

Clean Air Action Plan for Bhubaneswar

The NCAP status

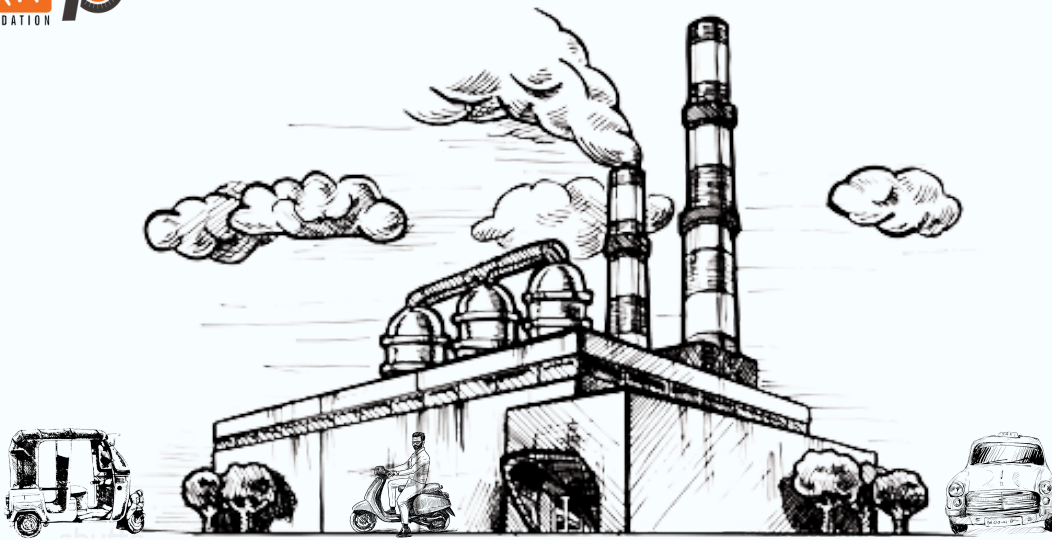
This policy tracker aims to record air pollution trends and utilize the data in India to paint a picture of the hazards related to air pollution.



What is NCAP?

The central government formulated and launched **National Clean Air Programme** on **10 January 2019** to reduce particulate matter concentration in cities that do not match the **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** set by the World Health Organization (WHO). This tracker aims to control air pollution nationwide through a collaborative approach involving ministers, state governments, local bodies, and stakeholders for the agenda (NCAP, CPCB).





Why is Bhubaneswar under NCAP?

- Currently, there are no real-time air quality monitors functioning in Bhubaneswar. There are six manual stations in Bhubaneswar (OSPCB, 2021).
- Manual stations provide data for two days a week reporting on $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2 & NO_x (Clean Air Action Plan, Bhubaneswar, 2018).
- Bhubaneswar has the highest vehicle stock with two-wheelers dominating the fleet (Clean Air Action Plan, Bhubaneswar, 2018).
- Bhubaneswar has the highest number of private cars (Clean Air Action Plan, Bhubaneswar, 2018).
- The city needs at least 22 consecutive air monitoring stations to statistically, spatially, and temporally represent the city's mix of pollution sources and levels (Urban Emissions, 2021).
- Open burning of trash is prevalent throughout the city. As cities generate more and more waste with limited ability to sort and dispose of it, stricter regulations are needed to address the problem (Urban Emissions, 2021).
- There are no official source distribution studies or source inventories to improve the accuracy of pollution profile assessments in Bhubaneswar (Clean Air Action Plan, Bhubaneswar, 2018).

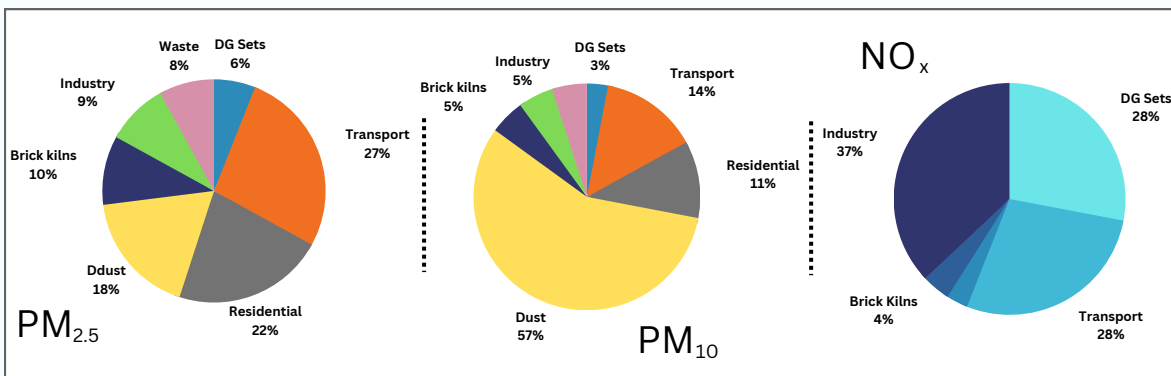


Figure: Bhubaneswar Emission inventory based on $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} & NO_x





Monetary aid by the government under the wings of NCAP

The Central government has released a total of **₹74.48** crores for the development of NCAP in Odisha during 2021-2022, where **₹27.61** crores is solely reserved for the city of Bhubaneswar (PRANA, CPCB, 2022).

The action plan to abate air pollution in Bhubaneswar (Clean Air Action Plan, Bhubaneswar, 2018)

- To set up an adequate number of real-time automatic monitoring stations.
- Set up a daily air quality public information dissemination system based on National Air Quality Index and health advisory.
- Immediate implementation of newly devised emissions standards and siting policy for industries.
- Encourage industries to adopt clean technologies via the 'Star rating system'.
- Reducing tailpipe emissions through stricter emission standards, stringent emissions inspections, and phasing out older vehicles.
- Reducing urban emissions through improved public and non-motorized transportation systems.
- Traffic restrictions that reduce the need to use personal vehicles.
- Compact urban planning that reduces travel distances and total vehicle mileage.
- Replace traditional fuels, especially diesel, with cleaner fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).
- Diesel generator sets and roof-top solar programme.

Recommendations

- NCAP needs to be promoted on a larger scale to raise awareness about the boons of the programme.
- Modification of policies and setting up new CAAQMS monitoring stations are necessary.
- Non-government bodies and stakeholders need to be motivated to join hands with NCAP.

Way forward

- Acknowledgement of the worsening ambient air quality by the state government and stringent application of laws.
- Complying with the policies set by NCAP will help Bhubaneswar to come out of the impending doom of air pollution.
- Increase awareness of the hazards of air pollution amongst the common public to aid the success of NCAP.

References

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<https://urbanemissions.info/india-apna/bhubaneswar-india/>

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