

**COMPILATION
OF
MEDIA CLIPPINGS
ON
LAUNCH OF SAFAR-AHMEDABAD**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's Premier News Agency

Ahmedabad, May 12 (PTI) Union minister Harsh Vardhan today announced that under the National Monsoon Mission (NMM) weather forecast systems will be provided at the block level in the next two years.

"We have launched the Rs 400 crore National Monsoon Mission under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under this project, in the next two years, we will be in a condition to provide weather forecast system at block level. It will see dramatic improvement in weather forecast through scientifically advanced models," the minister for Science and Technology said.

The minister, who also holds the portfolio of earth sciences, was here to inaugurate the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) for Ahmedabad, under which three-day forecast related to air quality, harmful radiation, weather and alert for extreme events, will be provided.

He also said that the earth sciences ministry was working on a deep-earth research project at Koyna in Maharashtra for earthquake prediction.

"We started a project worth Rs 500 crore, under which we have installed sensors 5-7 km inside the earth at Koyna in Maharashtra, which experiences frequent earthquakes... We have also been working to record pressure and density at ionosphere since the last one and half years, and will be doing so in the coming time," he said.

The minister said that India has taken huge strides in the field of earth sciences and is actually providing early warning system to over 3 dozen coastal countries in predicting tsunami and cyclone.

"We have created such an advanced early warning system for tsunami and cyclone that we are sharing information with around 30-40 countries which are situated along the coastline," he said.

"Weather details provided to 21 million farmers in the country has left Rs 50,000 crore positive impact on India's GDP, according to a 2015 report of National Council for Applied Economic Research," he said.

On SAFAR, Harsh Vardhan said that the system provided in Ahmedabad was the most advanced in four cities, where it has been launched so far, as it can even detect PM1, the minutest particle in the air.

SAFAR is an early warning system for local people with advanced information on air quality, related awareness to deal with its adverse impact.

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8698859_Each-block-to-get-weather-forecast-system--Harsh-Vardhan.html

'Road dust top cause of PM10; power plants of PM2.5'

AMC Releases Air Information And Response Plan For City

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The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation had proposed to take up a study among the chronic respiratory patients to assess the impact of air quality in the city. The Air Information and Response Plan (AIRP), which was released on Friday, states that road dust is the major contributor to air pollution in Ahmedabad city.

The AIRP states that its study found that the contributors to 10-micrometre

particulate matter (PM10) pollution in the city was 30% road dust, 25% power plants, 20% motor vehicles, 15% industry, and the remaining 10% from domestic cooling, diesel generator sets, waste burning and construction.

The study further found that the contribution breakup for PM2.5 in Ahmedabad was 31% from power plant, 27% transport, 11% brick kilns, 9% domestic cooking, 7% roads and 10% from diesel generators and waste burning.

What is SAFAR

SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research) is an observational network of Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS) and Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) that gives information on micro-environments in the city zones as industrial, residential, urban, agricultural etc. Air quality is monitored at about 3m height from the ground. These instruments operate round the clock and data is recorded and stored at 5-minute intervals.

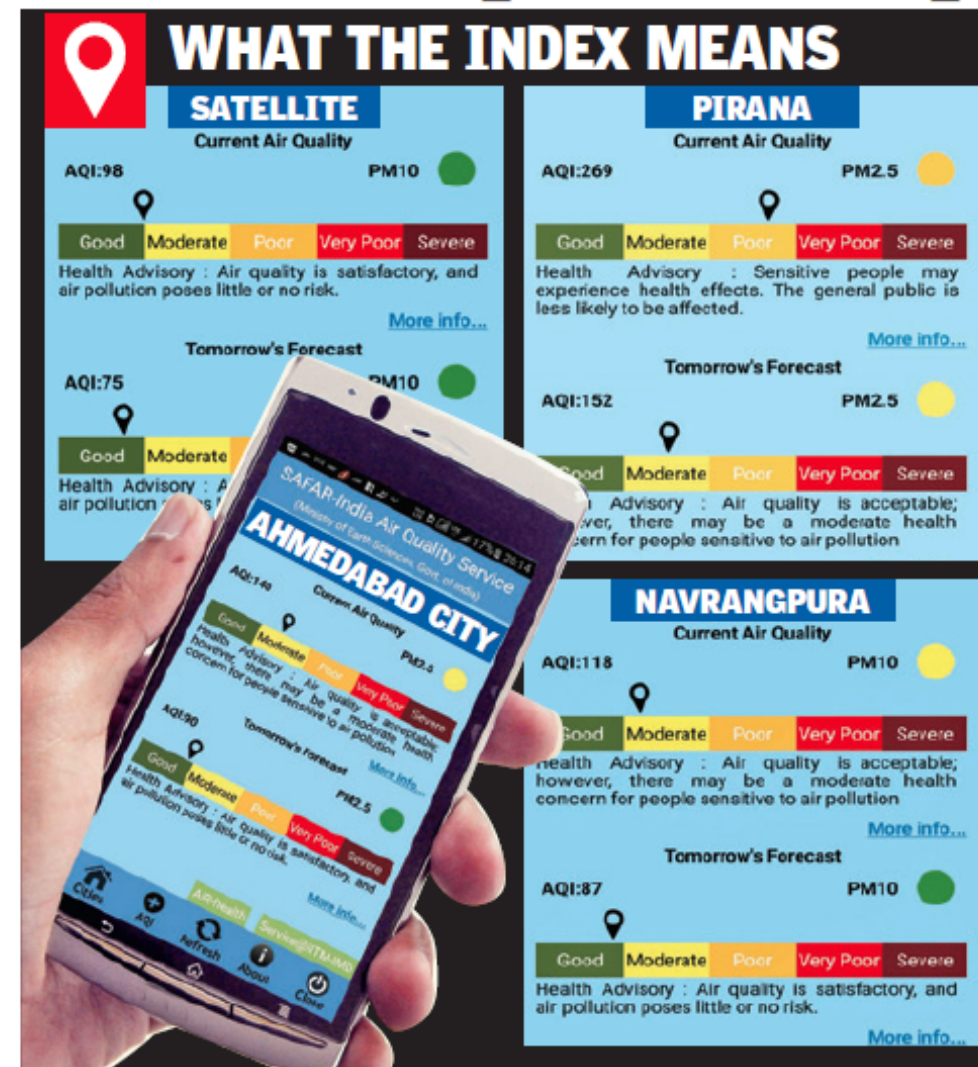
The AIRP stated that to focus on vulnerable groups, AMC has decided that apart from carrying out a study, it will also launch a school flag programme to display coloured flags corresponding to the air quality index for each day. The AMC has also decided to prepare a programme to sensitize community in areas where air quality is poor or very poor. The AMC will also organize out asthma and pulmonary health clinics.

