PGCA
Parliamentarians' Group for Clean Air

TRAINING MODULE

for Parliamentarians' Offices on
Sustainable Air Quality Management
Practices

Swaniti Global

About PGCA

In the year 2019, a few Hon’ble Members of Parliament (MPs) in the backdrop of rising levels of hazardous air pollution collaborated to identify themselves as the MPs for Clean Air, which later on consolidated as the Parliamentarians’ Group for Clean Air (PGCA). Since 2019, hon’ble members of this group have been leading efforts to promote clean air in Parliament, their respective constituencies, and at various public platforms. Swaniti Initiative, serving as the PGCA's Secretariat, has facilitated the placement of young professionals as Clean Air Associates under the mentorship of PGCA members who were instrumental in supporting MPs in their air quality pursuits.

Collective Impact of the Group

- **203** instances of research support
- **60+** local interventions
- **14** MP convening - **209** MPs participated
- **18** institutionalization of air pollution issues in DISHA meetings
- **4** Local Innovation Systems (LIS) created
- **104** Op-eds, social media posts & media coverage
- **26** instances of fund mobilization (around **INR 40 Cr** funds)
- **2** instances of institutionalizing the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH)
- **96** instances of government advocacy
- **7** sustained community actions initiated

About this Module

This module incorporates the steps of these successful interventions for its replication at pan India level.

It is designed to serve as a comprehensive guide for the office staff of the MPs, including their chiefs of staff, research associates, fellows, et al., by providing essential practical insights into the fundamentals of air quality.

It has been prepared diligently while listing down precise steps in actionable words required for sustainable air quality management practices.

Note: *This module is formulated solely for the purpose of assisting the personnel designated to the Hon'ble MPs' Offices. If Hon'ble MPs themselves are interested to learn about air pollution and what interventions may be undertaken, it is recommended that they peruse the Compendium on Air Quality developed by the PGCA.*

FIRST OF ALL, LET US UNDERSTAND HOW WELL DO WE KNOW ABOUT AIR POLLUTION

Myth Busting Session

MYTHS

Myth 1: Air pollution is only a problem in the big cities

FACTS

In 2022, the average annual particulate matter levels for both rural and urban areas continue to exceed the annual limit of 40 μg/m3 in India set by the CPCB and are well above the World Health Organization’s recently revised air quality guidelines of 5 μg/m3

MYTHS

Myth 2: Air pollution is solely a local problem

FACTS

Air pollution has no boundaries. The transboundary nature of air pollution is very well documented across different regions globally, e.g. pollution from X country may travel to Y and Z countries.

Note- Read about airshed approach for air quality management.

MYTHS

Myth 3: Air pollution and related health hazards are primarily caused due to vehicular and industrial emissions

FACTS

Estimates suggest that PM2.5 emissions from household sources contribute about 30 to 50 percent of overall ambient PM2.5 levels in the country.

FUNDAMENTALS RELATED TO AIR POLLUTION

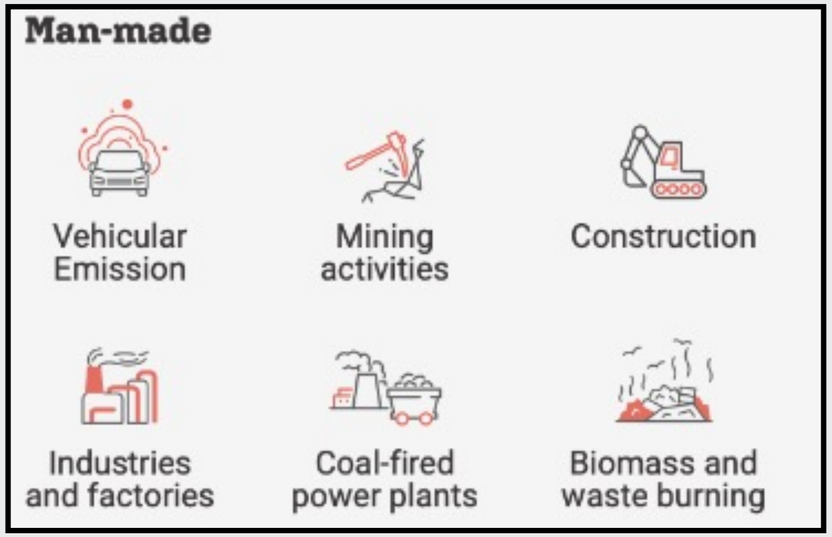
Overview

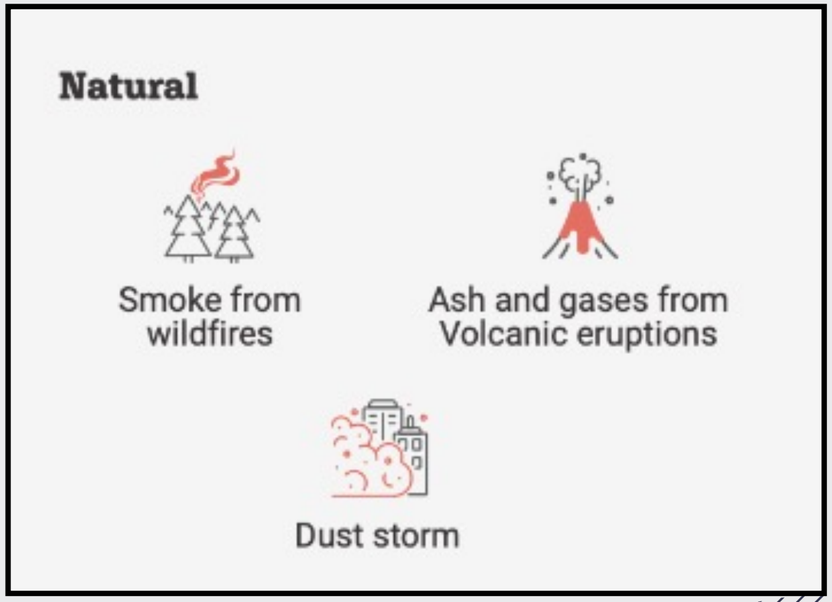
The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 defines “air pollution” as the presence of solid, liquid, gaseous substances in the atmosphere, injurious to humans, living creatures, plants, property or the environment.

