

Clean Air Action plan for Durgapur

The NCAP status

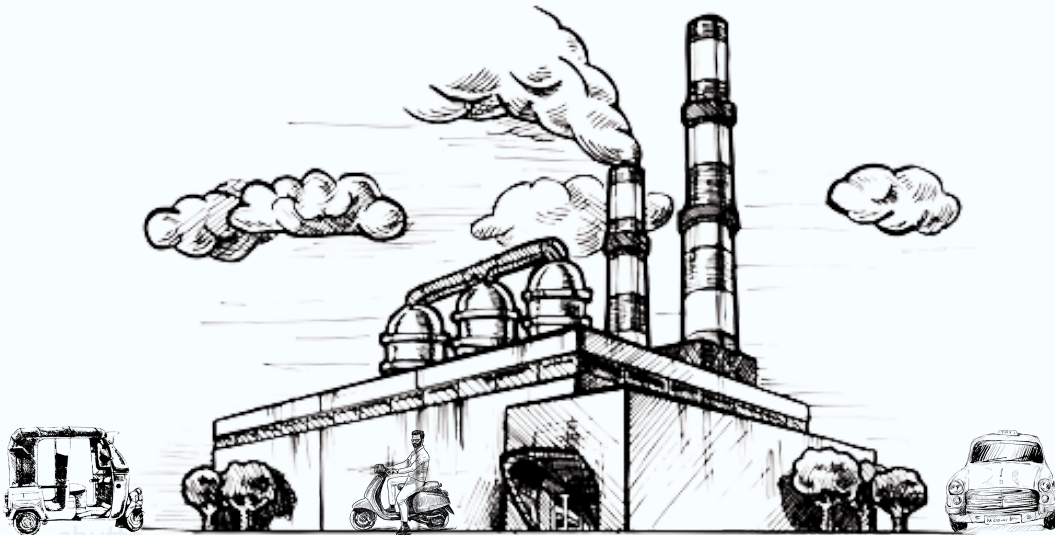
This policy tracker aims to record air pollution trends and utilize the data in India to paint a picture of the hazards related to air pollution.



What is NCAP?

The central government formulated and launched the 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 across the country through a collaborative approach involving ministers, state governments, local bodies, and stakeholders for the agenda (NCAP, WBPCB).

