

PRESS RELEASE (09 July 2019)

SAFAR School Flag Awareness Program on Air Quality

Highlights

- **Launch of** first-of-its-kind comprehensive **SAFAR School Flag Awareness Program on Air Quality by Chief Guest Hon'ble Mayor, Pune city** by Hosting flag of Today's Air Quality AQI Colour.
- Awareness about the SAFAR-Mobile-App (SAFAR-AIR)
- Demonstration to school students on how to take maximum benefit of air quality information.

IITM Pune, 9 July 2019: As part of Swachhta Pakhwara, IITM, Pune has unveiled the first-of-its-kind comprehensive SCHOOL FLAG AWARENESS PROGRAM ON AIR QUALITY for Pune city under SAFAR project to educate and protect students from adverse health impacts of air pollution. This program is focusing to clean the air. It has been launched by Mrs. Mukta Tilak, Mayor of Pune city in a glittering function organized at city based HHCP High School and Junior College, Huzurpaga, Pune by IITM. This new SAFAR initiative is a joint venture of IITM and PMC in collaboration with IIPHG, NRDC, CEE and CRF. An early warning system to notify the public of excessive pollution days.

During the function, Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mayor while inaugurating the "SAFAR School Flag Awareness Program on Air Quality", announced today's Air Quality Index (AQI) as 27 and which was under Good Category, followed by health advisory i.e., "Enjoy Your Day". "Although most of the times Pune city's air quality comes under good, satisfactory & moderate category, it is our responsibility to maintain that within Good & Satisfactory category", she said. She stressed on the individual efforts of all Pune-kars to reduce air pollution, efforts to increase city's green cover and to adopt eco-friendly lifestyle. She added that in coming days more electric buses will be plying which will help in reducing air pollution.

Dr Gufran Beig, Scientist G & Project Director SAFAR India, IITM mentioned about the SAFAR Air Health Alert System (SAHAS) program under SAFAR which is dedicated towards creating awareness about Air Quality in school children. During the function, he mentioned about the air pollutants and special criteria pollutants such as PM10, PM2.5, surface ozone, etc and role of SAFAR Air mobile app in day to day basis. During the event, a short documentary was showcased on how to use SAFAR Air mobile App.

Dr. Rajendra Shende, Former Director, UNEP, Paris, France and Dr. Dileep Mavalankar, Director, Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG) were the Guest of Honours of the event.

This newly launched School Flags Awareness Initiative of SAFAR for Pune is an ACTION based Early Warning System Translating Integrated Air Quality, Weather and Health Information into Advisory and ALERTS for ACTION on the ground. It will help schools to create awareness about air quality, advisory, precautions, alerts and actions to minimise adverse impact of air pollution. All PMC schools as well as those schools who register for this program will get Air Quality information (Today and Tomorrow levels) with colour

code, advisory and precautions through coordinators (CEE and PMC education and environment departments) every day by 5PM. Those schools who will register will keep 6 colors of Flags representing 6 categories of Air Quality Index (AQI) which are GOOD, SATISFACTORY, MODERATE, POOR, VERY POOR, and SEVERE. School principal should ensure to announce TODAY and TOMORROW's AQI and raise related colour Flag after morning assembly and display that color Flag at school. This initiative of SAFAR engineers awareness drive by educating public, Medicos and Executives, prompting self-mitigation and to pave the path to develop mitigation strategies. The new initiative will help students to decide on which time of day the outdoor activities should be avoided. This initiative will make Pune city a leader in protecting public health. The awareness about the SAFAR-Mobile-App (SAFAR-AIR) which is now available in voice enabled Marathi language also will be demonstrated to students to take maximum benefit of air quality information available in your locality.

Photo Gallery of the Event: <https://www.tropmet.res.in/130-gallery>

For more details contact:

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