The AMC, as a part of the AIRP, will appoint a nodal officer responsible for informing urban health centres and doctors when air quality turns poor, very poor or severe. The AMC also plans to send SMS alerts about air quality in the city and in their area, to patients suffering from asthma and other lung-related diseases.

According to the AIRP, the AMC this year will train medical and paramedical worker on the issue of air pollution and health and the measures required if air quality deteriorates from poor to severe. These medical practitioners will also help raise awareness.

The AMC will start research on reducing air pollutant after identifying pollutants. The AIRP states that in case of severe pollution or an air health alert is issued, its health department will ensure that adequate supplies of medicine are available.

The AIRP also says that the AMC's labour department make sure that health workers get masks and they are made to work outdoors only when air quality improves.



GOOD (0-100)

HEALTH ADVISORY | No action
HEALTH EFFECT | Little or no risk
HEALTH IMPACT | Minimal Impact

MODERATE (101-200)

HEALTH ADVISORY | Avoid prolonged exertion or heavy outdoor work
HEALTH EFFECT | Health concern for sensitive people
HEALTH IMPACT | Breathing discomfort for people with lung disease

POOR (201-300)

HEALTH ADVISORY | Children and adults with heart or lung disease should reduce heavy exertion
HEALTH EFFECT | Can cause respiratory problems
HEALTH IMPACT | Severe attack on short-term exposure in high-risk individuals

VERY POOR (301-400)

HEALTH ADVISORY | Reduce prolonged or heavy exertion
HEALTH EFFECT | Triggers health alert. Respiratory problems
HEALTH IMPACT | May cause mild respiratory troubles in healthy individuals and more severe issues in those with lung or heart disease

SEVERE (401-500)

HEALTH ADVISORY | Avoid all outdoor activities. Sensitive individuals should remain indoors with minimal activity
HEALTH EFFECT | Emergency condition. Serious risk of respiratory problems in general population
HEALTH IMPACT | May cause respiratory problems for healthy people. Serious impact on people with lung or heart disease

Harsh Vardhan launches 'Safar-Air'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The Union ministry of earth sciences on Friday launched "Safar-Air", the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) for Ahmedabad city, the fourth city in India after Delhi, Mumbai and Pune to get Safar.

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union minister for science and technology and earth sciences, launched Safar-Ahmedabad on Friday. Not only will Safar-Ahmedabad be available on the web, but an Android app was also launched.

Safar-Ahmedabad will give day-to-day information about air quality at ten places in the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar area. The app will give daily information for Ahmedabad city as a whole, Navrangpura, Satellite, Bopal, Gift City, the airport, Lekh-wada, Chandkheda, Raikhad, Rakhial and Pirana.

Apart from setting up the air quality monitoring station, the Union ministry, in coordination with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Indian Institute of Public Health, will provide real time data. Real-time air quality data will be given for Vastrapur, Sardar Patel Stadium, Satellite, the airport, Subhash Bridge, Gift City, Vishala, Danapith, Memco, Kalupur, Kankaria and Viratnagar areas.

At the time of the launch, only the air quality at Memco was found to be poor, while it was moderate at all the other places.

Harsh Vardhan, while launching Safar, said his ministry has provided the details of the air quality in the city, but it is now the responsibility of the people



Earth sciences minister Dr Harsh Vardhan in the city on Friday

of the city and its elected representatives to take up a campaign to improve the air quality

Giving details of Safar, Vardhan said the project will give exact details about weather and rainfall as well, which will help farmers. According to a ministry report, providing timely information to farmers had a positive impact worth Rs 50,000 crore on the GDP of the country.

