quality data and its impact on human health. Presenters from NIUA focused on child friendly cities and why environment should be at the centre of city planning. The presenters focused on how the city can be made environmentally smart and liveable by taking actions to manage air quality in the city.

### CLEAN AIR ASIA FACILITATES SETTING UP OF AIR QUALITY SENSORS WITH THE UPPCB



Following a successful air quality management city consultation for the city of Dehradun earlier this year, Clean Air Asia is continuing to work with the Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board. As a part of this collaboration Clean Air Asia is facilitating the setting up of 5

atmos sensors with the pollution control board across the city. The atmos sensors are manufactured by team Urban sciences which is based in India and monitors particulate matter (PM 10, PM 2.5 and PM 1).

Dehradun currently only has manual monitoring stations so this addition of continuous monitoring devices in the city will aid in mapping air quality in real time and hence issuing health advisories to inhabitants of the city.

### CAA IN THE MEDIA

#### Efforts must be initiated to check growing air pollution: Mayor Godbole

**■ Staff Reporter**  
"Air pollution is serious threat for human beings and for our society. We need to take immediate steps to check the growing problem of pollution before it is too late," said IAS Mayor Dr. Swati Godbole while addressing a workshop on Air Quality Management held on Wednesday.

Addressing the gathering further said under the smart city mission Jabalpur has attained seventh position in country and first in Madhya Pradesh. Therefore the responsibility of IAS Mayor has many fold to initiate optimal efforts to bring down the fast rising air pollution. She expressed concern on excessive concrete construction being made along with excessive use of vehicles in the city which is escalating problem of air pollution. Besides the rampant felling of trees has

been main cause behind the increasing pollution. She expressed her concern on growing pollution in the water of the city. She said that the efforts will have to be initiated to check the growing pollution in the water of the city. On the issue of pollution arising out of vehicles she said vehicles having completed life of 15 years must be stopped by the MP Pollution control board and district administration. CNG vehicles must be promoted to bring pollution con-



IAS Mayor Dr. Swati Godbole addressing a workshop on Air Quality Management held on Wednesday.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**YCAN Video Challenge**

Clean Air Asia & Embassy of The United States of America

Present

**Air In Your City- A Challenge or An Opportunity?**

**A Youth Clean Air Network Video Challenge**

To know more about the video challenge, click on the link:  
[www.youthforcleanair.com](http://www.youthforcleanair.com)



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