



CLEAN AIR ASIA IN INDIA

From the India
Director's Desk



Prarthana Borah
India, Director

REDEFINING
CLEAN AIR
STRATEGIES
FOR A POST
LOCKDOWN
SCENARIO >

The economic lockdown to contain COVID-19 brought unexpected relief from poor air quality. Reports and photographs of clear blue skies have emerged from across the country. Our assessment of data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee showed amazing new baselines. For instance there were days like 28th March, 2020 (Figure 1) when the AQI fell below 50. Similarly, a comparative analysis of key pollutant levels for 2019 vis a vis a locked down 2020 (Figure 2) shows a visibly lower variation in concentration.



Figure 1

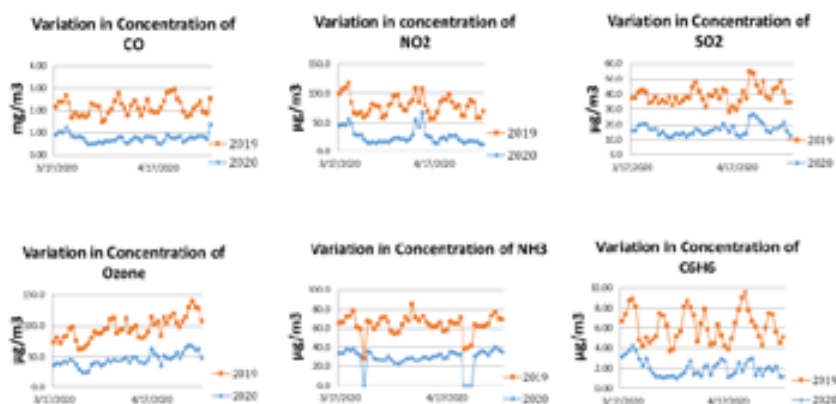


Figure 2

One of the questions we asked ourselves was how do we continue to retain the blue skies considering, as cities opened up, the AQI was already beginning to decline.

For us capacity building has been our forte for many years and it has been a pleasure to support the National Clean Air Programme to create adapted versions of our Train for Clean Air modules. We are excited to complete these modules and use these effectively to help those working in the space to improve understanding of the key components required to develop a programme to manage urban air pollution and to achieve better air quality. We hope that many of our friends in the Clean Air Space working in cities will give us an opportunity to use this material to improve Air Quality Management Skills of the policy makers and officials. We are also very proud to have been part of the process of deliberations of integrating air quality as part of the second phase of the Climate Smart Cities Framework of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). We hope to be able to build capacity of the smart cities to measure air quality, track progress and perform on ground clean air action. Considering that cities will need to make major changes in mobility and accessibility patterns in a post COVID environment to adapt to the new normal, we feel that air quality issues need to be discussed more so now, in the context of how we are designing our cities and our work with the MoHUA is a step in that direction.

Our work over the last two years on assessing technology- both pollution abatement and mitigation has led to the preparation of a Technology Policy Brief. The lockdown has pushed the economy behind to the extent that we can anticipate a rush to recovery where clean energy choices and clean technology will be crucial decisions that will need to be taken. To support this process, we decided to extend our Clean Tech work to the specific needs of the small and medium scale sector and are partnering with the Confederation of Indian Industry to prepare a strategy for this.

In the past months we have conducted deliberations on this area and are also in the process of preparing a Policy Brief specifically for the sector.

We continue to work with youth having completed a Hackathon to select innovative technology solutions for clean air and hope to pilot a few of these in our cities. Our youth air quality monitors are also engaged in a clean air action strategy around the hot spots of Delhi which again looks at sector specific interventions in a few of these areas.

We will continue to re-align our work to meet the needs of the new normal and engage with cities to inform for policy, build capacity and engage for air action. We hope you enjoy reading about our work during the lockdown.

Stay Safe. Stay Well



POLICY BRIEF ON “ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER



Clean Air Asia India, under the Integrated Programme for Better Air Quality in Asia (IBAQ Programme) supported by the Ministry of Environment, Japan (MoEJ) has been involved in facilitating dialogues to identify air pollution abatement and mitigation technology for cities.

Towards this CAA in India held consultations in various locations like Agra, Nagpur, New Delhi, Panjim and Kochi over a period of two years to discuss opportunities and challenges with technology providers and city officials.