Vardhan further said that the country had launched the Rs-400 crore National Monsoon Mission. Under it, the government will be able to give an exact weather forecast down to the block level. He further said that the government has taken up a programme in Shillong, where sensors are being installed in the ground for early earthquake warnings.

The minister, in his 24-minute speak, focused on the achievement of the PM Narendra Modi. He said that before 2014, only 356 km of optical fibre had been laid but since 2014, around 2 lakh km of optical fibre was laid and the government plans to network all panchayats in the country by 2018.



મેયર-કમિશનરે જ વાયુ પ્રદૂષણમાં કામ કરી બતાવવું પડશે : ડો.હર્ષવર્ધન



હેલ્થ ખાતાને ભીડ ભેગી કરવાની જવાબદારી સોંપો

» અમદાવાદ એર પ્લાનનું અને મોબાઇલ એપ્લિકેશનનું લોન્ચિંગ કરતાં કેન્દ્રીય અર્થ સાયન્સ મંત્રી

નવગુજરાત સમય > અમદાવાદ

દેશનાં વાયુ પ્રદૂષિત શહેરોની યાદીમાં ૧૬માં સ્થાને આવી ગયેલાં અમદાવાદમાં મ્યુનિ. સત્તાધીશો વાયુ પ્રદૂષણને અંકુશમાં લઈ મોડલ સિટી તરીકેનું ઉત્તમ ઉદાહરણ પૂરું પાડશે તેવી આશા કેન્દ્રીય અર્થ સાયન્સ મંત્રી ડો.હર્ષવર્ધનને વ્યક્ત કરી હતી.

અમદાવાદમાં વાયુ પ્રદૂષણની માહિતી મેળવવા અને તેને અંકુશમાં લેવા માટે ઈન્ડિયન ઈન્સ્ટીટ્યુટ ઓફ ટ્રોપીકલ મેટીરીઓલોજી(આઈઆઈટીએમ) દ્વારા તૈયાર કરાયેલ અમદાવાદ એર પ્લાન તથા મોબાઇલ એપનું લોન્ચિંગ કરતાં કેન્દ્રીય મંત્રી ડો.હર્ષવર્ધને શહેરમાં વાયુ પ્રદૂષણ મોનીટરીંગ સિસ્ટમ માટે ૨૦ કરોડની ગ્રાન્ટ કેન્દ્ર સરકાર તરફથી અપાઈ હોવાની અને તેમાંથી શહેરનાં ૧૦ વિસ્તારોમાં એર ક્વોલિટી મોનીટરીંગ સ્ટેશન લગાવાયા તેમજ ૧૧ જગ્યાએ એલઈડી ડિસ્પ્લે બોર્ડ લગાવાયા હોવાનો ઉલ્લેખ કરતાં કહ્યું કે, અમે સાથ-સહકાર આપીશું, દિલ્હીથી નજર રાખીશું, પણ મેયર અને કમિશનરે કામ કરીને સ્વચ્છ વાયુ ધરાવતાં વાતાવરણ પેદા કરી બતાવવું પડશે. જેથી કોઈ બાળક જન્મે તેને ધુમાડા અને પ્રદૂષિત વાયુમાં શ્વાસ ન લેવો પડે.

હવાનાં પ્રદૂષણને ખાળવા માટે પુનાથી શરૂ થયેલું સફર આંદોલન મુંબઈ, દિલ્હી થઈને અમદાવાદ આવી પહોંચ્યું છે, આ પ્રોજેક્ટ અંતર્ગત લોન્ચ કરવામાં આવેલી મોબાઇલ એપની મદદથી નાગરિકોને ક્યા વિસ્તારમાં કેટલું વાયુ પ્રદૂષણ છે તેની જાણકારી મળશે તેમ જણાવતાં ડો.હર્ષવર્ધનને કહ્યું કે, વડાપ્રધાન નરેન્દ્ર મોદી વિજ્ઞાન અને ટેકનોલોજીની મદદથી નાગરિકોનાં આરોગ્યને સ્વસ્થ રાખવા પ્રયાસરત છે તેનો આ પુરાવો છે.

કેન્દ્રીય અર્થ સાયન્સ વિભાગે સુનામી અને સાયકલોનની સયોટ આગાહી કરતી ટેકનોલોજી વિકસાવી છે અને પડોશી દેશોને પણ તેનો લાભ આપવામાં આવે છે, હાલમાં ભૂકંપની પણ સયોટ આગાહી કરી શકાય તે દિશામાં પ્રયાસ ચાલી રહ્યાં છે તેમ કેન્દ્રીય મંત્રીએ જણાવ્યું હતું.

