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Title: Need to curb the increasing air pollution in the cities.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** A recent report of Greenpeace India shows that deadly air pollution is not a problem confined to Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region or to India's Metros. It is a national problem that is ailing 1.2 million Indians every year and costing the economy an estimated three per cent of Gross Domestic Product. If country's development is important, fighting the pollution has to be a priority.

Data gathered from the State Pollution Control Boards shows that there are virtually no place in India complying with WHO and National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQ) Standards and most cities are critically polluted. To meet this problem it is necessary to:-

- (1) institute robust maintenance of air quality across the country;
- (2) implement pollution reduction strategies to improve public transport and reduce petrol/diesel vehicle use and to get polluting vehicles off the road etc.