

PRESS RELEASE (9-7-2019)

SAFAR School Flag Awareness Program on Air Quality in PCMC City

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune along with Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Cooperation have launched a noble initiative, known as **SAFAR-SCHOOL FLAG AWARENESS PROGRAM ON AIR QUALITY** for PCMC city under SAFAR project. Objective of program is to educate and inculcate the feeling of belongingness among school students towards environmental protection. This project is launched by Mr. Rahul Jadhav, Mayor of PCMC city in a glittering function organized at city based at SNBP School & Junior College, Pimpri in presence of Municipal commissioner, Mr. Hardikar, SAFAR-Project Director, Prof. Gufran Beig, Additions Commissioner, Mr. Patil among others.

Mr. Shravan Hardikar, Municipal Commissioner, PCMC address the PCMC school principals and more than 200 students who were witness of the program. He delivered very interesting talk on air quality and pollutant in very simple languages and how it harm to lung function and brain development in children. He also interacted with the students on meteorology, particulate matter and gaseous pollutants like CO₂ and how we can contribute to control air pollution.

Dr. Gufran Beig, Project Director SAFAR, IITM provided background of the Flag mission and explained concept of Air Quality Index (AQI) and its 6 categories starting from GOOD, to WORST. He also invited all school principals to join this program for the national cause and spread the awareness about this program. In the function students of SNBP school demonstrated the concept of Flag by Marchpast with music.

School Flags Awareness Initiative of SAFAR for Pune is an ACTION based Early Warning System Translating consolidated information of Air Quality, Weather and Health 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 PCMC 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 for SAFAR 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 Pimpri-Chinchwad 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.