આ પ્રસંગે મેયર ગૌતમ શાહે શહેરી

ભાજપનાં કાર્યક્રમોમાં ભીડ ભેગી કરવાની જવાબદારી કોર્પોરેટરો અને વોર્ડ સંગઠનને સોંપવામાં આવે છે તેમ છતાં જોઈએ તેવી ભીડ થતી નથી, પરંતુ બોડકદેવ સ્થિત વિશાળ હોલને ખીચોખીચ ભરાયેલો જોઈ ભાજપનાં કોર્પોરેટરે એવી ટીખળ કરી હતી કે, હેલ્થ ખાતાએ જે રીતે ભીડ મેનેજ કરી છે તે જોતાં હવે આપણા કાર્યક્રમોમાં પણ લોકોને લાવવાની જવાબદારી હેલ્થ ખાતાને સોંપવી જોઈએ. જોકે અન્ય એક કોર્પોરેટરે ભાંડો ફોડતાં કહ્યું કે, હેલ્થ ખાતાનો સ્ટાફ, હેલ્થ ખાતાનો લાભ લેતાં એનજીઓ, આંગણવાડીઓ, આશા વર્કરો, નર્સીંગ અને પેરામેડિકલ સ્ટાફથી હોલ ભરી દેવાયો છે અને દરેક દરવાજે લોકોને બહાર જતાં અટકાવનારા ઉભા છે.

લોન્ચિંગમાં જ લોચા : દિપ પ્રજ્વલનથી જ પ્રદૂષણ થયું

હેલ્થ ખાતાનાં બહુ ચર્ચિત અમદાવાદ એર પ્લાનનાં લોન્ચિંગ વખતે જ અનેક પ્રકારનાં ગરબડ ગોટાળા સર્જાયા હતા. સૌપ્રથમ તો વાયુ પ્રદૂષણ અંગેનાં કાર્યક્રમનાં આરંભે દિપ પ્રજ્વલનમાં ચાઇનીઝ ટેકનોલોજીનો ઉપયોગ કરી રિમોટથી અને કેમિકલની મદદથી દિપ પ્રાગટ્ય કરવામાં આવતાં ધુમાડા નીકળ્યા હતા. ત્યારબાદ એર ક્વોલિટી મોનીટરીંગ સ્ટેશનની વિગતો જાહેર કરતાં ફક્ત મેમ્ફો વિસ્તારમાં એર ક્વોલિટી પુઅર હોવાનો દાવો કરાયો હતો, જ્યારે એરપોર્ટ અને દાણાપીઠ સહિત કેટલાક વિસ્તારોની એર ક્વોલિટી પુઅર હોવાનું મોબાઇલ એપમાં જણાયું હતું.

પર્યાવરણની જાળવણી માટે મ્યુનિ. દ્વારા સ્વચ્છતા રાઉન્ડ, ગ્રીન એક્શન પ્લાન વગેરેની માહિતી આપી હતી. જ્યારે કમિશનર મુકેશકુમારે શહેરમાં રોડ ડસ્ટનાં કારણે ૩૦ ટકા, પાવર પ્લાન્ટનાં કારણે ૨૫ ટકા, વાહનોનાં ધુમાડાનાં કારણે ૨૦ ટકા એમ જુદા જુદા કારણોસર હવામાં ફેલાતાં પ્રદૂષણની વિગતો આપતાં કહ્યું કે, હવાનાં પ્રદૂષણને નિયંત્રણમાં રાખવા જુદા જુદા પગલા લેવાઈ રહ્યાં છે.

આ પ્રસંગે રાજ્ય સરકારનાં મંત્રી વલ્લભભાઈ કાકડીયા, નિર્મલાબેન વાઘવાણી, ઔડા ચેરમેન ભૂપેન્દ્રભાઈ પટેલ, સ્ટે.કમિટી ચેરમેન પ્રવીણભાઈ પટેલ સહિત મ્યુનિ. હોદ્દેદારો, કમિટી ચેરમેનો અને કોર્પોરેટરો ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યાં હતા. જોકે પાંચ વાગ્યા શરૂ થયેલો કાર્યક્રમ સાત વાગ્યા સુધી ચાલતાં હાજર લોકોમાં કંટાળો વ્યાપી ગયો હતો.

Ahmedabad begins SAFAR to check air quality

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, MAY 12

AFTER DELHI, Pune and Mumbai, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) was launched in Ahmedabad Friday by Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan.

SAFAR, developed by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in partnership with Natural Resources Defence Council, New York, Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH)-Gandhinagar, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and India Meteorological Department (IMD), includes a new Air Quality Index and Air Information and Response plan for the city.

It will provide real time air quality and weather data along with an advanced forecast of up to three days for Ahmedabad Metropolitan Region (30 km x 35 km domain), covering Gandhinagar as well as surrounding villages.

The system will provide data of eight air pollutants - oxides of Nitrogen, Carbon Monoxide, black Carbon, organic Carbon, particulate matter <2.5 micron (PM 2.5), particulate matter <10 micron (PM 10), Sulphur Dioxide and volatile organic compounds.

"Air pollution in metropolitan areas is recognised as a major threat to future generations. Let us take this as a campaign not only to identify and record pollution levels but also adopt preventive measures to check its rise. Similarly, for monsoon forecast, the government is working on a national monsoon mission that will soon reach each block," said Dr Vardhan.