The discussions were then summarised in the form of a policy brief. This outcome document has been peer reviewed at a meeting of experts from the technology, innovation and air quality space. The policy brief is available on:

www.cities4cleanair.com



AGENDA FOR POLLUTION FREE AGRA

In continuation of our work to strengthen the implementation strategy for clean air action in Agra, Clean Air Asia organised the partner's meeting to discuss the "Agenda for Pollution Free Agra" in February, 2020.

The meeting was led by Atul Bagai, Country Head of UNEP India and Clean Air Asia. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP was also

present along with the Municipal Commissioner of Agra city, members of the State Pollution Control Board, and representatives from partner organisations like WHO, IIEC and IIT Kanpur.

As an outcome of the meeting Clean Air Asia is working on a sector specific implementation strategy for clean air action in Agra.



CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME ON AIR QUALITY MONITORING FOR NON-ATTAINMENT CITIES OF MADHYA PRADESH

As part of our flagship programme, Integrated Programme for Better Air Quality in Asia (IBAQ Programme) supported by the Ministry of Environment, Japan (MoEJ) CAA in India, has been involved in conducting training programmes in non-attainment cities of India with focus on better Air Quality Management.

Taking this forward, CAA in partnership with the Department of Environment, Madhya Pradesh (MP), MP State Pollution Control Board and Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO) conducted a training programme for officials from the non-attainment cities (Indore, Dewas, Sagar, Ujjain, Gwalior) in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

The training program primarily focused on air quality monitoring technology, national and international standards and relevance to clean air action planning.

Resource persons from Asia Centre for Air Pollution Research (ACAP) conducted the training. ACAP a research Institution based in Japan, plays a key role in monitoring and researching acid deposition and air pollution in East Asia.



ROUNDTABLE ON INTEGRATING CLIMATE AND AIR ACTION

CAA in India conducted a Round Table on “Integrating Climate Action with Air Action” for city officials of non-attainment cities (Indore, Dewas, Sagar, Ujjain, Gwalior) in Bhopal, in partnership with the Department of Environment, Govt. of M.P., EPCO & State Knowledge Management Centre on Climate Change, MP. The workshop aimed to analyse co-benefits of improving air quality while combating climate change, identify best practices for climate mitigation and adaptation that also help reduce air pollution and identify strategies to capitalize the synergies between climate change and air pollution.

The workshop led to an outcome document for the departments that highlight the co-benefit of climate change and air pollution to stimulate discussion among relevant stakeholders.

The participants discussed the challenges and ways to integrate climate change with air action and explored existing case studies at national or international level to explore co-benefits of climate change and clean air action plan.



REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY IN A POST COVID SCENARIO

In association with Vidarbha Industries Association (VIA), CAA in India conducted two webinars. The first focussed on - 'Industrial Preparedness to Maintain Air Quality Amidst and Post Covid-19' was strategically held with the opening up of the lockdown and industries resuming operations. The second webinar deliberated on "Reducing Emissions by Sustainable Production" with special focus on medium and small scale enterprise.

The webinars were conducted to look at reduced emissions from industry especially with the national government's renewed focus on small and medium industry. The webinars also took the technology discussion generated by CAA forward and linked it to the post COVID scenario on industrial preparedness so that industries, while re-opening and getting back to work could also focus on reducing emissions to maintain the good air quality levels achieved during lockdown. Standard operating procedures,

recommendations, regulatory norms and specific interventions pertaining to the medium and small industry sector were discussed.

The diverse panels brought different aspects of sustainable production into discussion like energy conservation and optimization, financing, need of capacity building, regulatory framework, revival strategies and so on. Both webinars garnered a good response with over 100 participants.

As an outcome of the webinars CAA is in the process of preparing a specific technology report on air pollution abatement for small and medium industry.





NATURE HACK FOR CLEAN AIR



NATURE HACK FOR CLEAN AIR HACKATHON

The "Nature Hack for Clean Air" was a virtually organised event by Clean Air Asia India on World Environment Day. The Hackathon was organised to encourage youth to come up with innovative, nature-based solutions for clean air.

Over 700 participants registered for the event. The top 25 teams were shortlisted for the final presentation round on World Environment Day. Presentations were evaluated by a panel of experts on concept and creativity, impact, business potential and relevance.

