



PRESS RELEASE

CEED urges everyone to celebrate Diwali with Responsibility

An emergency action plan is required to reduce air pollution during winter season

Patna, 5th November 2018: Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) urged everyone to join their campaign to celebrate “Diwali with Responsibility” and also issued a public health advisory considering the severity of existing air quality in the city and weather forecasts. Due to the weather conditions in the coming days, the quality of air will deteriorate significantly and the fireworks including crackers during Diwali will aggravate the situation. Last year during Diwali, Patna’s air quality exhibited pollution levels 4 times higher than the national standard. Reportedly, the Air Quality Index in the Diwali week, i.e., between October 16th and 22nd 2017, was recorded to be in the ‘Very Poor’ to ‘Severe’ category.

Commenting on the Supreme Court’s recent verdict, Ramapati Kumar CEO of CEED said, “Anything that reduces the emission levels and improves the air quality must be welcomed. We have been using firecrackers to celebrate Diwali but it costs us with massive impact on public health. Therefore, we must behave responsibly and obey the Supreme court’s order. It is also important for the authorities to ensure that the apex court’s order is adhered to more strictly.”

Among those who wholeheartedly supported CEED's campaign on Diwali includes Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Honorable Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, several schools, doctors, academics, mothers, senior citizens, to name a few. As responsible citizens, they have promised to celebrate Diwali with responsibility.

While describing the current air quality of city Ankita Jyoti, Senior Programme Officer, CEED stated, “Winters have just started and Patna is witnessing an alarming air quality with 3 ‘Very Poor’ and 7 ‘Poor’ air quality level days in the past ten days (October 25– November 3). It is not that we are unaware of air pollution. We understand that with winter setting in where temperature and wind speed reduces, the particulate matter will increase but still we are not prepared. Both long-term preventive and reactive emergency response measures are required. It is necessary that the government, which is making long-term preventive measures, also prepares a clear emergency action plan and enforces it immediately. Such plans ensure the strict enforcement of pollution control measures during the episode of severe air pollution in the city”, she added.

Given the prevailing severe conditions and the coming of Diwali, CEED has issued the following public health advisory to be taken into consideration before and after Diwali:

1. Keep a tab on the air quality of the city through an app called SAMEER or check pollution levels online ([Online AQI](#))
2. People with problems related to lungs and heart, older adults, children and pregnant women should remain indoors and keep activity levels low
3. Avoid any strenuous physical activity (walk, cycle or run) or playing outdoors, usually in the morning post Diwali because there are chances of high pollution levels
4. Any health complications like sudden breathlessness and tightening of the chest should not be ignored

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Note to Editor

1. Air Quality Index of Patna for last 10 days (25th October– 3rd November, 2018)

Date	AQI
25.10.2018	310
26.10.2018	313
27.10.2018	282
28.10.2018	282
29.10.2018	236
30.10.2018	266
31.10.2018	220
01.11.2018	282
02.11.2018	309
03.11.2018	289