Eight new air quality monitoring sites, showing a daily index of pollutants, have been built across Ahmedabad and two in Gandhinagar. Besides, 12 LED screens have been installed — 11 in Ahmedabad and one in Gandhinagar — to display colour-coded current air quality in-

MAJOR SOURCES OF POLLUTION IN AHMEDABAD

Road dust	30%
Power plants	25%
Vehicular emission	20%
Industries	15%
Cooking and heating	5%
Diesel generator	2%
Waste burning	2%
Construction activity	1%

AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS

- Sardar Patel Stadium, Char rasta
- AMC Nursery Gyaspur, Pirana
- Vastral
- Victoria Garden, Raikhad
- ISRO, Bopal
- ISRO, Satellite
- Cultural Centre, Chandlodiya
- IMD, Airport
- Civil Hospital, Gandhinagar
- IIPH, Gandhinagar

dex and up to three days' forecast with health advisories and precautionary statements.

Also, severity of UV radiation with associated skin advisories, weather, alert for extreme pollution and accounts of sources of pollution for mitigation strategies will be provided. The air quality index will also be made available through various communication channels, including display boards, a web portal, mobile application and toll-free phone number. Based on this, the city health department will carry alerts or warnings as necessary.

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION LAUNCHES 10 AIR MONITORING SYSTEMS IN CITY TO KEEP CITIZENS INFORMED

Now, know about the air you breathe

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union minister of science and technology, launches air action plan in city

DNA Correspondent @dnaahmedabad

Ahmedabad: Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) on Friday launched the first-of-its-kind and comprehensive air action plan. Under this, 10 Air Quality Monitoring Systems (AQMSs) will be installed across the city to provide timely information on quality of air and issue alerts about dangerously high pollution levels to the public.

"We will identify the most vulnerable groups, who get affected by the poor quality of air, and notify them in advance to avoid areas where air pollution is likely to worsen," Dr Bhavin Solanki, in-charge medical officer of health, AMC, said.

Union minister of science and technology and earth sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan was also present at the inauguration of the new system at Bodakdev here on Friday. The system, known as 'System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and

Research' (SAFAR), has been launched for Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.

"Air pollution in metro areas is a major threat to future generations. SAFAR is our package of preventive technologies for Ahmedabad," Dr Vardhan said.

This plan will focus on protecting those at risk from pollution, people with respiratory ailments, children, pregnant women, outdoor workers and the elderly. "The main aim of this plan is to save lives and help the people of Ahmedabad to create healthier communities that are more secure from the dangers of air pollution. Advance intimation to those vulnerable groups and others will help them avoid health hazards," municipal commissioner Mukesh Kumar said.

The plan has been developed by the AMC, along with the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar; Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and the India Meteorological Department.



(L-R) Dr Gufran Beig, joint director, IITM Pune, Vallabh Kakadia, Harsh Vardhan, Union minister of science & technology, mayor Gautam Shah & BJP MP Kirit Solanki at the launch of the air action plan on Friday -Dhaval Bharwad/DNA

AMC's got your back

10 air quality monitoring sites across the city will produce a daily air quality index

Eleven new LED display boards will keep citizens informed about the air quality index

An early warning system will notify public of excessively polluted days

An education campaign will build awareness on the effect on health due to pollution

By increasing the medical capacity to treat those affected by air pollution

Quality matters

The city's air quality index will gather data on pollutants, including sulfur dioxide, ozone, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, coarse and fine particles and other chemicals. The main sources of pollution here are vehicle emissions. Apart from this, the city also has two coal-fired power plants, 855 chemical factories, 511 foundries and 380 textile plants which are the main contributors to air pollution.

The locations

Real-time air quality will be provided at Vastrapur, Sardar Patel stadium, Satellite, Subhash Bridge, Vishala, Danapith, Memco, Kalupur, Kankaria and Viratnagar and at two places in Gandhinagar – Airport and GIFT City. Meanwhile, at the launch of the programme, the quality of air was found to be poor at Memco, while it was moderate at all other places.

Talk about irony?

Contrary to the theme of the event, the auditorium was covered with smoke emitted from lamps that had been lit by dignitaries at the inauguration. AMC had, on May 1, launched its own water bottle; however, the water bottles distributed at the event belonged to other companies.

Each block to get weather forecast system: Harsh Vardhan

Press Trust of India | Ahmedabad May 12, 2017 Last Updated at 23:42 IST

Union minister Harsh Vardhan today announced that under the National Monsoon Mission (NMM) weather forecast systems will be provided at the block level in the next two years.

"We have launched the Rs 400 crore National Monsoon Mission under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under this project, in the next two years, we will be in a condition to provide weather forecast system at block level. It will see dramatic improvement in weather forecast through scientifically advanced models," the minister for Science and Technology said.

The minister, who also holds the portfolio of earth sciences, was here to inaugurate the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) for Ahmedabad, under which three-day forecast related to air quality, harmful radiation, weather and alert for extreme events, will be provided.

He also said that the earth sciences ministry was working on a deep-earth research project at Koyna in Maharashtra for earthquake prediction.

