



# Air Pollution-Can we clear the Air?

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# Can the Nodal Ministry deliver alone?

- ▶ MOEF&CC is the nodal Ministry responsible for tackling the issue of Air Pollution.
- ▶ Is it equipped enough to handle the magnitude of the problem?
- ▶ Is it powerful enough to move other Ministries to follow its mandate?
- ▶ “Collaborative and participatory approach involving relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other Stakeholders with focus on all sources of pollution forms the crux of the Programme.”-NCAP
- ▶ MORTH, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Agriculture, UDD, more importantly State Governments-Traffic and Police and Local Governments!!!
- ▶ The linkage to “smart cities program” ; NAPCC, non attainment 102 cities!
- ▶ increasing number of monitoring stations in the country including rural monitoring stations, technology support, emphasis on awareness and capacity building initiatives, setting up of certification agencies for monitoring equipment, source apportionment studies, emphasis on enforcement, specific sectoral interventions !!!!
- ▶ Can we break it down to the doables?



# Is the Science really driving Policy Action? Court Action?

- ▶ The example given by Mr Joshi of uncertainty of science is scary!
- ▶ Are we still not sure of the source apportionment?
- ▶ The LANCET study has just been quoted on 10.1.2019 Order of NGT, which is a Suo Motu case based on a news paper report which quoted the LANCET study to close down all Critically Polluted Areas (CPA), Severely Polluted Areas (SPA), Other Polluted Areas (OPA) as per the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) within three months! There are 100 Clusters and of course several million jobs.
- ▶ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(18\)30261-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(18)30261-4/fulltext) stating 1.24 million deaths in India in 2017, which were 12.5% of the total deaths, were attributable to air pollution, including 0.67 million from ambient particulate matter pollution and 0.48 million from household air pollution.
- ▶ The NCAP, 2019 states -tentative national level target of 20%–30% reduction of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentration by 2024 taking 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.



# How do you tackle Egos and Turf wars in curbing Air Pollution?

- ▶ National Green Tribunal's understanding, method and processes?
- ▶ Supreme Court's understanding, methods and processes?
- ▶ EPCA's mandate
- ▶ Task Force
- ▶ Centralized Monitoring Committee (CMC), State Monitoring Committees and their task forces formed by NGT for implementation of the directions related to Air Pollution issued in the case Vardhaman Kaushiik Vs Uol & Ors. constituted under order dated 10.11.2016
- ▶ Supreme Court GRAP
- ▶ NGT GRAP
- ▶ CPCB actually suing SPCBs on non performance? Trust Deficit



# Where is the Role of the Private Sector?

- Is limited to Technology?
- Everyday we get potential investors in the Technology Arena for Pollution Prevention?
- The Politics of Technology also needs to be understood! The lobbies and in the interest groups ! From Air Purifiers to Monitoring Stations!
- The disincentives to genuine players ! Have we made it too cumbersome ? An example of WTE in Agra- CTE, CTO, EC, ASI, DIC, Groundwater, FC, Land Use, Public Hearing, Explosives, PPA, MOUs, Siting.....
- Where are the incentives?



# Where is the space for common citizens-Government interaction?

- Scrapping Policy for Vehicles?
- Capping Policy for Vehicles?
- Incentives and Disincentives?
- Odd and Even?
- Congestion Fees?
- Environment Cess?
- E-Complaint - Combining apps - the 'Hawa Badlo App' by EPCA, 'Swachh Delhi App', 'Sameer' by CPCB, 'Samadhan Delhi Cantt' etc. into one app for easement of the public for filing complaints!



# How do you tackle illegality with such minimal capacities of Regulators?

- Illegal Waste Oil burning!
- Waste Tyre Burning? Illegal Pyrolysis plants?
- Emissions Check at Pollution Check Centres?
- Fugitive Emissions due to various industrial and commercial processes?
- Is the answer ...complete shut down? As now mandated by NGT? Or there is different framework for implementation of the Air Act?
- We haven't amended the Air Act, 1981 since its inception? All conversations get drowned in programs, schemes, action plans.....without any legal teeth!!!!



THANK YOU

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