WINNERS:



Shivam Bachhety- Air-Ninja- To build a novel algorithm to predict air pollution levels with state-of-art accuracy using machine learning.



Rajhrita Dutta- Air Map- A wrapper on google map that will help an user to take the path that has least air pollution.

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS:



Ujjwal Dwivedi & Vansh Gupta- *Smart traffic management at busy traffic light junctions across india using internet of things and artificial intelligence.*



Ms. Nelly Neha Reddy- *Exhaust monitoring in industries using IoT.*



YCAN IN NAGPUR



TRAIN FOR CLEAN AIR: YOUTH; ASSESS, ANALYSE, ACT FOR BLUE SKIES



PERCEPTION SURVEY CONDUCTED BY YOUTH MONITORS



SECOND CHANCE CHALLENGE



TO LEARN MORE OF OUR WORK, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.YOUTHFORCLEANAIR.COM

CLEAN AIR FOR HEALTHY PLAY

Clean Air Asia under the Clean Air: Healthy Space (CAHS) project has installed environmental sensors in two schools of Nagpur to study the ambient air quality. Data on PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ levels is publicly available on the CAHS website.

In addition, CAA completed a survey to gauge the perception levels following the data generation process as well as look into the health exposure of children on bad air days. The results are now in a recently released report.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES

www.cities4cleanair.com : The Clean Air Knowledge Network (CAKN) is a forum to discuss better air quality. A platform for sharing successful interventions by city governments to reduce air pollution. This website is a repository for all the documents, information, government policies and information specific to Indian cities.

www.youthforcleanair.com : Youth Clean Air Network is an initiative by Clean Air Asia, India. YCAN, a youth volunteer network is to achieve solutions for cleaner air in Indian cities. YCAN volunteers are from different academic backgrounds and work passionately for air quality issues.

www.cleanairhealthychildren.com : This platform has been created to involve schools, parents and teachers through education that can support initiatives to minimize hazardous exposure to air pollution.

Kids exposed to toxic air at school: Study

Monika Behl | TNM | Jul 5, 2020, 04:41 IST



Nagpur: Children's school time is rife with toxic air, reveals a latest scientific study.

Under its Schools for Clean Air Project, international non-governmental organization Clean Air Asia monitored air quality in two city schools for over a year to study the impact of air pollution on children.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/kids-exposed-to-toxic-air-at-school-study/articleshow/76791743.cms>

Bhubaneswar Commits To Clean Air For Health

OMMCOM NEWS | December 11, 2019

3 minute read



<https://ommcomnews.com/odisha-news/bhubaneswar-commits-to-clean-air-for-health>

Budget 2020: Experts And Citizens Call For Combating Air Pollution- A Public Health Threat

Budget 2020 expectations: From the upcoming budget, environmentalists, air pollution experts and other citizens expect an increase in budget allocation for consistent efforts towards curbing air pollution across the country.

Air Pollution, Features, News | Written By: **Barsha Marlow** | Edited By: **Sonia Shukla** | April 15, 2020 5:08 PM | 14 0



<https://swachhindia.ndtv.com/experts-call-for-combating-air-pollution-top-priority-in-union-budget-2020-41300/?fbclid=IwAR0I4zUZTr9YIm8EDwJo9I3DR-XmNt-C6GhngqOccAyBZtTfNFA2RI-3fbRc>

A Brave New World: Building Back Better from COVID-19



<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/perspective/a-brave-new-world.aspx>

Reducing Emissions by Sustainable Production: An opportunity for MSMEs to Clean Air Post COVID-19 Lockdown



<https://www.nagpurtoday.in/reducing-emissions-by-sustainable-production-an-opportunity-for-msmes-to-clean-air-post-covid-19-lockdown/06161350>



Breathe@47

Sunday 16 April 2020 | Shalin Sarason



Avoid the COVID-19 lockdown, rising cases and deaths, one thing that the citizens can take heart is the improved air quality index which is down to less than 50 in many parts of the country, a number that had stood at 222 a couple of months back in Delhi-NCR. SHALIN SARASON speaks with experts to tell you more

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/sunday-edition/breathe-47.html>

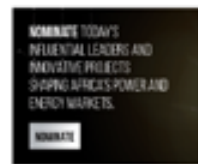
Op-ed: Bold action required to build back better for post-COVID-19

14 JUL 2020



Associated Images Group

COVID-19 is a human tragedy that has irreversibly impacted on the day-to-day lives of vast swathes of humanity. By early July 2020, almost 13 million cases of the disease had been reported globally and around 550,000 deaths attributed directly to the pandemic.

