

# Clean Air Action Plan for Siliguri

## The NCAP status



### Introduction

On January 10, 2019, the Government of India launched the National Clean Air Programme in an effort to lower the concentration of particulate matter in cities that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established by the World Health Organization (WHO). The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)'s primary goal is to reduce air pollution throughout the nation through a collaborative and participatory strategy involving pertinent Central Ministries, State Governments, Local authorities, and other Stakeholders, with an emphasis on all sources of pollution. NCAP is being implemented in West Bengal's seven non-attainment cities, including Kolkata, Howrah, Barrackpore, Haldia, Durgapur, Asansol, and Raniganj (West Bengal Pollution Control Board, n.d.).



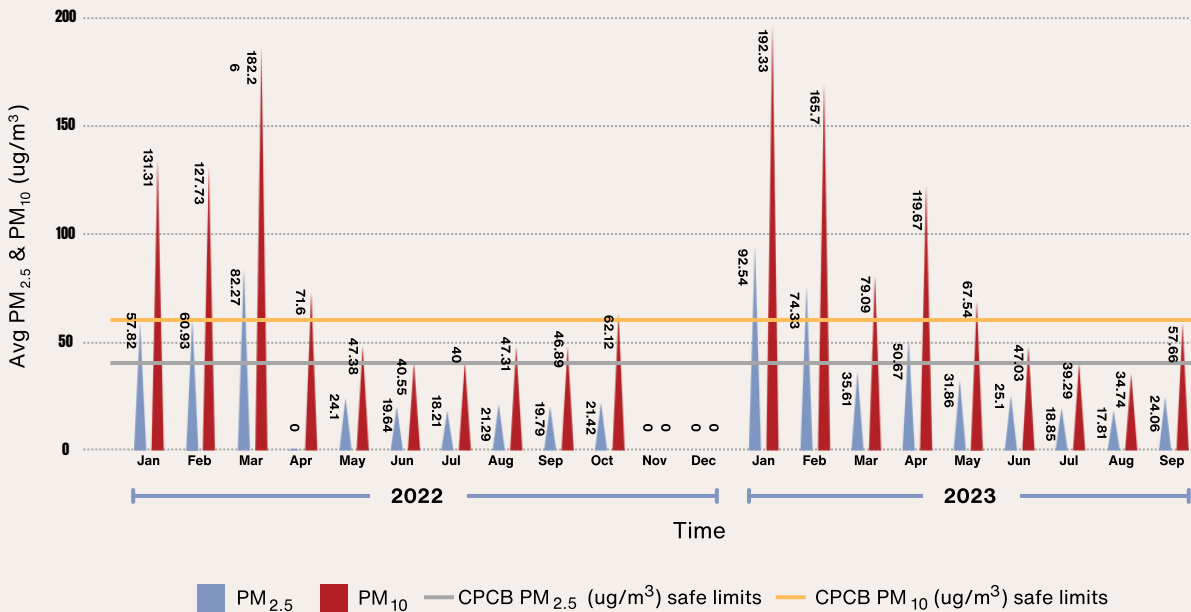


## The City of Siliguri

Siliguri is a major city in West Bengal and the largest city in the northern part of Bengal. It is a major transportation and industrial hub with an estimated population of over 9 lakhs (Siliguri Population 2023, 2023). It is known as the gateway of northeast India.

## NCAP status of Siliguri

Though Siliguri is not included in the NCAP program in the West Bengal, It has a serious air pollution problem.



Siliguri PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> trend

Source: NCAP tracker- CAAQMS dashboard, Air quality trends, <https://ncaptracker.in/caaqms-dashboard/>



Over the years, both PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> levels have displayed a consistent upward trajectory, with particular concern surrounding the elevated levels of PM<sub>10</sub> in the city's air. This concerning increase is most notable during the winter and summer seasons, where concentrations far exceeded the permissible safe limits set by the Central Pollution Control Board at 40 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and 60 ug/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> respectively. While pollution levels show a temporary drop during the monsoon seasons, the ambient concentration starts rising by September.

**Inclusion in NCAP:** Advocate for Siliguri's inclusion in the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) under West Bengal. This will enable the city to benefit from the comprehensive strategies and resources allocated for air quality improvement and provide the citizens some relief in terms of health ailments associated with bad air quality

## Recommendations

- **Air Quality Monitoring:** Establish a robust air quality monitoring network in Siliguri to continuously assess pollutant levels and identify pollution hotspots. This data should be made readily accessible to the public.
- **Source Identification:** Conduct a detailed source apportionment study to identify the major contributors to air pollution in Siliguri. This will help to tailor mitigation efforts more effectively.
- **Public Awareness:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate residents about the health risks associated with poor air quality. Encourage community involvement and behaviour changes to reduce pollution.
- **Emission Reduction Measures:** Implement stringent emission control measures for industries, vehicles, and construction activities. Promote the use of cleaner technologies and fuels, as well as the adoption of electric vehicles and non-motorized means of transport such as cycles.
- **Urban Greenery:** Invest in urban green infrastructure by planting more trees and creating green spaces. Trees can act as natural air purifiers and help mitigate pollution.
- **Traffic Management:** Improve public transportation systems and encourage the use of public transport, carpooling, and cycling to reduce vehicular emissions. Implement traffic management strategies to reduce congestion.
- **Industrial Compliance:** Ensure that industries in Siliguri comply with pollution control norms and regularly monitor their emissions. Establish stringent measures against non-compliant industries.
- **Research and Innovation:** Encourage research and innovation in pollution control technologies and sustainable urban planning. Seek partnerships with academic institutions and research organizations.

- **Early Warning Systems:** Develop and implement early warning systems to alert residents about severe air pollution episodes, enabling them to take precautions. Integration of IoT to maximize outreach.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for stronger national and regional policies to address air pollution and support the transition to cleaner energy sources and greener transportation systems..

## Conclusion:

Despite the exclusion of Siliguri from the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) in West Bengal, the city grapples with a severe air pollution issue. The absence of specific NCAP measures highlights the pressing need for urgent attention to address the city's deteriorating air quality, as it poses significant health and environmental risks to its residents. Efforts to mitigate air pollution in Siliguri should be prioritized to safeguard public well-being and promote sustainable urban development.



## References

- West Bengal Pollution Control Board. (n.d.). Retrieved September 23, 2023, from <https://prana.cpcb.gov.in/#/clean-air-city/dashboard/>
- Siliguri Population 2023. (2023). Retrieved September 30, 2023, from <https://www.census2011.co.in/census/city/192-siliguri.html>
- NCAP tracker, CAAQMS, <https://ncaptracker.in/caaqms-dashboard/>

[www.switchon.org.in](http://www.switchon.org.in)      @SwitchONIndia

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.



NCAP

NCAP

NCAP

NCAP

NCAP

NCAP