What are the common Sources of Air Pollution?
Household combustion devices, motor vehicles, industrial facilities, forest fires

Criteria Air Pollutants
Particulate Matter (PM), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ground Level Ozone (O3), Lead (Pb), Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)

Primary Contributors
Growing population, urbanization, industrialization, vehicles, construction activities, and unsustainable burning of agro waste.



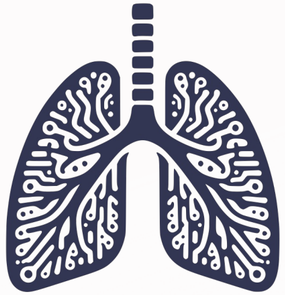


Air Pollution and Public Health

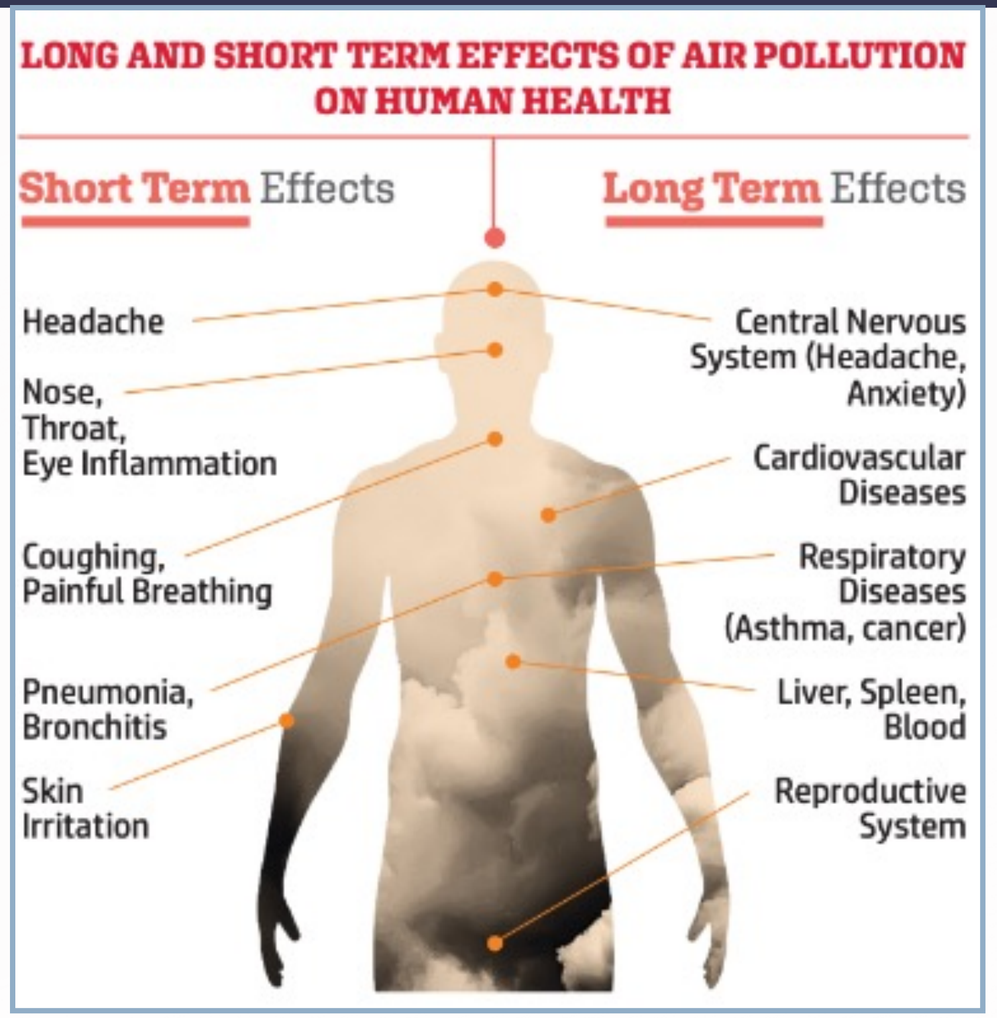
Immediate Health Impacts

- Key Pollutants: NO2, CO, SO2, VOCs, O3.
- Immediate Effects: Respiratory disorders, shortness of breath, increased susceptibility to pneumonia, eye irritation, among others.

Long Term Health Impacts



- Diverse Diseases: Stroke, COPD, trachea, bronchus, and lung cancer, aggravated asthma, lower respiratory infections.
- Duration of Exposure: Both short and long-term exposure contribute to a wide range of diseases.
- PM10 and PM2.5: Cause acute and chronic respiratory and lung diseases.



FUNDAMENTALS RELATED TO AIR QUALITY

What is Air Quality?

Air Quality (AQ) refers to the condition of the air in our environment, specifically concerning the presence of various pollutants and the overall cleanliness of the air. It is a crucial aspect of environmental health and directly impacts the well-being of living organisms, including humans, animals, and plants. Understanding air quality involves assessing the concentration of different substances in the air and evaluating whether they are within acceptable limits, described according to the Air Quality Index (AQI) which is based on the concentration of pollutants present in the air at a particular location.

Why Good Air Quality Matters?

Air Quality is a measure of air suitability for all living beings. On average, a human being breathes 14,000 litres of air daily. Therefore, poor AQ adversely impacts the health of all living beings. Good air quality is an essential component of the Right to Life.

