

## Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology

Press Release (13.2.2026)

### **Workshop on “Urban environmental challenges in Pune & way forward”**

#### **Key Highlights:**

- This workshop has been conducted under the “One-Day Knowledge Exchange Program” at IITM, Pune on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026.
- Jointly conducted by EIACP Environmental Information Awareness and Capacity Building Program (EIACP) Centre of IITM, Confederation of Indian Industry-Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII-CESD).
- Inaugurated by Shri Naval Kishore Ram, PMC Commissioner, Chief Guest
- Top 3 best Posters received prizes during the concluding session

*12.2.2026; IITM, Pune:* The ‘The One-Day Knowledge Exchange Program on 'Urban Environment Challenges in Pune & Way Forward' was held in Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026. This was conducted jointly by EIACP Environmental Information Awareness and Capacity Building Program (EIACP) Centre of IITM, Confederation of Indian Industry-Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII-CESD).

Dr Latha, Co-ordinator of EIACP centre & Principal Investigator, Cleaner Air Better Life project at IITM delivered welcome address and mentioned that high resolution mapping of air pollutants is necessary to capture space-time variability of air pollution and identify pollution hotspots. She also noted the extreme importance of public awareness and sincere efforts to bring in the control.

Dr. Shikhar Jain, executive director, CII stressed the need of collaboration among the experts in various fields and the public in the implementation of government policies.

About the Air Quality Management, Dr Surya Chandra Rao, Director, stated the early action of IITM about air quality measurement understanding the importance of it. He assured IITM would extend the research support to PMC in planning mitigation measures to improve air quality and emphasized the need for coordinated effort by all the stakeholders.

The Chief Guest of the workshop, Shri Naval Kishore Ram, PMC Commissioner highlighted the importance of sustainable development for Pune city through the dialogues between supporters of Sustainability and the same for Development. He also talked about the lowest percentage of Pune roads and lack of enough public transport buses including last mile connectivity to make metro more popular. Shri. Ram exclaimed that unlike many other cities Pune is expanding in all directions at a random pace. Further, he put forward the fact that about few years back the FSI allowed just

was 1.5 whereas it has reached up to 4.5. Moreover, he also emphasised the need of water-front development as done in Gujrat. He sought strengthened ties with IITM for actionable plans to mitigate Pune air pollution and commented that the issues are interlinked and solving one issue will solve many others too.

The day had 3 further sessions of expert lectures. Experts from Respire, IITM, ARAI , and CII enlightened the audience with various facts about 'Air Quality Management' and efforts to tackle air pollution. The historical data (2013-2022) trend of particulate matter (PM) over Pune suggested that on average there was a reduction of PM<sub>10</sub> but PM<sub>2.5</sub> has increased. Further, 2022 onwards there is a change in the dominant polluting PM (increase in PM<sub>10</sub> ) could be due to rampant development and re-development. 'Clean Energy and Active Mobility' session, had speakers from Bajaj Auto, ARAI, and ITDP India who have explained various fuels and emission contributions along with practical lacunae. It was clarified in the session that it is a myth that the Ethanol mix of 20% will quickly affect the engine performance but it has proved otherwise. The speakers from SPPU, GIPE, and CII, in the 'Nature-based solutions' session discussed the benefits of nature-based solutions compared to technological solutions. They ascertained the necessity of fixing responsibility to citizens to help maintain solutions like roof top/terrace gardens and to plant variety gardens in open space and maintain circumferential tree plantation around slopes of hillocks with involvement of local bodes to control, heat, air pollution and flooding in the rainy season which are the banes of urban areas.

The 'Panel discussion' involving experts from RTO Pune, ARAI, and GIPE was highly spirited with active interactions between the audience, especially students and the experts on various aspects of air pollution & nature-based solutions. While RTO explained about the measures taken up the Motor Vehicle department, the yet not legally approved car-pooling in India ARAI talked about emissions to emphasize the importance of timely removal of old vehicles from the road due to the reason that 1 old vehicle curtail the benefit of about 5-6 BSVI vehicles. It was also added that even a BSVI vehicles could emit significantly if it goes with a speed of 5-10 kmph due to congestion.

The attempts were discussed at length to make the most fuel consuming vehicles above 3.5 tonnes to be brought into 'hybrid' in the area of clean mobility. Further, the probable impact of EV on electric consumption and its Life Cycle Assessment were also deliberated. In the area of maintaining natural habitats, it was stressed upon the need of collecting inputs from experts of all facets of life to decide on the sustainable town planning as each element is important to nature and life. For a concern between connectivity and nature preservation in case of tunnel through Tekdi, it was opined that though connectivity is essential it should be done disturbing the ecosystem the least.

The poster presentations from different walks of life presented a varied picture, from additives to make the water canon for dust suppression to an assessment of the impact of metro rail on air pollution. One presented application of AI/ML models to the SAFAR data to prepare high

resolution map of PM2.5 in PMR to identify pollution hotspots. Another dwelled on the chemical analysis of Road dust indicating the presence of toxic metals in considerable amount. Three best posters were awarded prizes. The workshop was concluded with presentation of prizes for top 3 posters followed by vote of thanks and recitation of the National Anthem.

**For more information** about the event, please contact:

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### Few Glimpses







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