**MOST READ**

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Aug 10, 2020

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Aug 10, 2020

<https://www.esi-africa.com/industry-sectors/future-energy/op-ed-bold-action-required-to-build-back-better-for-post-covid-19/>

City part of global campaign to fight air pollution

Manika Bhoi | TNN | Dec 6, 2019, 05:04 IST



Nagpur: In a much-needed step, the city has officially joined the global campaign 'BreatheLife' which aims combating the increasing threat of air pollution.

On Thursday, the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) joined hands with the initiative launched by World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Environment and the

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/city-part-of-global-campaign-to-fight-air-pollution/articleshow/72391215.cms>

Last updated: 13th December, 2019 15:05 IST

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Joins 'BreatheLife' Campaign

In a bid to spread awareness about the need to check air pollution, Bhubaneswar city has joined 'BreatheLife' campaign

Written By Press Trust Of India



<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/city-news/bhubaneswar-municipal-corporation-joins-breathelife-campaign.html>

How Breathing in Indian Cities is Equivalent to Smoking Packs of Cigarettes in One Day


By Deepakshi Nand Patta - 29 January 2020 - TMC, India




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Breathing in Indian Cities is Equivalent to Smoking Multiple Cigarettes a Day
The Weather Channel takes a look at how the health impact of air pollution in India's major cities compares with that of smoking cigarettes.

<https://weather.com/en-IN/india/pollution/news/2020-01-29-how-breathing-indian-cities-equivalent-smoking-packs-cigarettes-day>

[illegible]

 **Cities for Clean Air**
@CitiesforCleanAir

Here we announce #Hackathon "Nature Hack For #CleanAir" on #WorldBioDiversityDay2020 @cleanairasia and @youthcleanairenetwork invite you to participate in an #onlinechallenge for #naturebasedsolutions on #WorldEnvironmentDay @UNEP

 **Nature Hack For Clean Air on HackathonEarth**
Clean Air Hack (CAH) is an international non-governmental organization, leading a challenge for better air ...
@hackathonearth

3:53 PM · May 23, 2020 · Twitter Web App

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"Role of [#technology](#) is important for [#cleanerproduction](#), [#onlinemonitoring](#) of the [#parameters](#) for [#emissioncontrol](#)"... Listen the thoughts of Mr. @AkhishKulkarni , Associate Partner at EY, on the same. [#airquality](#) [#COVID19](#)

 Industrial Preparedness post lockdown to maintain air quality. "Role of technology is important for cleaner production, online monitoring of the parameters for emission control"...
@facebook.com

12:55 PM · May 20, 2020 · Twitter Web App

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@CleanAirAsia

"Does the #Lockdown change the perspective on how the #Industries should operate as far as #Airquality is concerned" ... Look What Ms. Parthana Borah, India Director, #CleanAirAsia has to say on it.

 Industrial Preparedness for maintaining an quality good life...
"Does the lockdown change the perspective on how the industries should operate as far as air quality is concerned."
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Cities for Clean Air
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"DON'T RUSH", Take atleast 3-5 days to sanitize and clean your space". Listen what Prof. Mukesh Sharma from [IIT Kanpur](#) has to say on Preparedness of Industries [#postLockdown](#) to maintain [#airquality](#).



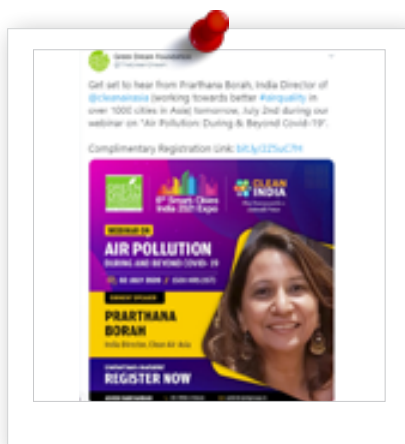
4:05 PM · May 16, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Insightful discussion on Webinar [#IndustrialPreparedness 2](#) Mtnair [#AirQuality](#) Amidst & Post [#COVID19](#) with grill Panel & 60 participants wld mag to [Wind](#), [HMSAs](#) to start afresh with preps and equipmnt checking, compliance check, sustblre resource mgmnt and adopting right [#technology](#)