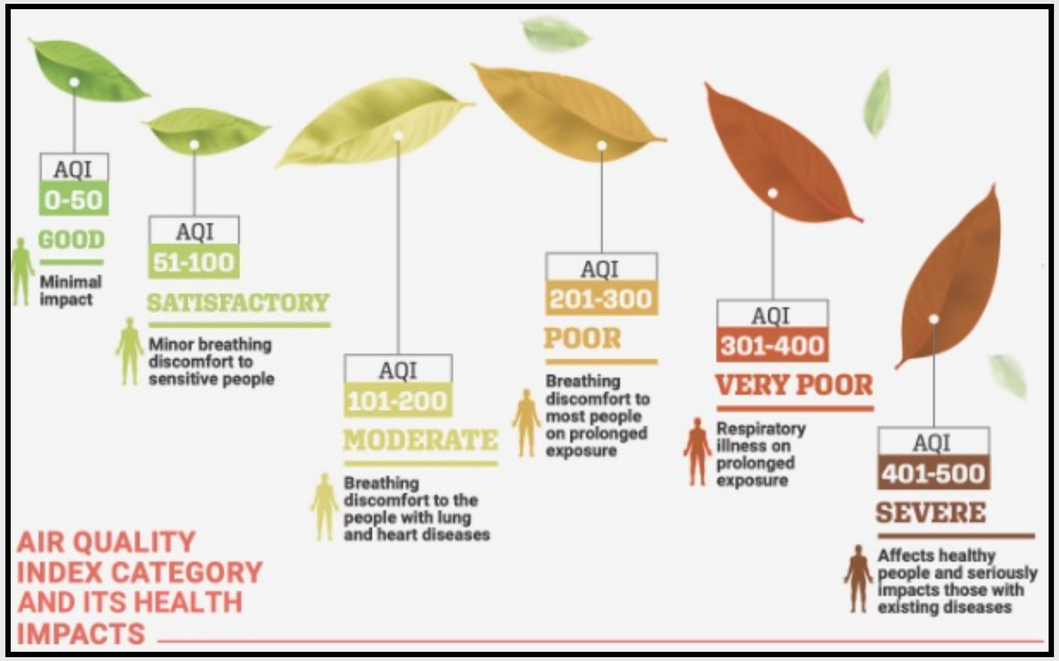
What is Air Quality Index (AQI)

Simply put, AQI transforms complex Air Quality data of pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour. The higher the AQI value, the more will be the level of air pollution and the public health risk.

- **Purpose:** Simplify complex air pollution data for the public.

- **Parameters:**

1. Recommended- 12 parameters (Revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards).
2. Commonly Used- 6 parameters (PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NO2, CO, O3) and occasionally NH3.
3. Ideal Measurement- 8 parameters (PM10, PM2.5, SO2, NO2, CO, O3, NH3, Pb) for continuous monitoring.



Note: Outdoor Air Quality is also referred to as Ambient Air Quality

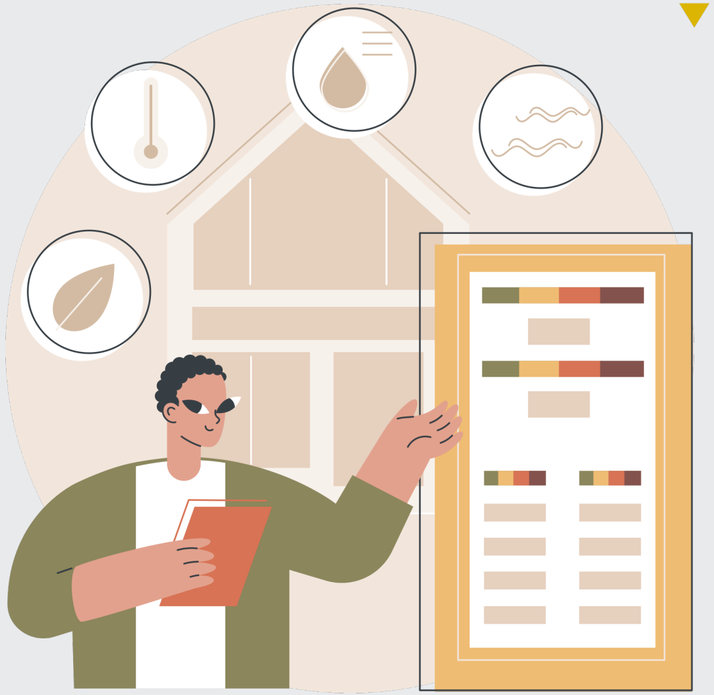
Air Quality Monitoring

- Monitoring of pollutants is necessary for effective Air Quality management. The government monitors Air Quality in various regions through continuous and manual monitors to keep track of pollutants for appropriate mitigation strategies.

- India currently uses both manual monitoring systems and continuous monitoring stations to monitor ambient air quality in the country.

- **Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations** (CAAQMS) provide real-time data on AQI. The data generated is disseminated online through the CPCB portal of automated Air Quality data.

- **Manual Air Quality Monitoring System** uses devices that sample the Ambient Air using a manual sampler and after the sample is collected it is taken manually for analysis. The filter is analyzed for different pollutants and the report is generated manually based on analytics, and the data is archived on the server. The process takes two to seven days to complete to get the pollution information of the location.



Government sources of Information on Air Quality Status

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) website** provides access to the National Air Quality Index (NAQI), which offers real-time data on ambient PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations, monitoring station data, air quality forecasts, data from the manual monitoring stations, and early warnings for some cities. CPCB's site also includes details about air quality management, guidelines, and reports on air pollution across India

- **PRANA Portal** provides information on monitoring status of the implementation of NCAP in 131 Non-Attainment Cities. It provides tracking of physical as well as financial status of city air action plan implementation and disseminate information on air quality management efforts under NCAP to public.

- **System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research known as "SAFAR"** operates in major Indian metropolitan areas, providing real-time citywide pollution and location-specific information on air quality. It forecasts 1-3 days in advance for the first time in India. It has been combined with the early warning system on weather parameters.

- **Sameer App** provides hourly updates on the National Air Quality Index published by CPCB, simplifying air quality communication in a single number, nomenclature, and color. The public can also post complaints with pictures and provide valuable suggestions through this App.

SOME PROGRAMMES RELATED TO CLEAN AIR

NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME (NCAP)

NCAP is a mid term, five year action plan launched in 2019 by MoEFCC aiming to improve air quality in 131 cities (non-attainment and million plus cities) across 24 States/UTs.

Targets- Achieve up to 40% reduction or attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM10 concentrations by 2025-26.

