



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

TAMILNADU STATE BRANCH

Registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975 333 / 2013
Mutually Affiliated with British Medical Association, Nepal Medical Association
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To
Honourable Minister
Mr. Prakash Javadekar
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Subject: Regarding alarming air quality levels in Tamil Nadu

Respected Sir,

We, at Indian Medical Association, Tamil Nadu, believe that clean air is the principal prerequisite to sustain healthy lives of people. Air pollution in recent years has become one of the most pressing issues globally making it the fifth largest cause for premature death. Studies show that the number of premature deaths due to air pollution in India is only a fraction less than that of deaths due to smoking. Polluted air from being just an environmental issue has become a massive health and an economic crisis.

Situation is equally alarming in Tamil Nadu, Greenpeace's Airpocalypse Report 2019, highlighted the deteriorating air quality in Tamil Nadu. Month wise PM 10 analysis of the data available from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (January to December 2018), obtained from the monitoring stations installed in Tamil Nadu, indicated that PM 10 values were much higher than the prescribed annual standard of 60 µg/m³.

Several studies and media reports are supportive of the fact that immediate measures are required to be taken at all levels to curb the pollution menace.

We acknowledge that the ministry has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019. The NCAP

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offers a tentative targets of 20-30% reduction of air pollution levels by 2024.

We, at IMA echo with the policy interventions such as NCAP and take this opportunity to offer a couple of recommendations:

- Immediate implementation of NCAP in all the non-attainment cities of Tamil Nadu
- Include all polluted cities of Tamil Nadu under NCAP
- Number of monitoring stations in Tamil Nadu to be increased.

Indian Medical Association is committed to robust the country by securing healthy lives, in all forms, to the citizens of the country. We shall be glad if the ministry accepts our recommendations.

Regards

Dr.C.N.Raja

President, Indian Medical Association
Tamil Nadu

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