"We started a project worth Rs 500 crore, under which we have installed sensors 5-7 km inside the earth at Koyna in Maharashtra, which experiences frequent earthquakes... We have also been working to record pressure and density at ionosphere since the last one and half years, and will be doing so in the coming time," he said.

The minister said that India has taken huge strides in the field of earth sciences and is actually providing early warning system to over 3 dozen coastal countries in predicting tsunami and cyclone.

"We have created such an advanced early warning system for tsunami and cyclone that we are sharing information with around 30-40 countries which are situated along the coastline," he said.

"Weather details provided to 21 million farmers in the country has left Rs 50,000 crore positive impact on India's GDP, according to a 2015 report of National Council for Applied Economic Research," he said.

On SAFAR, Harsh Vardhan said that the system provided in Ahmedabad was the most advanced in four cities, where it has been launched so far, as it can even detect PM1, the minutest particle in the air.

SAFAR is an early warning system for local people with advanced information on air quality, related awareness to deal with its adverse impact.

The HINDU, Ahmedabad

SAFAR Ahmedabad Media Coverage

Ahmedabad gets air quality monitors to battle pollution

AHMEDABAD, MAY 11, 2017 23:56 IST

UPDATED: MAY 12, 2017 07:15 IST



City's first comprehensive air pollution alert system will focus on health risk communication

To effectively battle increasing air pollution, the Ahmedabad civic body is launching a comprehensive Air Quality Index (AQI) and Air Information and Response (AIR) plan that includes an air pollution alert system and health risk communication, based on real-time data.

The initiative by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) focuses on health risk communication with immediate and long term actions to reduce the impact of rising air pollution. Ahmedabad has a population of close to 70 lakh.

The new air quality monitors installed across the city will collect and report data on smog and toxic pollutants as part of the AQI. It will be used to inform residents on when to take precautions and minimise exposure to pollution.

Anjali Jaiswal of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NDRC), which has partnered the AMC in this initiative, said, “This initiative involves five key factors: health risk communication, inter-agency coordination, increasing capacity of medical professionals and targeted activities for vulnerable groups like school children, senior citizens and adults with heart or lung disease.”

As per the plan, an AQI forecast reading ‘very poor’ air quality (301-400) triggers a health alert that is to be issued by the civic body through its communication channels. The alert is also to be displayed in colour-coded messages on a dozen large-size LED screens installed on city roads, social media platforms and traditional media like newspapers and radio.

Lending technical expertise to the initiative is Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and the India Meteorological Department’s (IMD) System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), which operate AQI in Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and several cities in other countries.

“Ahmedabad’s AIR plan is based on global best practices on AQI health risk communication from Beijing, Los Angeles, Mexico City and New Delhi. With this, we want to prove that you can have clean air and also prosperity without compromising on health of communities living in the city,” Ms. Jaiswal, who also assisted in formulating the city’s first Heat Action Plan (HAP), said. The HAP is being replicated by several cities nationally.

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/ahmedabad-gets-air-quality-monitors-to-battle-pollution/article18429564.ece>

The Times of India (Ahmedabad) May 12 2017 :

City's pollution app goes live today

Ahmedabad: TIMES NEWS NETWORK

But Air Action Plan Still Gathers Dust

Even as the city gets its first real-time Air Quality Monitoring System on Friday , it will be deprived of a comprehensive plan for controlling air pollution in the city. For more than four months, now the Air Action Plan (AAP) for Ahmedabad city has been gathering dust with officials of the district administration, municipal corporation, Gujarat Pollution Control Board and other allied departments which are reluctant to launch the plan for the city.

While the AQMS installed by Indian Institute for Tropical Meteorology (IITM) "Sa far-Air" will be operational, providing real-time pollution updates and forecasting through mobile apps, there will be no concrete action on ground.

The major aim of the Ahmedabad AAP plan is to curtail emission of pollutants from activities like transport, construction, open burning of waste and from industries surrounding the city. Measures like a ban on open burning of waste, capping of the Pirana dump and putting out the ever-smouldering fire, helping replace all municipal diesel buses with CNG buses and increasing the frequency of buses, replacing diesel commercial three wheelers with CNG ones, proper auditing of PUC centres and recalibrating PUC values to new standards and financial assistance to encourage use of clean fuels are included in the plan.

The AAP, which is a graded action plan, will be implemented in two phases. "The AAP was to be launched in February but the dates were postponed to May . Till now, authorities have not been able to form a co-ordination plan," says a senior official of the GPCB.

Times View

Real-time air quality monitoring will fail to yield results unless the Air Action Plan for Ahmedabad is implemented with immediate effect. The longer the delay, the more the authorities will be playing with people's health. The state government, like Delhi, should immediately ensure that the AAP is formulated for not only Ahmedabad but for other cities as well.



POISON IN THE AIR

<http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31805&articlexml=Citys-pollution-app-goes-live-today-12052017005032>

11 MAY 2017 Last Updated at 5:10 PMSOCIETY

CWG Legacy Project On Air Quality Spreading To More Cities

The project, known as SAFAR-India, provides location specific information on air quality in near real-time and forecasts up to three days.