Under NCAP, city-specific action plans or state specific action plans had to be developed to tackle air pollution in non-attainment cities and specified states.

Budget- Rs. 1576.73 Crores has been disbursed to non-attainment cities since FY 2019-20, specifically for implementing activities outlined in approved city action plans. Furthermore, Rs. 8357.60 Crores have been allocated to 42 million-plus cities through the 15th Finance Commission Commission, effective from FY 2020-21.

Funding for City Action Plans (CAPs) implementation comes from Central Government schemes like SBM (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, SATAT, FAME-II, and State/UT Governments, along with their agencies like Municipal Corporations and Urban Development Authorities.

Objectives-

- Ensure strict implementation of measures to prevent, control, and reduce air pollution.
- Expand and enhance a robust national ambient air quality monitoring network to ensure a reliable database.
- Boost public awareness and capacity-building through data dissemination, outreach programs, and training for effective public participation and infrastructure development on air pollution.

NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (NAAQS)

To combat air pollution, the Central Pollution Control Board has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) which consists of 12 pollutants- NO_2, SO_2, PM10, PM2.5, CO, O_3, NH_3, Lead, Benzene, Benzopyrene, Arsenic and Nickel.

The objectives of air quality standards are:

- To indicate the levels of air quality necessary with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health, vegetation and property;
- To assist in establishing priorities for abatement and control of pollutant level;
- To provide uniform yardstick for assessing air quality at national level;
- To indicate the need and extent of the monitoring programme.

NATIONAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME (NAMP) [PREVIOUSLY CALLED NAAQM]

- It is a comprehensive initiative aimed at monitoring ambient air quality across India.
- It focuses on four key pollutants: Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO2), Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM/PM10), and Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5).
- Apart from that, it lays down other recommended parameters-- CO, O3, Pb, NH3, Ni, As, Benzene, Benzo(a)pyrene.
- It was initiated by CPCB in 1984 with 7 stations.
- Number of Manual Monitoring Stations: 931 operating stations today in 398 cities/towns in 28 states and 7 Union Territories of the country.

Objectives:

- Determine status and trends of ambient air quality.
- Identify violations of ambient air quality standards.
- Identify Non-attainment Cities.
- Develop preventive and corrective measures.

The monitoring under the NAMP is being carried out with the help of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB), Pollution Control Committees (PCC), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Head Office and its Regional Directorates.

OTHER LEGISLATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

OTHER LEGISLATIONS, REGULATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENTS THAT YOU MUST READ

1974: Establishment of CPCB and SPCBs

1981: Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Rules and Notifications

1986: Environment (Protection) Act

1988: Motor Vehicles Act

1995: National Environment Tribunal Act

1998: Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)

2000: Bharat Stage Emission Standards (BSES)

2009: Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI)

2009: National Ambient Air Quality Standards revised

2010: National Green Tribunal Act

OTHER LEGISLATIONS, REGULATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENTS THAT YOU MUST READ

2014: National Air Quality Index Launched to measure

2014: CPCB made it mandatory to install CEMS

2016: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

2017: Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi NCR

2018: Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)

2019: National Clean Air Program (NCAP)

2020: Commission for Air Quality Management Established

The list provided covers major components. We encourage you to do further reading for comprehensive understanding.

KEY POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC GAPS IN AIR QUALITY DOMAIN

Public awareness needs to be strengthened which will ultimately strengthen political will

Programs like NCAP lack clear fiscal and funding strategy with budgetary allocations remaining stagnant and inadequate. Further, its application is limited.

Despite having multiple policies, the actual implementation lacks cooperative and participatory element

Air pollution mitigation strategies have been mostly city-centric

Air pollution needs to be recognized as a public health issue

Air Quality monitoring systems remain inadequate.

Air pollution is a cross-sectoral problem with emissions originating from diverse sources. Particulate matter poses the biggest challenge, with emission levels continuously exceeding standards, particularly in urban areas.

Before you ask us about the purpose behind our training module, let's examine some glaring facts...

Air pollution is linked to over eight million deaths annually, or almost 16 per minute

