Pseudo Stifling: Mumbai & Mumbaikars

CHAMPIONING FOR CLEANER AIR AND CLEARER SKIES

5th November 2018, 11.00 am to 5.00 pm

Venue:Cricket Club of India (CCI), C. K. Naydu Hall

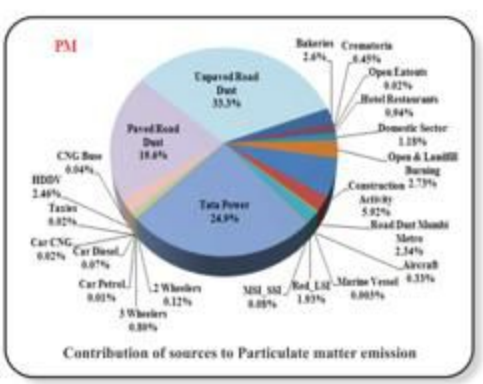
Press Release

Mumbai is an Urban Agglomeration coming under category of Mega City with population of 21.3 million as of 2016. Over the years, urbanization and industrialization in Mumbai have led to emergence of air quality issues as one of the major concerns impacting quality of life. To understand the current scenario of air quality and adopt remedial measures, Mumbai's ambient air quality is being monitored under National Ambient Air Monitoring Program (NAMP), coordinated by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) or SAMP (State Ambient Air Monitoring Program) stations. From the air quality data generated during the period from 2005 to 2015, it is observed that Particulate matter concentration is higher than the prescribed limits throughout the monitoring period.

In view of this, CPCB has directed SPCBs to develop action plans and implement these to control air pollution in Mumbai. Thus, an Emission inventory and Source apportionment study has been undertaken by NEERI in collaboration with IIT Bombay. The study has covered Point sources, Area sources and Line sources contributing to Particulate matter emission.

Contribution of sources to Particulate matter emission

As per the study, there are many sources of particulate matter emission impacting the ambient air quality of the city of Mumbai; however, the major ones are resuspended dusts and industries. The impact of the industrial sector is reducing due to various reasons such as closure of industries, shift to clean fuel, better compliances and discharge of emission at higher elevations. The emission inventory indicates that though point sources contribution is reasonably high particularly due to power plant in terms of total load; however its impact on the ambient air quality is low due to emissions at a higher elevation, providing high dilution and dispersion.



Contribution of sources to Particulate matter emission

Vehicle activity in the city has shown tremendous increase over a period of last 10 years. The mobile (line) source emissions are not only dependent upon the number of vehicles registered but also on the actual number plying on the roads, speed of movement and the conditions of vehicles besides many other factors. Increased levels of vehicular activity and resulting high levels of air pollution have led to active anti air pollution campaign by the nongovernmental organization (NGO) and judiciary.

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The area sources also have significant impact on the PM levels in the atmosphere; however it could be more localized, particularly from the sources such as bakeries, crematories, construction, garbage burning etc. Some of these sources can have significant local impact on the ambient air quality for a shorter duration. Overall a city growth pattern indicates that domestic fuel has become cleaner, bakeries /crematoria situation have not changed so much. Construction/ demolition related emission has gone up, refuse burning has increased and road dust related emissions have also shown increase due to increased construction activities.

In view of these observations on Mumbai's air quality and pollution contributing sources, Mumbai First in association with NEERI, is organizing a half – day roundtable discussion on Pseudo Stifling: Mumbai & Mumbaikars"Championing for Cleaner Air and Clearer Skies" on 5th November 2018.Based on the study carried out by NEERI and IITBombay, the themes would include the major contributors to the compromised ambient air quality i.e.Public & Private infrastructure construction in Mumbai, Vehicular emissions in Mumbai and Informal garbage disposal methods in Mumbai.

The need of this discussion is due to the fact that the cause of air pollution mitigation must move from citizens charter and bring the focus back to all stakeholders. With partnerships of concerned agencies and citizens, it would be possible to keep air quality as pristine as possible.