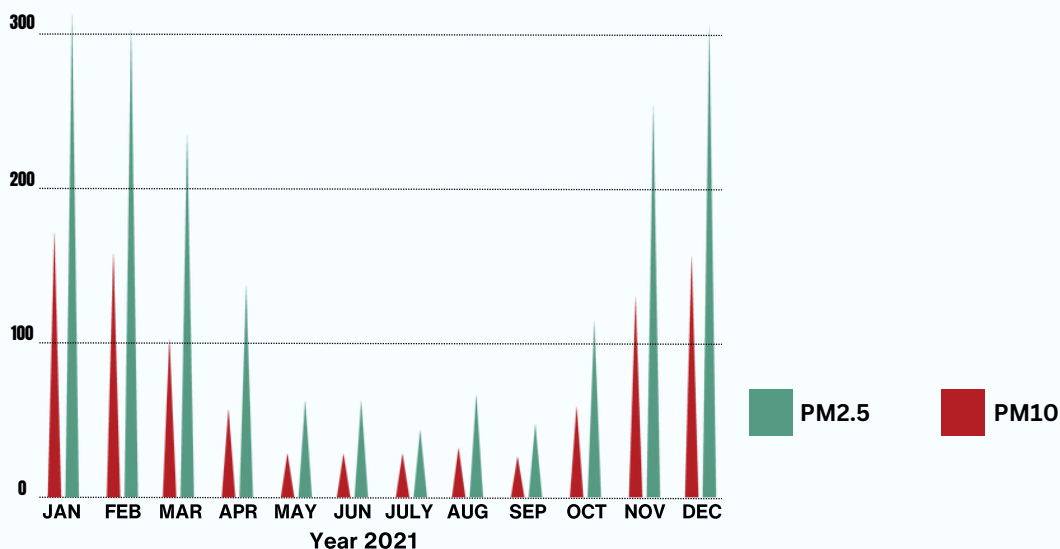




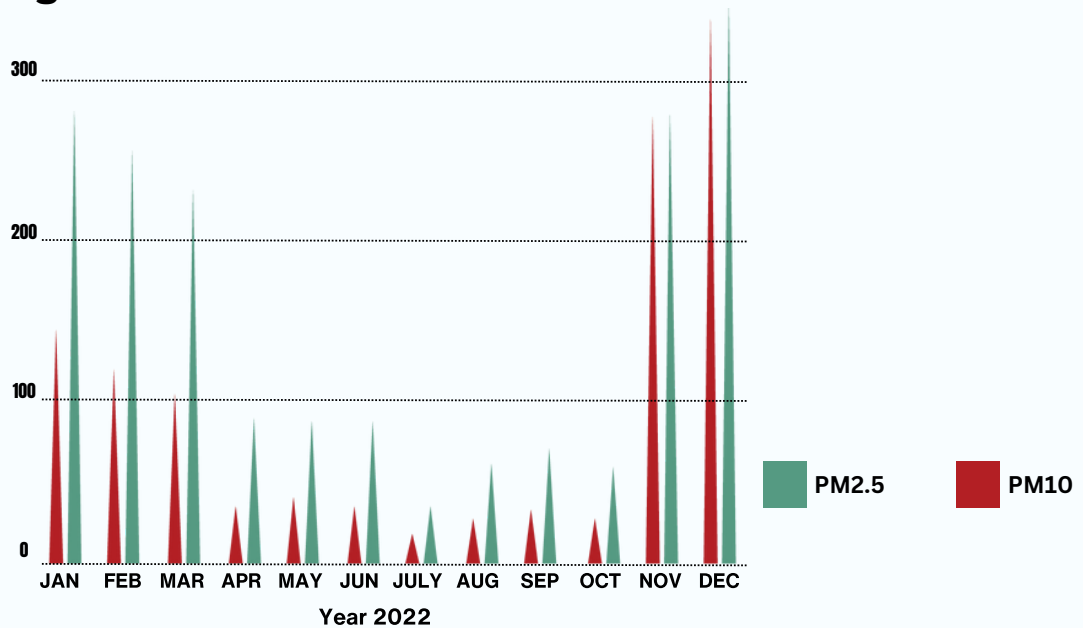
Clean Air Action Plan- Durgapur, WBPCB, 2020 - Summary

- There are four manual air quality monitoring stations and one real-time station in Durgapur.
- Long-term annual average PM2.5 data is not available.
- Nitrogen dioxide levels require special attention as they are closely linked to motorization and industrialization.
- Air pollution control strategies will require basic information on sources and their relative contributions to ambient air pollution concentrations and population exposure.
- The city has a wide range of industries including Durgapur Integrated Steel Works and Alloy Steel Works (ASP).
- Individual trades and industrial units will be required to map the condition and operation of pollution control equipment and determine the severity of action to be taken

Insights from the NCAP tracker (2021-2022)



Insights from the NCAP tracker (2021-2022)



Source of data: NCAP tracker- CAAQMS dashboard, Air quality trends,

<https://ncaptracker.in/caaqms-dashboard/>

West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Air Quality Information System, AQI bulletin,

<http://emis.wbpcb.gov.in/airquality/aqiBulletin.jsp>

The NCAP tracker records higher trends of pollutants (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) in winter months (November'21 to February'22) as compared to summer and monsoon months.

Monetary aid by the government under the wings of NCAP

The Central government has released a total of ₹597.6 crores for the development of NCAP in West Bengal during 2021-2022, where ₹10.7 crores are solely reserved for Durgapur (PRANA, CPCB, 2022).

₹19 crores have been used by the state government in aid until June 2022 (Press Information Bureau, 2022).

The Comprehensive Clean Air Action Plan (CAP) for Durgapur

According to NCAP study,

- Durgapur needs two additional real-time stations.
- Of the 12 pollutants that need to be monitored, PM_{2.5} and ozone monitoring require special attention. The use of air quality sensors on possible hotspots to complete air quality monitoring.
- Developing pollution forecasting capabilities to implement Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).
- Establishing a daily air quality public information dissemination system based on the National Air Quality Index and health advisories.
- Studies, including emission inventories, source breakdowns, health effects studies, exposure effects, air scavenging carrying capacity assessments, and area effects, hotspot assessments can be conducted to refine and inform action plans.

- Database management for setting up action plans.
- Reinforcement of the current policy of location of industries to be notified in the future to solve air quality problems in Raniganj.
- Develop and implement local action plans by mapping pollution hotspots and strictly enforcing air pollution control measures in all sectors, including those located in unauthorized areas.

Recommendations

- NCAP needs to be promoted on a larger scale to generate 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.
- Government-funded research programmes are needed to grasp a clear picture of the levels of pollution in Durgapur. Most data available are obsolete.

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 Durgapur to come out of the impending doom of air pollution.
- Increasing awareness of the hazards of air pollution amongst the common public to aid the success of NCAP.

References

- Clean Air Action Plan For Durgapur, 2020, Report of the Joint Committee, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal,
<https://www.wbpcb.gov.in/files/Mo-02-2020-02-45-04CAP%20for%20Durgapur.pdf>
- PRANA, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India,
<https://prana.cpcb.gov.in/#/clean-air-city/dashboard/>
- Press Information Bureau, Funds Allocated and Utilised Under National Clean Air Programme, Press release, (2022), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1846952>
- National Clean Air Programme, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Government of West Bengal
<https://www.wbpcb.gov.in/national-clean-air-programme>

www.switchon.org.in      @SwitchONIndia 1A, D. L. Khan Road, Kolkata 700027

SwitchON Foundation is a leading, award-winning not-for-profit, established in 2008 with a focus on Environment Sustainability and Equal Opportunities. Presently working in 10 states across India, the organisation spearheads and supports interventions on Clean Energy Access, Sustainable Agriculture, Skilling - Education, and Wellbeing. SwitchON's core competencies lie in testing innovative technologies and business models, communication for advocacy and awareness, capacity building through skilling and training, and implementing / supporting field operations.