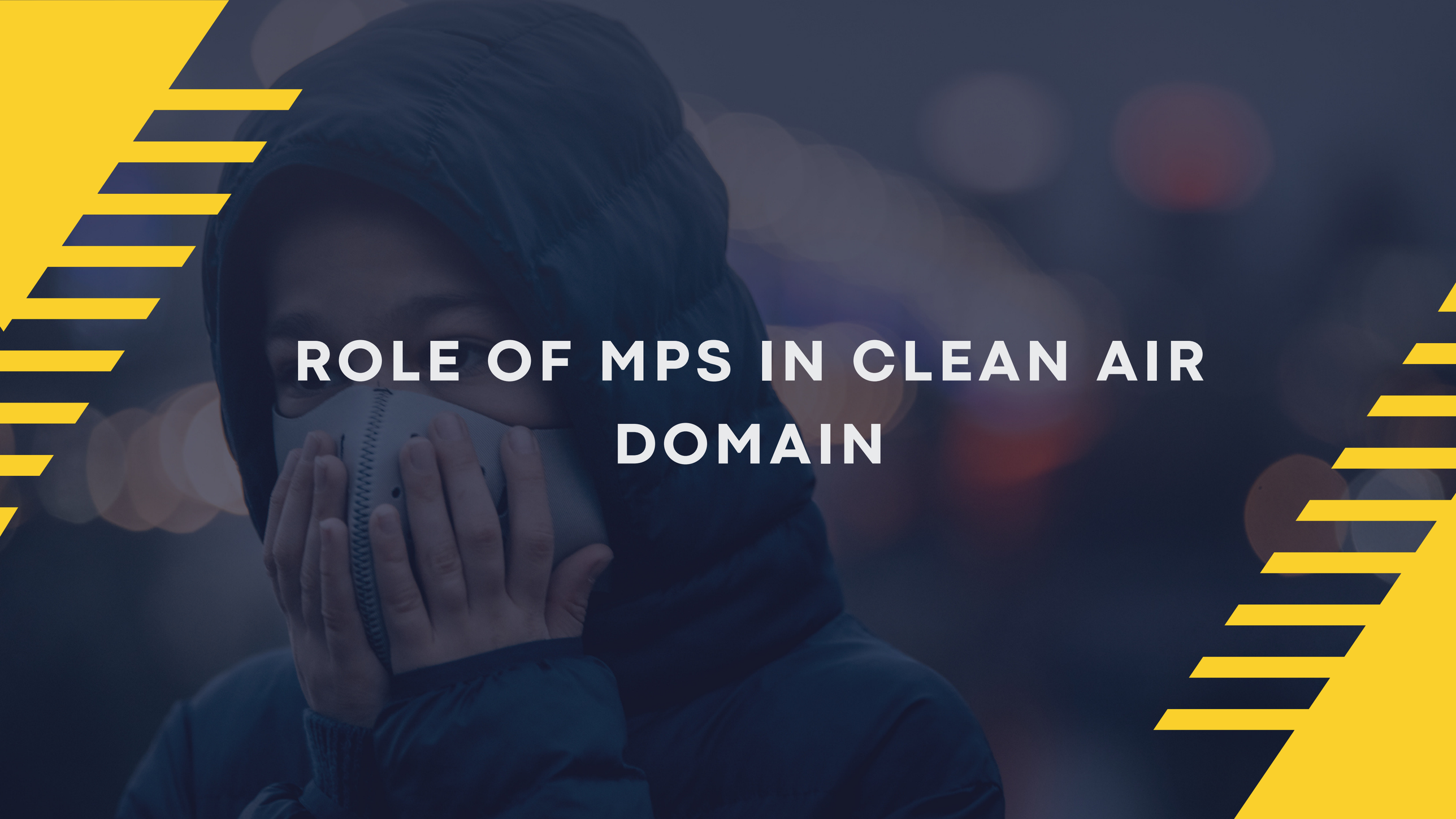
The world’s most polluted city is Begusarai in the Indian state of Bihar. Its pollution level averaged 118.9 micrograms/cubic meter, 24 times the WHO’s safe limit.

Fossil fuel emissions account for 65% of global CO_2 emissions and are also the primary cause of the majority of PM2.5-related deaths.

India ranks among the list of top 10 most polluted countries in the world as per World AQ Report 2023

As of September 15, 2022, India possesses 1266 ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQM and Manual), which is approximately 54% of the actual target.

The World Air Quality Report 2023 reveals that a significant portion of India's 1.36 billion people are exposed to PM2.5 levels surpassing the WHO guideline of 5 micrograms per cubic meter.



ROLE OF MPS IN CLEAN AIR DOMAIN

You must be aware about the roles and responsibilities of an MP, can you guess how an MP can take up the issue of clean air through various ways?

Let’s discuss these ways...

Put your thoughts on - Padlet (link will be put in the live meeting)

If you could not think about anything, do not worry! We have got you covered.

We have listed a few of them herein as per the experiences of the PGCA:

Community Engagement

Unlocking of Funds

Institutional

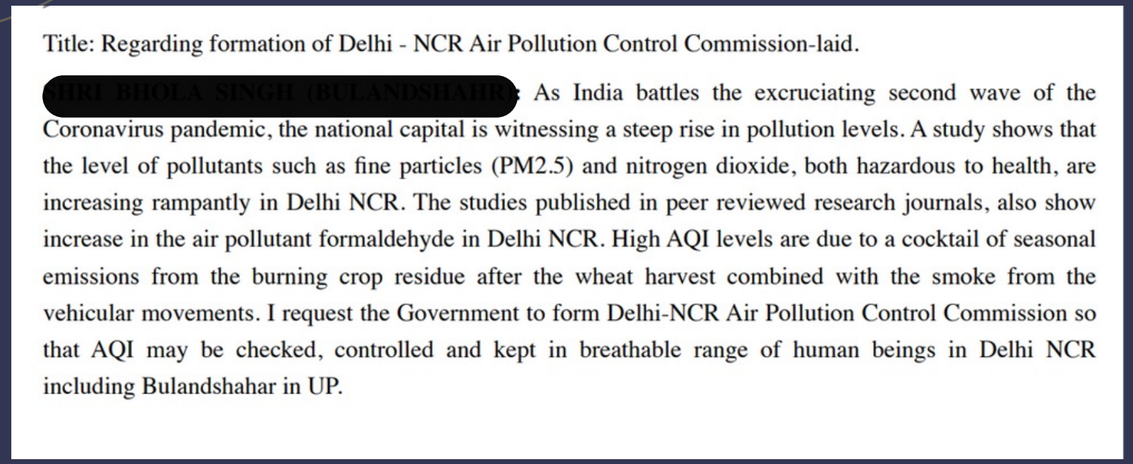
Parliamentary

Read about the available avenues under these verticals in clean air domain in the next slides →

Parliamentary

Parliamentary Tools available with an MP:

- Parliamentary Questions
- Zero Hour
- Notice under Rule 377/ 180A
- Calling Attention Motion (explanatory statement)
- Half an Hour Discussion (explanatory statement)
- Short Duration Discussion (explanatory statement + needs to be supported by at least two other MPs)
- Private Member Bills
- Raising it during relevant Standing Committee Meetings



Title: Regarding formation of Delhi - NCR Air Pollution Control Commission-laid.

[redacted]: As India battles the excruciating second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic, the national capital is witnessing a steep rise in pollution levels. A study shows that the level of pollutants such as fine particles (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide, both hazardous to health, are increasing rampantly in Delhi NCR. The studies published in peer reviewed research journals, also show increase in the air pollutant formaldehyde in Delhi NCR. High AQI levels are due to a cocktail of seasonal emissions from the burning crop residue after the wheat harvest combined with the smoke from the vehicular movements. I request the Government to form Delhi-NCR Air Pollution Control Commission so that AQI may be checked, controlled and kept in breathable range of human beings in Delhi NCR including Bulandshahar in UP.

Note: Please note that the examples featured in the slides do not necessarily reflect our opinions. They have been chosen randomly from the parliament website for illustrative purposes.