DINESH C. SHARMA



The Commonwealth Games (CWG) which India hosted in 2010 may have been forgotten for various reasons but one of its legacy projects is thriving and helping citizens with air quality information.

The project known as “System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research” or SAFAR-India, initiated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, provides location specific information on air quality in near real-time and forecasts up to three days. It was introduced in the national capital during the games, and later on

in Mumbai and Pune. On Friday, the service will be launched in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.

The system has been developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune along with India Meteorological Department (IMD). It is being implemented in various cities in collaboration with local authorities. The system synthesizes data on sources of air pollution, its transport over neighbouring states, modelling processes, its impact on public health, food, regional climate, to arrive on information products useful to government agencies as well as citizens. The information to citizens is available through a mobile application and from project website.

In Ahmedabad, SAFAR will form a part of the city's health risk awareness and communication plan. Information about air quality will be disseminated through a variety of communication modes to people so that they are better prepared. "The central aim of this project is to help people to create healthier communities, more secure from the adverse effect of air pollution. Through information and advisories provided under SAFAR, we can save air pollution related stress," said Dr GufranBeig, project director. A pilot study carried out in Pune has shown that SAFAR- based advisory service could result in saving of up to Rs 371.32 Crores in five years by way of health costs.

Each of the cities where the system is operational has a dense observational network of ten Air Quality Monitoring Stations and 30 Automatic Weather Stations which continuously monitor an array of ambient concentration pollutants, besides parameters like temperature, humidity, wind speed, wind direction, rainfall and UV radiation. The network covers different microenvironments such as industrial area, residential area, background site, urban down town area, up wind and downwind area, commercial area and agricultural area, so that readings are biased towards any specific air pollution source.

The project is also developing an inventory of pollutants. "To make the forecast accurate one need robust database of each and every air pollution source located in the city area and its geographical distribution over the region. This task has been achieved in each SAFAR city by developing high resolution emission inventories for various air pollutants," explained Dr Beig.

<http://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/cwg-legacy-project-on-air-quality-spreading-to-more-cities/298846>

Ahmedabad launches air quality index linked to health advisories

MAY 11, 2017 21:33 IST

UPDATED: MAY 11, 2017 21:38 IST

Pollution levels to flash on LED boards

AHMEDABAD The people of Ahmedabad may soon find information on air pollution levels flashing on LED boards on the city roads, along with accompanying messages asking them to take precautions. This is part of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's (AMC) new health-based initiative to reduce the adverse impact of rising air pollution on the city's seven million residents.

The civic body is launching a comprehensive Air Quality Index (AQI) and Air Information and Response (AIR) plan that would include an air pollution alert system and health risk communication based on real-time data.

"The initiative, the first of its kind, involves five key factors: health risk communication, inter-agency coordination, capacity-building of the medical staff, targeted activities for vulnerable groups such as school children, senior citizens, and people with asthma or lung disease, and research on mitigation pathways," said Anjali Jaiswal, a senior official in the Natural Resources Defense Council (NDRC), which has partnered with AMC to launch the new program.

According to the plan, eight air quality monitors in Ahmedabad and two in Gandhinagar will collect data on smog and toxic pollutants and feed it into the system which would generate the AQI. This would then be used to inform residents on when to take precautions so that they can minimise exposure to harm.

When the AQI is designated as "very poor" (301-400), it triggers a health alert, which would be disseminated by the civic body through various communication channels, including social media platforms and traditional media, and also displayed in colour-coded messages on a dozen large LED screens installed across the city.

The AQI is supported by technical expertise from the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the Indian Meteorological Department's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), which operate the AQI in Delhi, Pune and Mumbai.

"Ahmedabad's AIR plan is based on global best practices on AQI health risk communication from Beijing, Los Angeles, Mexico City, and New Delhi. With this, we want to prove that you can have clean air and prosperity without compromising on the health of the communities living in the city," said Ms Jaiswal.

[HTTP://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/OTHER-STATES/AHMEDABAD-LAUNCHES-AIR-QUALITY-INDEX-LINKED-TO-HEALTH-ADVISORIES/ARTICLE18428207.ECE](http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ahmedabad-launches-air-quality-index-linked-to-health-advisories/article18428207.ece)

Mandaviya has one leg in Gandhinagar

Mansukh Mandaviya, Union minister of state for shipping, road transport and highways, is the most visible Union minister at the Gujarat secretariat. Mandaviya, who is also considered a contender for the chief minister's job after the 2017 assembly elections, is seen networking in Gandhinagar for one to three days on every visit to the state. These regular visits take up a lot of time of state ministers and senior officials. In the BJP circuit, it's said that Mandaviya has one leg in Gandhinagar and the other in New Delhi.

From in-charge to full-time VC of GU?

Regulars at Gujarat University (GU) are surprised at the functioning style of in-charge vice-chancellor (VC) Himanshu Pandya. GU sources say that while most of those in-charge appointments don't go beyond holding the fort and adding efficiency in day-to-day functioning, Pandya is actively participating in planning for the next three or four years. He is said to have introduced a corporate culture to the VC's office. These sources were willing to bet on him being made the full-time VC. They add that Pandya's large network will work in his favour.