Climatix India conducted #CapacityBuilding training program on #AQmonitoring #modelling #emissioninventory and Integrating #Climate & #Airaction for #stakeholders & officials of #northernmetrocities in #bhopal with support from #DepartmentofEnvironment #EPCO & #STKMACCC

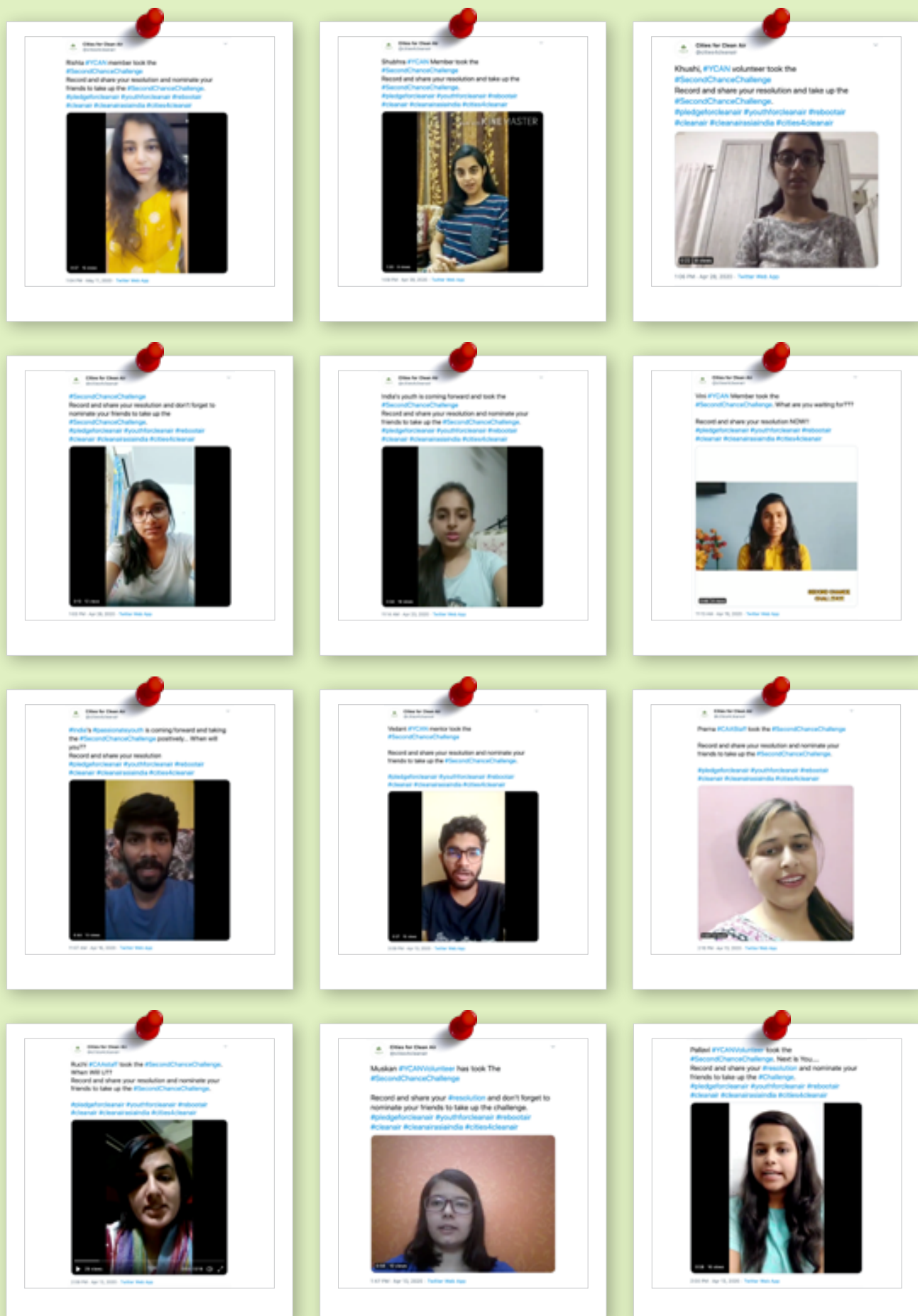


CAA REPRESENTATION:





YCAN EVENTS:





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