Some examples of relevant Standing Committees

Standing Committee on Energy; Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel; Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas; Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Food Processing; Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change; Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare; and Standing Committee on Estimates.

Remember that these paliamentary tools are used strategically and within the mandate assigned for them in the Parliamentary Handbooks.

Institutional

Monitoring AQ at the Constituency level

When you enter your kitchen, you already have a recipe in mind with the steps you need to take. Similarly, in the case of mapping the air quality levels in a given constituency, one may rely on the below provided steps:

Step I: Knowing the AQI of your Constituency

This is the foremost step that one must take to analyze the current situation of air quality in a given region. One may rely on the websites/ tools mentioned in the previous sections to understand the current status of air quality in the constituency/ State of the MP. This will help in analysing whether interventions are required.

Step II: Identification as NCAP or Non NCAP city

One must undertake the task of identifying whether the cities falling under the constituency are non-attainment city(s) under the NCAP. If yes, it is strongly advisable to pursue the City Action Plan made for that city which includes the targets that are required to be achieved. This is accessible through the PRANA portal.

Step III: Framing of Monitoring Indicators & Questions

Next, one needs to set up monitoring categories/ indicators based on city action plan (for NCAP cities) or local intelligence, media reports, clean air related programs, and conversations with the key stakeholders for non- NCAP cities). This will help to quantitatively and qualitatively measure air pollution and mitigation efforts. Each indicator/ question should be assigned to relevant government agencies and departments responsible for compliance and data collection.

The purpose of this exercise is to understand the current status of air quality interventions in a specific area. The questions drafted for each indicator will help gather information for analysis reports from relevant departments or for use by the DISHA Committee, as explained in subsequent slides.

Example

To take an example, while we are talking about air quality monitoring of a given region, one of the monitoring categories could be “Road Dust and Construction Activities”. Construction, road dust, and vehicular emissions are major contributors to urban particulate matter pollution, posing health risks. Regular road maintenance is crucial for air quality management, as is adherence to CPCB guidelines at construction sites to mitigate emissions through measures like water sprinkling and dust suppression units. Under this category, one may draft indicators such as: whether CPCB guidelines are followed for construction and demolition waste management in a given region; percentage of unpaved roads and of roads that have potholes or require repairs; whether there is a provision for road sweeping and water sprinkling along with their daily frequency

The questions which may be designed could be-

- Asking Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) whether CPCB guidelines are followed for construction and demolition waste management
- Asking ULBs about the % of unpaved roads and of roads that have potholes or require repairs
- Ask Panchayat Samiti about the % of unpaved roads and % of roads that have potholes or require repairs
- Ask ULBs about the number of complaints received and action taken for non-compliance with CPCB guidelines at construction sites in the last three years.

Note: A person who is working with the MP must take their permission before undertaking this exercise. If the MP permits, one may also request them to write letters to the authorities to gain responses to the questions drafted.

PROGRAMMES RELATED TO CLEAN AIR WHICH MAY BE REVIEWED AT THE CONSTITUENCY LEVEL

- Swachh Bharat Mission
- Pradhan Mantri UJJWALA Yojana (PMUY)
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) Scheme
- GOBAR-Dhan Scheme
- AMRUT Mission / Nagar Van Yojana
- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)

This list is not exhaustive. There are various programmes which are directly or indirectly related to clean air. Moreover, in a non-attainment city under NCAP, one can also focus on the review and evaluation of city action plan; NCAP funds; and 15th Finance Commission Grant.

Institutional

DISHA Committee Meetings

What are DISHA Meetings

The District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA) which work at the district level are formulated to monitor proper implementation of key Central Schemes/ Programmes and to ensure better coordination at all the levels of elected representatives for efficient and time-bound development of districts. Similarly, the State Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees which work at the state level aim to attend to the matters which need to be resolved at the highest level in the State/UT. In both these committees, MPs play a major role.

Governance tool to expedite the work to be undertaken by the government authorities

An opportunity to have all the government stakeholders in a single meeting

Way to review the functioning of various programmes at district level

Institutional

DISHA Committee Meetings

Members of the PGCA have consistently advocated for addressing air pollution concerns during DISHA Committee meetings

- This typically involved Associates support MPs to include air pollution on the DISHA meeting agendas. The district administration typically sends agendas to the MP for their consideration. The MP's office can suggest incorporating clean air related issues into the agenda. Upon MP’s agreement, a letter is sent to the District Commissioner/District Magistrate requesting the addition.
- The letter may include agenda items such as reviewing and evaluating NCAP funds and the 15th Finance Commission Grant (if applicable to the constituency covering NCAP non-attainment cities). Other than that, it may cover reviewing initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission, GOBAR-Dhan Scheme, SATAT, FAME Scheme, PMUY, AMRUT Mission, or any other relevant clean air programs.
- Questions prepared for each department under the constituency-level air quality monitoring exercise as mentioned above can also be included as agenda items. Such meetings may play an important role in taking stock of the current situation of air pollution and its combating practices in a given constituency/ district.
- After the meeting, the Minutes of the Meeting are also drafted, which may be later on requested to be shared. Once the meeting is held, one needs to follow up with the relevant departments/ District Magistrate regarding the action items discussed during the meeting.

Institutional

DISHA Committee Meetings

1. Collating data and Identifying key areas that need to be reviewed
2. Approaching the MP with relevant research
3. Requesting the DM to add the agenda of clean air for the DISHA Meeting. Providing the list of stakeholders who need to be invited for the same
4. Providing a detailed briefing note to the MP with the questions that may be raised during the meetings
5. MP take up the issue of air pollution with different stakeholders present during the meeting
6. Following up for the Minutes of the Meeting and the action items

Institutional

Local Innovation Systems (LIS)

What is an LIS?

The Local Innovation System provides an ecosystem to diffuse innovation into society to address important issues (such as climate change, air pollution, sustainability, etc.) which are difficult to solve due to their complexity and interconnected nature.

Why an LIS?

Air pollution is an inter-sectoral issue and requires the convergence between state and non-state entities. LIS facilitates such kind of convergence.

