



# Reducing Urban Air Pollution

Duration: April 2020 - December 2025



## Background

Air pollution poses a significant challenge in Indian cities, profoundly impacting the health and well-being of millions of citizens. To address this issue, the Indian government launched the “National Clean Air Programme” (NCAP) through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019. This programme aims to reduce particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) levels in identified cities by 40% by 2026 as compared to 2019, serving as a national strategy to combat air pollution.



## Aim of the cooperation



The module's objective is to develop the necessary personnel and institutional capacities for the effective implementation of the NCAP at the national level and in selected cities.

The module is set up to make a direct contribution to the sustainable design of cities and communities (SDG 11), especially target 11.6: by 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management. It also supports measures to combat climate change and its impacts (SDG 13), especially target 13.2: integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

**Video:** [India: Reduction of Air Pollution in cities \(2022\)](#)

## What we do

As a partner of the Export Initiative Environmental Protection, GIZ is implementing the global project "Environmental Protection Worldwide" on behalf of BMUKN.

**Policy advice:** In line with the National Clean Air Programme, we support our political partner in India to optimise the PRANA portal and expanding the array of technological solutions. We leverage German and international expertise and knowledge networks to sustainably promote the efforts of the Indian government, selected states, and municipal administrations in addressing their air quality challenges.

**Capacity Building:** Together with our political partner in India, we are developing customised training programmes for selected target groups at national, state, and municipal levels.

**Knowledge Management:** We develop knowledge products and promote the exchange of success stories, best practices, and knowledge transfer within the framework of the Indo-German cooperation. For knowledge exchange a Community of Practice for Clean Air has been established at the GreenTech Knowledge Hub.

## Results

### Strengthened Air Quality Governance and Management:

- The PRANA portal (Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment Cities) was developed and institutionalized within the the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as the central digital platform to enhance the administration and monitoring of India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- Since 2022, national authorities have used the PRANA portal for all NCAP communication and reporting, including the "Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan" (Clean Air City Ranking).



- The PRANA portal and its application has enhanced transparency and efficiency, enabling real-time tracking of physical and financial progress of the National Clean Air Programme and improving governance to accelerate reductions in air pollution.

### Scaled knowledge and best practices nationwide:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released two national Clean Air Best Practice Compendiums in 2023 and 2024, disseminating effective air quality measures across cities for policymakers and practitioners.
- Case studies, guidelines and lessons learned were shared through the PRANA portal.

### Enhanced institutional and technical capacity:

- CPCB, state, and municipal authorities now have strengthened technical capacity to operate and manage the PRANA portal for programme monitoring, reporting, and financial management.
- These capacities have improved data-driven decision-making and multi-level coordination, ensuring more consistent and effective implementation of the NCAP.

## Project and Cooperation Partners

- Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Indian Central Pollution Control Board





# EXI supports India in reducing air pollution in cities

## Results and Impact

Air pollution remains one of the most pressing challenges for Indian cities, with severe consequences for public health and quality of life. To tackle this, the Government of India launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) targeting 130 non-attainment cities and aiming for a 40% reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations in selected cities by 2026 (base year 2019).

Since 2020, the BMUKN-funded Reducing Urban Air Pollution in India project has supported NCAP implementation in close partnership with MoEFCC.

### Strengthening Programme Management

In partnership with MoEFCC and CPCB, the project designed and developed the PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities) – a digital programme management tool. PRANA streamlines workflow across national, state and city levels, provides secure access for 130 cities and multiple ministries, enables online submission and approvals, offers real-time tracking of physical and financial progress, auto-generates monthly city reports, and hosts public dashboards – significantly improving NCAP transparency and programme management.

### Capacity Development

More than 250+ officials (CPCB, MoEFCC, city nodal officers and consultants) were trained. A 7-module “Introduction to PRANA” e-learning course is available on the GIZ Atingi platform; and the Train for Clean Air (T4CA) - programme equips cities to plan, implement, monitor and communicate clean-air measures (covering decision-making, communication, low-emission mobility and clean urban development).

### City and State Solutions

The project supported the Gujarat State Clean Air Action Plan, planning of Low Emission Zones (LEZ) in Surat and Nagpur with a dedicated LEZ concept for Lingaraj Temple area (Bhubaneshwar, Odisha). It also contributed to decentralized waste management and parking strategies at city level.

### Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration

To ensure sustainability and scale, the project continued to strengthen CPCB in enhancing PRANA portal with new features and is developing a tool to document best-practices online. Efforts are underway to establish sector-specific Communities of Practice (Waste & open burning; Vehicular emissions; Road dust; Urban greening) to drive informed decision-making.

A Compendium of best practices was prepared to be launched by MoEFCC on UN International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (7 September 2025). Two additional guidance documents on sensor-based monitoring and greening for air quality (with eKonnect) are also under finalisation.

Knowledge events included webinars with industry experts, political decision-makers and practitioners. These efforts aim to foster peer learning and promote stronger multi-stakeholder cooperation by bringing together sectoral expertise, on-ground experiences, policy insights, and research-based evidence to accelerate action for reducing air pollution and achieving cleaner skies across Indian cities.

By strengthening institutional capacity, enabling digital monitoring tools, piloting measures and fostering collaboration across ministries, states and cities, the project is accelerating NCAP implementation. These efforts are laying the groundwork for more effective policies and on-the-ground actions helping India move closer to its goal of cleaner air and healthier cities.



## Impressum

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