

Press Release

**Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)
Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM),
Pune**

Date: 24th June 2015

SAFAR MUMBAI DEDICATED TO THE NATION



Photographs during inauguration ceremony of “SAFAR-Mumbai dedicated to the Nation”:

- a) lighting of lamp by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon’ble Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra;
- b) release of Mumbaichi-Hawa (Marathi) & Mumbai-Air (English);
- c) launch of Mobile App for Mumbai and online unified SAFAR Web Portal by the hands of Hon’ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra;
- d) SAFAR Mumbai dedicated to nation by the hands of Hon’ble Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) under Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India has distinction to provide India's first ever Air Quality Forecasting system "**System of Air Quality & Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR)**" for Metro cities. It is already operational in Delhi and Pune. On 23rd June, a similar SAFAR system was made operational at Mumbai. The SAFAR project for Mumbai is being implemented by ESSO-IITM, ESSO-IMD in collaboration with Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. SAFAR-Mumbai was dedicated to the Nation on 23rd June 2015.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, **Govt. of India**, in the gracious presence of Shri Devendra Fadnavis , Chief Minister of Maharashtra, inaugurated the "System of Air Quality & Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) for Mumbai" at the Y.B. Chavan Auditorium, Mumbai on 23rd June 2015 at 1700hrs in a glittering ceremony.

The function started with welcome note by Dr M. Rajeevan, Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. Dr L.S. Rathore, Director General of Meteorology presented a brief on the significance of SAFAR for Mumbai. Dr Gufran Beig, Project Director of SAFAR presented the features of SAFAR-MUMBAI through a documentary on SAFAR and provided some insight on the preliminary results of air quality at Mumbai.

Glimpses of the Event:

- **Mumbaichi-Hawa (Marathi) and Mumbai-Air (English):** A booklet for common citizen to know about SAFAR services was released by the hands of Hon'ble **Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and Hon'ble Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, respectively.**
- Inauguration of **Mobile App for Mumbai and online unified SAFAR Web Portal** was carried out by **the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra**
- **SAFAR MUMBAI was dedicated to the Nation by the hands of Dr Harsh Vardhan, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.**

Shri Devendra Fadnavis , Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, in his inaugural address suggested that the SAFAR Mumbai is one of the best gifts offered by the Central Govt. for the benefit of the Mumbaikars. He expressed his opinion that the system will be extensively used by the public of Mumbai in better utilization of the service and this kind of information to percolate the same at village level.

Dr Harsh Vardhan mentioned the importance of air quality forecasting system SAFAR Mumbai with respect to health aspect of highly populated metro city which is contributing towards GDP of the country. He mentioned that he has offered the best gift in terms of SAFAR-Mumbai to the Chief minister of Maharashtra. He suggested that now it is responsibility of the Chief Minister to extend the usage and awareness among Mumbaikars. He said that he being a Doctor by profession, knows that how important it is to know the causes of increasing cases of respiratory ailments, specially among small children. The awareness to be created by SAFAR will go a long way in addressing complicated health issues faced by all people, in particular, infants and small children.

A first glimpse of the status of Mumbai air quality for the past 2 months (ever since SAFAR monitoring stations are installed) was revealed by Dr. Gufran Beig, Project Director which confirmed that it was in poor range on some locations and in moderate range on some locations during the months of May. However, after the continuous rains, PM2.5 got washed off and air quality came well within the safe limit. He mentioned that some stations like Chembur are found to be highly polluted whereas some stations like Colaba and Boriwali were relatively less polluted during May, 2015 (*shown in Fig. 1*).

Mr. Vinayak Karnik from the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), Mumbai and Ms. Neha Sriram Parkhi of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune were awarded for the best field services in the implementation of the SAFAR Mumbai.

The SAFAR system is conceived and developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune in association with the Regional Meteorological Center, Mumbai-IMD and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). This made a humble beginning of **the services of "SAFAR", developed for the MUMBAIKARS**. The SAFAR-Mumbai is now delivering the following services to citizens of Mumbai:

1. **AIR QUALITY:** Color-coded Index based Current & 3-days forecast with health advisories.
2. **HARMFUL RADIATION:** Severity of UV radiation (UVI) with associated skin advisories.
3. **WEATHER:** Current & 3 days advance forecast, sea tide and severe weather
4. **EXTREME EVENTS:** Alert for extreme pollution and weather events.
5. **EMISSION SCENARIO:** Accounting location-wise sources of air pollution.

For more details on SAFAR-Mumbai, Please contact: Dr Gufran Beig, Project Director-SAFAR at beig@tropmet.res.in

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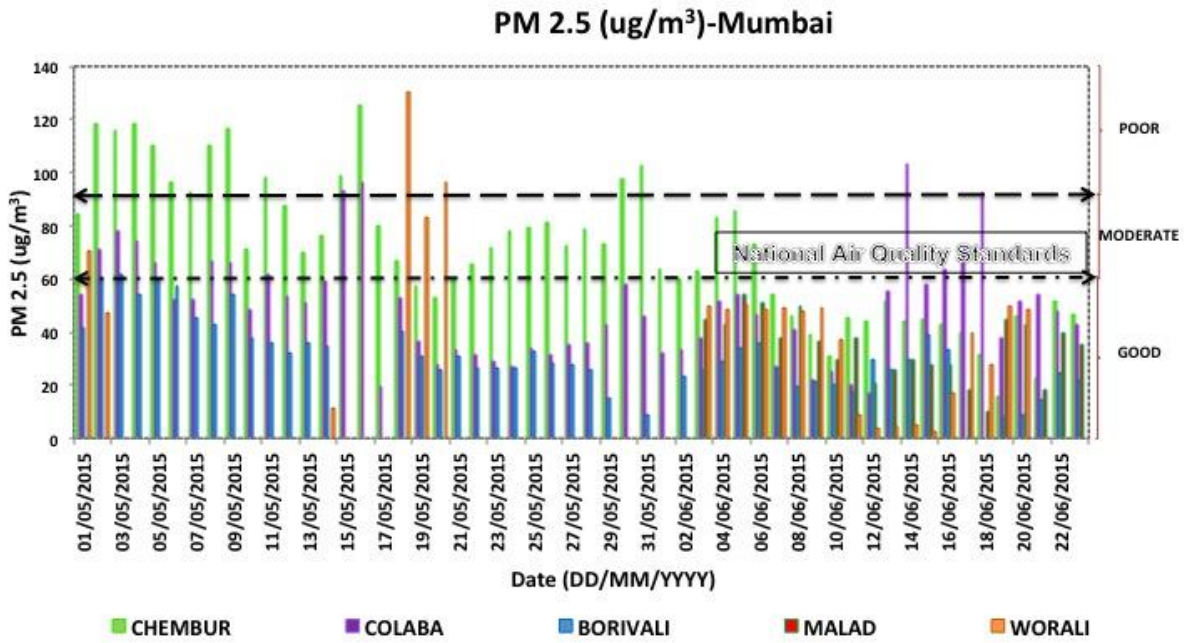


Figure-1