How is it made?

To initiate LIS for addressing air pollution, MPs can serve as chairpersons of these initiatives. This process begins by explaining the concept of LIS to the MP and obtaining their permission to formulate one for clean air. Subsequently, the agenda for the first LIS meeting is drafted based on the thorough analysis leading to the identification of top issues. Thereafter, a list of stakeholders who can contribute to the LIS is compiled and outreach is conducted through the MP's office, including both governmental and non-governmental entities. Once stakeholders agree to participate, the MP is briefed on potential discussion topics based on research. Following finalization of the participants, the meeting is organized, and action items are identified and delegated. The MP's office then follows up with stakeholders regarding the implementation of these action items.

Who can be ideal participants?

- Government Stakeholders including district administration, municipalities, etc.
- Industries/ Industry Experts
- CSOs
- Educational Institutions/ Academicians
- Youth Groups

Institutional

Local Innovation Systems (LIS)

What impact has been made through LIS?

As an instance, a core committee of stakeholders was constituted under the aegis of the LIS under the chairmanship of MPs in 2 constituencies.

For one constituency, the first meeting led to path-breaking outcomes like- a vision of improving air quality in industrial areas, establishing incubation centers, and undertaking the health assessment of vulnerable populations because of Air Pollution. The second meeting led to the State Pollution Control Board showing interest in conducting a carrying capacity study in an industrial region in the constituency.

In the other constituency as well, the meetings have been productive with State Pollution Control Board agreeing to draft the micro action plan for the constituency, the mayor to consider displaying the air quality index on the digital boards at all prominent traffic signals, and the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change to have 100 green champion awards.

Institutional

Implementation of the District Environment Plan (DEP)

The DEP is intended as a quick reference to the personnel of District Administration of all districts in India. The scope of DEP is based on 7 thematic areas including Air Quality Management Plan. However, some districts may not have come up with their DEPs or may have not uploaded it on their websites for public reference. The MPs may play a role in urging the District Administration to either draft, upload it on the website for better public access, or implement the DEP. This may be done by writing a letter to the District Magistrate from the MP’s office and following up regarding the same for the purposes of either getting it drafted or uploaded. It is important to ascertain that air quality management is added as an item in the DEP for effective implementation.

Institutional

Institutionalizing of NPCCHH

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)’s National Programme on Climate Change & Human Health (NPCCHH) aims to raise awareness among the public, healthcare providers, and policymakers about the health impacts of climate change. One of its primary goals is to enhance the healthcare system's capacity to address illnesses and diseases resulting from climate variability, with a focus on air pollution as a significant contributor to climate change and health problems. Stakeholders like the Department of Health, Integrated Child Development Services, and Block Medical Officers can be engaged through MP's office to educate them on air pollution's health effects, especially on women and children. Suggestions include integrating air pollution training into the education of Anganwadi Workers, ANM workers, and frontline health workers, using materials available on the NCDC website. [NCDC link].

The institutionalization of the NPCCHH has been aimed to be facilitated by various Hon’ble MPs who are members of the PGCA. Through a campaign called “Health is Wealth”, PGCA Members aim to institutionalise the training of frontline healthcare workers as provisioned under NPCCHH. Collaborating with the Department of Health, Integrated Child Development Services, and Block Medical Officers, training sessions are conducted to educate them about air pollution's health impacts with the help of NCDC Handbooks and medical camps are organised at the constituency level. This initiative aligns with the objectives of NPCCHH, thus contributing to its institutionalization.

UNLOCKING OF FUNDS

LOW COST SENSORS

Other than manual and automated monitoring sensors, there are emerging monitoring techniques like low cost sensors which are also gaining momentum. These are smaller in size; lightweight and also use less power. In one district, spearheaded by an MP and his office, a stakeholder forum was established, including the District Administration, Development Authority, Pollution Control Board, Forest Department, and Indian Institute of Technology. An achievement of this collaboration was the deployment of Low-Cost Sensors, facilitated by the extended support of the District Municipal Corporation and the Regional office of the State Pollution Control Board.

Such interventions, facilitated through collaborations, can be made by the staff of MPs by engaging with relevant agencies and organizations capable of providing support and expertise. This may be done by creating local forums of government agencies and non-government entities including experts.

UNLOCKING OF FUNDS

EXPEDITING INSTALLATION OF CAAQMS

Many members of the PGCA have undertaken the task of nudging the government to expedite the installation of CAAQMS. This has been done by constant communication with the government bodies and pursuing interventions like researching whether there are sufficient CAAQMS in the constituency or not; taking up the issue regarding installation of CAAQMS during the DISHA meeting; and writing to the PCBs and District Administration regarding the CPCB guidelines mandating the installation of CAAQMS as per population criterion. The funding for CAAQMS is allocated by the government, however, at times, due to low convergence, installation is delayed.

The diligent efforts of MPs who are a part of PGCA, have accelerated the installation of CAAQMS in various locations through their efforts in converging various government departments. Such progress was achieved through ongoing and extensive discussions held by the MPs and their offices with government stakeholders.

UNLOCKING OF FUNDS

UNLOCKING OF UNUTILISED FUNDS

Many MPs have raised the issue of un-utilised funds allocated under various government initiatives towards clean air. This has been done many times during the DISHA committee meetings. In a particular instance, an MP led to the utilization of approximately 40 crore rupees out of a total allocation of 50.35 crore rupees for an NCAP non-attainment city. These funds were allocated for the end-to-end construction of 34 kilometers of roads, as recommended in the city action plan. This initiative was facilitated through discussions during DISHA committee meetings, where the MP raised concerns regarding the utilization of NCAP funds, leading to subsequent action. Given that road dust and vehicular emissions are significant sources of pollution, the construction focused on end-to-end road development, including pavement laying and top coat finishing, targeting areas with the highest dust emissions. This project involved extensive follow-up with relevant authorities following the DISHA committee meeting.