Memos fail to tame cops

In 2017 so far, more than 500 city police personnel have got memos from their superior officers. City police sources said that the most common reason is complaints for bad conduct with citizens. As the top cops are keen to project a positive image of the men in khaki,



GREEN ALERT: A tree was uprooted and fell on an autorickshaw near Gujarat College on Saturday

constables who are the point of contact with citizens, have many troubles with adhering to the plan. Sources said that despite several workshops, senior officials receive complaints about cops' behaviour at police stations. There are now plans afoot to split crime investigation, law and order maintenance and public-centric services.



Same old frequently asked questions

The admission committee for professional courses seems to have one set of frequently-

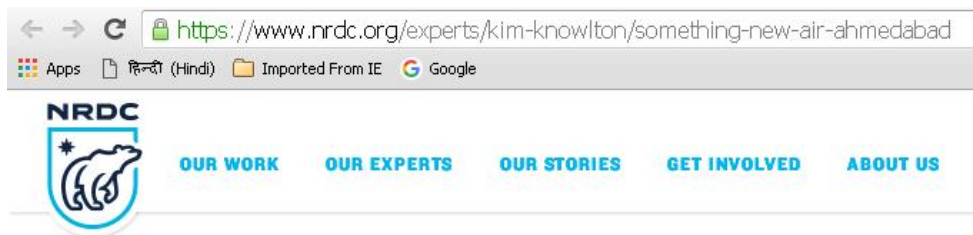
asked questions with only the dates in the answers updated. As this year's admission procedure for professional courses began on Friday, the answer to the FAQ "Which documents I need for first time online registration for BE/B.Tech.?" states "For online registration, you need the following documents: (a) Latest HSC mark sheet and (b) JEE Main-2016 score card." The ACPC officials seem to have forgotten admissions this year were to be done on the basis of the Gujarat Common Entrance Test score and not the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) score. On this being pointed out, the lame excuse was that the FAQs were from 2016 and the new FAQs are yet to be uploaded.

Science minister's unscientific nomenclature

At the launch of the "Safar-AIR" pollution monitoring programme in Ahmedabad, Union minister of science and technology and earth sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan, on more than one occasion called Isro's Space Applications Centre in the Satellite area of the city, the "Satellite Application Centre". He told the audience that he had a good time at the "Satellite Application Centre" and later again spoke of the "Satellite Application Centre" in the context of PM Narendra Modi's earlier visit here.

Narayan, Narayan! RSS celebrates Narada's birthday

In another "unique" effort to grab the attention of Hindus, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has come up with the idea of celebrating birthday of Vedic sage Narada. The communication unit of the RSS in Gandhinagar celebrated Narada's birthday and called him the first journalist on earth. There was no cake-cutting, but Sangh workers celebrated it according to Hindu tradition by lighting a lamp and dining together.



Something New in the AIR in Ahmedabad

May 12, 2017 Kim Knowlton

Today the city of Ahmedabad, in Gujarat state in India, is taking another giant step toward improving health among its residents.

Ahmedabad's A.I.R. (Air Information and Response) plan is a health-based program designed to protect and increase awareness among residents on air pollution, with an AQI as its centerpiece. My NRDC colleague Anjali Jaiswal, who leads our India Program, is in Ahmedabad right now to witness today's launch.

Air pollution can cause severe respiratory difficulties and threatens health for everyone, but particularly children, the elderly, and people already ill. Air pollution is an increasing problem in Indian cities. While air pollution poses enormous public health challenges India-wide and globally, Ahmedabad is taking steps to promote local communication on the health risks of air pollution, to help save lives.

The AIR Plan links a city-specific air quality index (AQI) with the community. With the AQI as the center point, the Ahmedabad AIR Plan focuses on health risk communication and creates immediate and longer-term actions to increase preparedness, information-sharing, and response coordination to reduce the health impacts of air pollution on vulnerable populations.

The Ahmedabad AIR Plan is part of a broader collaboration between the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, or AMC, and public health and policy experts at the Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar (IIPH-G), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). The AIR plan and its AQI are supported by technical expertise from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune (IITM)'s System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) program.

Climate change is fueling more extremely hot days, and that heat worsens many types of air pollution—so these steps can improve health today and increase climate resiliency for the future. In 2013, Ahmedabad became the first Indian city to create a comprehensive early warning system and heat action plan for extreme heat events. As my NRDC colleague Nehmat Kaur describes, we had a great trip to India last December to discuss both heat action plans and the new air pollution and health work, applying knowledge gained from the Heat Action Plan.

Ahmedabad shows how coordinated planning provides an opportunity for city and other governments to take the lead on resiliency and preparedness in India. The development and implementation of the AIR plan will help protect millions from the dangerous health effects of air pollution. Hats off to Ahmedabad again, for its leadership, initiative, and dedication to protecting people's health.

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/kim-knowlton/something-new-air-ahmedabad>

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<http://www.ndtv.com/topic/air-pollution-app>

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May 14, 2017



2:23

Soon, Check Your City's Air Pollution on Your Mobile, Thanks to This Team
Apr 8, 2015

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