



## Press Release

### **CEED welcomes Government's decision to formulate policy to curb pollution**

Urges the Government to draft a Clean Air Action Plan

**Patna, November 30 2017:** Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) welcomes the decision of our Honourable Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi to formulate a state policy for the reduction of air pollutants from construction and demolition waste. The decision taken on Tuesday has come at a time when the state capital is suffering with high concentration of particulate matter emission causing "severe" air pollution level; construction and demolition waste being one of the major sources for the same. The Honourable Deputy Chief Minister has also suggested the formulation of a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The GRAP shall be responsible for laying down stratified actions linked with the severity of air pollution that will be required when the Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city deteriorates. By announcing such proactive measures, the Bihar Government has made a great stride, but more concrete steps for the management of air pollution is required. GRAP should not only have short-term or immediate control actions, but must include long-term control actions that act on prevention of severe air pollution episodes in the long run. It is also imperative for the GRAP to be based on the source apportionment study.

While appreciating the decision taken by the government, Mr. Ramapati Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) said, "We welcome the decision of the Bihar Government for the formulation of the new policy and introducing GRAP for Patna. However, we need a comprehensive Clean Air Action Plan with well-defined pollution reduction target in short, mid and long term period. These action plans must have practical solutions for each of the sources of pollution in a time-bound manner."

Patna's ambient air is heavily concentrated with pollutants, where the most notorious of them are PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. In the last few years, it has been observed that the pollution level increases considerably during the winter months. Various sources are responsible for the deteriorating air quality, and it is important to make systematic efforts to regulate emissions from all these sources. Scientific evidences suggests that the road-dust contributes maximum PM<sub>10</sub> concentration in Patna's ambient air,

while use of solid fuel for cooking purposes are the major source for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Meanwhile, construction activities contribute only 9% and 3% of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in the city's air, respectively<sup>1</sup>.

Notably, GRAP will be helpful in taking actions when the air pollution level in the city aggravates; but to create a long-term impact to improve the air quality in the city, and chalking-out solutions to tackle with each of the polluting sources, CEED urges the government to take steps that are more concrete and sustainable. CEED advocates for a source apportionment study to be conducted in order to create an emission profile of each of the polluting sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://shaktifoundation.in/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/AQM-in-Patna-2014-07-15-Final-Report.pdf>