UNLOCKING OF FUNDS

CSR FUNDING

MPs have also reached out to the corporates for CSR funding for various clean air interventions. On one occasion, the MP mobilised around 1.8 Lakhs through a corporate entity for the purpose of 'Green Awards', an annual award being instituted to recognise unsung individuals/NGOs working in the green/sustainable space and incentivise greater civic participation.

There are many other ways in which the funds may be unlocked or generated, we have provided the list of a few avenues in the next sections.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is an important strategy used by MPs to raise awareness about specific issues, and there are numerous approaches to achieving this. Members of the PGCA initiated a range of innovative methods to interact with diverse communities regarding the clean air issue. In next few slides, some of these activities have been provided for your consideration. There can be various ways to organise such events/ take up such activities and therefore, the steps have not been explained herein.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Clean Air Marathon

Under the leadership of an MP, the Sansad Clean Air Green Air Marathon for 2023 was successfully organized across five assemblies in a constituency. The primary aim was to raise awareness about the pressing issue of air pollution. With the participation of over seven thousand individuals, the marathon effectively sensitized over one lakh people to the challenges posed by air pollution. Notably, the initiative garnered more than ten thousand pledges from individuals committed to refraining from crop burning, prompting proactive measures from the district administration to address stubble burning. Other than that, the campaign disseminated information on hyperlocal air quality and promoted the airshed approach to enhance public awareness.

Training of Media Personnel

Under the guidance of an MP, a Capacity Building Program on Air Pollution Reporting for Media Personnel was successfully conducted. These stakeholder trainings are crucial for enhancing awareness and competence in tackling air pollution issues effectively. Similar programs may be organized in other regions for varied stakeholder groups such as officials of line departments listed under NCAP, waste handlers, factory owners, etc. to lay down the foundation for a more proactive and comprehensive approach towards combating air pollution nationwide.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging Youth and Children

Sensitizing children and youth has an impact on the entire family and community. This principle was cardinal in the implementation of Climate Warriors programs in various constituencies under the guidance of MPs who are a part of the PGCA. The aim of the program is to create consciousness amongst students towards climate change and encourage them to act as change agents for environmental preservation. In the past one year, well-designed activities such as Climate Quizzes, Green Audits, and School Environment Pledges have been executed for children at various schools.

Promoting Clean Air through Yuva Tourism Clubs

In some states, Yuva Tourism Clubs are actively promoted in schools to encourage students to explore the state's rich cultural and natural heritage. An MP has initiated the process of urging the district tourism department in one constituency to incorporate air pollution surveys into the activities of these clubs. This initiative aims to enable students to assess the current air quality situation at Indian monuments. In such an activity, the MP's staff can engage with the tourism department to explain how to conduct surveys at tourist spots and evaluate existing amenities. Similarly, there are Eco Clubs in Schools which may be approached to include activities related to air pollution.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Social Media

Social Media is one of the most powerful tools available to MPs to engage with the public. It is also one of the most effective tools to spread awareness regarding clean air issues. Some of the more effective social media tools that have can be used are as follows:

1. **Tweets, Reels, and Bytes** by MPs can be shared on important days such as “World Environment Day” and “Clean Air Day” through their social media handles.
2. **Infographics** pertaining to clean air issues can be created and distributed, these infographics can have various statistics and graphics associated with critical issues.
3. **Simple leaflets and pamphlets** in local languages can be designed so that they can be distributed at the constituency level.
4. **Social media campaigns** can be carried out, where MPs may ask their followers to pledge towards to a certain cause and use trending hashtags such as #cleanairforblueskies.

As part of PGCA, MPs have coordinated multiple synchronized social media campaigns to raise awareness about air pollution on various platforms. Leveraging social media, they disseminate information about clean air initiatives. This can also be done while encouraging constituents to share tips and best practices for reducing air pollution in their daily lives. During special occasions like Environment Day and Clean Air Day, MPs’ staff can run campaigns through the MP's social media handles, engaging people to participate and amplify the message for broader reach.

If you are thinking from where the funding comes for these projects, then do not worry. We have got you covered. Drawing from our experience with the PGCA, funding can originate from various government and non-government sources, including:

ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT FUNDING?

- One, the organization collaborating with MPs for an activity/event may provide funding.
- Two, MPs can nudge the government departments for the utilization of already allocated government funds for specific projects/ programs.
- Three, MPs can approach corporate entities for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.

Also, it is crucial to minimize the need for funds wherever possible. This can be achieved through strategies such as collaborating with educational or other institutions to provide venues for events or activities.

Our Story of Leveraging Available Resources

- Installation of CAAQMS in different constituencies
- Installation of Low Cost Sensors
- Unlocking of Government funds
- Workshop for media personnel on air pollution reporting
- Facilitating public display of air quality data
- Mobilization of CSR funds
- Schools undertaking activities under programs like Climate Warriors
- Institutionalization of NCAP review
- Operationalization of NCPPPPH
- Partnership with around 29 CSOs/ Pvt. entities to leverage mutual strength
- Complementing programs in local context

ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT FUNDING?

ALWAYS REMEMBER

It is also important to...

Engagement with duty bearers such as DMs, PRIs, CMOs, CSOs, and others to discuss clean air concerns and to propose innovative solutions is also crucial. With an effective outreach approach to external stakeholders, one can improve the efficacy of interventions from the office of a parliamentarian and build stronger, more inclusive partnerships.

Follow-ups

It is crucial to maintain regular follow-ups with external partners due to their varying priorities. Do not give up if responses are limited; persist and connect with appropriate organizations aligned with strategic goals. Ensure MPs are kept informed about entities you are reaching out to.

Note: Maintain a database of non-governmental entities in the constituency and keep a track of what all they are doing to leverage their work in the clean air domain.

Some Important Stakeholders

National Level

- MoEFCC
- CPCB

State Level

- Office of Chief Minister
- State level environment departments
- SPCBs

District

- DM
- District Administration (including different departments- CMO, RTO, etc.)
- Frontline Healthcare workers
- Urban Local Bodies & Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Block level officers/ Ward level representatives
- CSOs/ Industry Associations

THANK YOU

Please feel free to reach out to us at:

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We also look forward to knowing your feedback!